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Standard Guide for Training of a Land Search and Rescue Team Member¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This guide establishes the minimum training requirements, including general and field knowledge, skills, and abilities, for personnel who perform land search and rescue without ropes.

1.2 Land Search and Rescue Team Members perform search and rescue on the surface of the land only, including urban or disaster areas that may be isolated or have lost supporting infrastructure.

1.3 This guide does not provide the minimum training required for performing land rescue in partially or fully collapsed structures, in or on water, in confined spaces, underground (such as caves, mines, and tunnels), or in mountainous terrain.

1.4 Personnel trained to this guide alone are not qualified to direct rope rescues. No knots, rope work, or high angle or low angle rescue skills are included in this guide.

1.4.1 The minimum training required for rope rescue can be found in Guides [F2752](#), [F2954](#), and [F2955](#).

1.4.2 Personnel are qualified to conduct search and rescue operations on non-technical terrain.

1.5 Personnel trained to this guide alone are not qualified to operate in leadership positions.

1.6 Personnel trained to this guide are eligible to be members of Type II search teams or crews as defined in Classification [F1993](#).

1.6.1 Type II teams that may utilize personnel trained to this guide are as follows:

1.6.1.1 Kind A (wilderness);

1.6.1.2 Kind B (urban);

1.6.1.3 Kind J (evidence/cadaver);

1.6.1.4 Kind K (missing aircraft).

1.6.1.5 Personnel trained to this guide are eligible to be members of Kind C (mountainous) teams provided that they are supervised by a Mountain or Alpine endorsed team member.

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [F32](#) on Search and Rescue and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [F32.03](#) on Personnel, Training and Education.

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1.7 Further training may be required before a Land Search and Rescue Team Member can participate on a particular Kind of rescue team, depending on local needs, regulations, or policies of the authority having jurisdiction.

1.8 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.9 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

[F1633](#) Guide for Techniques in Land Search

[F1773](#) Terminology Relating to Climbing, Mountaineering, Search and Rescue Equipment and Practices

[F1993](#) Classification System of Human Land Search and Rescue Resources

[F2047](#) Practice for Workers' Compensation Coverage of Emergency Services Volunteers

[F2209](#) Guide for Training of Land Search Team Member

[F2752](#) Guide for Training for Basic Rope Rescuer Endorsement

[F2890](#) Guide for Hazard Awareness for Search and Rescue Personnel

[F2954](#) Guide for Training for Intermediate Rope Rescuer Endorsement

[F2955](#) Guide for Training for Advanced Rope Rescuer Endorsement

[F3068](#) Guide for Contents and Use of a Position Task Book (PTB)

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

2.2 Other Documents:

NWCG PMS 307 Work Capacity Test³

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *high angle, n*—terrain whose average slope has an angle greater than 50° from horizontal.

3.1.2 *land rescue team, n*—organized group of people who perform rescue on the surface of the earth without the use of ropes.

3.1.3 *low angle, n*—terrain whose average slope has an angle of 30 to 50° from horizontal.

3.1.4 *non-technical terrain, n*—a tract of land characterized by minimal slopes and little variation in elevation, where a person is able to move safely and effectively on two feet, without handholds, and without the need for a belay.

3.1.5 *qualified supervisor, n*—individual with demonstrated knowledge or competence in a task, to whom the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) has granted the authority to observe and oversee an individual performing that task.

3.1.6 *rescue, n*—operation to retrieve persons in distress, provide for their initial medical or other needs, and deliver them to a place of safety.⁴

3.2 For definitions of other terms used in this guide, see Terminology **F1773**, Guide **F1633**, Classification **F1993**, Practice **F2047**, Guide **F2209**, and other references listed in this guide.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This guide establishes the minimum knowledge, skills, and abilities that a person shall have to perform as a Land Search and Rescue Team Member. No other skills are included or implied.

4.2 Every person who is identified as a Land Search and Rescue Team Member shall have met the requirements of this guide.

4.3 This guide is to be used by individuals and agencies having jurisdiction that wish to identify the minimum training required for a Land Search and Rescue Team Member.

4.3.1 Although this guide establishes the minimum training required for a Land Search and Rescue Team Member, it does not imply that a Land Search and Rescue Team Member is a “trainee,” “probationary,” or other similar term member of an AHJ.

4.3.2 Determining the requirements and qualifications for land search and rescue team members is the responsibility of the AHJ.

4.3.3 The AHJ shall determine the depth or detail of training required to meet these needs.

4.3.4 Nothing in this guide precludes an AHJ from adding additional requirements for its own members.

³ Available from NWCG IRM-PMO, National Interagency Fire Center, 3833 S. Development Avenue, Boise, ID 83705, www.nwcg.gov.

⁴ Definition from the “National Search and Rescue Plan of the United States (NSP),” 2007, http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg534/manuals/Nat_SAR_Plan%282007%29.pdf

4.4 This guide can be used to evaluate a document or training program to determine if its content includes the topics necessary for training individuals to operate as a Land Search and Rescue Team Member.

4.5 This guide by itself is not a training document. It is an outline of the topics required for training or evaluating a Land Search and Rescue Team Member, although it can be used to develop a training document or program.

4.6 This guide does not stand alone and shall be used with the referenced documents to provide the specific information needed by a Land Search and Rescue Team Member or AHJ.

4.7 This guide can be used to evaluate a document to determine if its content meets the necessary topics for training a Land Search and Rescue Team Member. Likewise, the guide can be used to evaluate an existing training program to see if it meets the requirements of this guide.

4.8 The knowledge and skills presented in the following sections are not in any particular order and do not represent a training sequence.

4.9 A Land Search and Rescue Team Member shall document his or her training by completion of a position task book, compliant with Guide **F3068**, or by field demonstration under qualified supervision.

4.10 Unless stated otherwise, an ability or proficiency in a skill shall be demonstrated for initial qualification and then as often as required by the AHJ.

4.11 Except where a physical skill or ability shall be demonstrated, the AHJ shall determine the best way to evaluate a person’s knowledge. This may be by written examination, oral examination, demonstration, or by some combination of the three.

4.12 Additional skill set-specific endorsements may be used in conjunction with this guide to train rescue personnel for other rescue disciplines.

5. Personal Fitness and Health

5.1 Land Search and Rescue Team Members shall demonstrate annually that they meet the requirements of a medical fitness standard determined by the AHJ.

5.2 Land Search and Rescue Team Members shall demonstrate annually that they meet the requirements of a physical performance standard determined by the AHJ.

5.2.1 The recommended minimum physical performance requirement for Land Search and Rescue Team Members is the “Moderate” level as defined in NWCG PMS 307 (see **Appendix XI**).

6. General Knowledge and Skills

6.1 A Land Search and Rescue Team Member shall meet all requirements of Guide **F2209**.

6.2 A Land Search and Rescue Team Member shall maintain certification in adult, child, infant, and two rescuer CPR.

6.3 A Land Search and Rescue Team Member shall maintain certification in basic first aid or a more advanced level of emergency care.