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Standard Guide for Training of Non-Wilderness Land Search Team Member¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This guide establishes the minimum training requirements for non-wilderness land search personnel as it relates to their general, field, and search specific knowledge and skills.

1.2 A Non-Wilderness Land Search Team Member searches on the surface of the land in non-wilderness areas only, including urban or disaster areas that may be isolated or have lost supporting infrastructure, in accordance with the limits identified in the Scope of this Guide.

1.3 This guide does not provide the minimum training requirements for searching in wilderness areas, partially or fully collapsed structures, in or on water, in confined spaces, or underground (such as caves, mines, and tunnels).

1.4 Personnel trained only to this guide are not qualified to perform rescue.

1.4.1 Basic rescue skills and knowledge are found in Guide [F2751](#).

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

1.6 Human land SAR resources that may utilize personnel trained to this guide are classified in Classification [F1993](#).

1.6.1 Individuals trained to this guide are qualified to operate on teams or crews classified as *Category – Land Search of Kind Non-Wilderness*.

1.6.2 Further training may be required before Non-Wilderness Land Search personnel may participate on particular *Category* or *Kind* of SAR resource, depending on local needs, regulations, or policies of the authority having jurisdiction.

1.7 Non-Wilderness Land Search Team Members are not qualified to work around, or ride in, helicopters without helicopter safety training.

1.8 Non-Wilderness Land Search Team Members shall know the safety precautions and procedures to be employed when working around still and swift water in the normal area of operations.

¹ This guide 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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1.8.1 Non-Wilderness Land Search Team Members are not qualified to participate in swift water operations.

1.9 Non-Wilderness Land Search Team Members are not qualified to perform field navigation and, therefore, shall not be deployed where that skill is required unless supervised in the field by qualified personnel trained in accordance with the provisions of Guides [F2209](#), [F2685](#), [F2751](#), or [F3193](#).

1.10 Non-Wilderness Land Search Team Members may be deployed on local incidents as determined by the AHJ.

1.11 *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 and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

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

[F1767](#) Guide for Forms Used for Search and Rescue

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

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

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

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

[F2685](#) Guide for Training of a Land Search Team Leader (STL)

[F2751](#) Guide for Training of a Land Search and Rescue Team Member

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

[F3071](#) Guide for Basic Wilderness GPS/GNSS Use (GPS/GNSS-IW) Endorsement

[F3193](#) Guide for Training of a Land Search and Rescue Team Leader

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 Document:³

NWCG PMS 307 Work Capacity Testing for Wildland Firefighters

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *authority having jurisdiction (AHJ)*, *n*—(1) the team, organization, agency, or other entity which is using this guide; (2) the team, organization, agency, or other entity to which a person being trained, tested, or evaluated belongs, if the instructor, evaluator, or tester is not a member of the same organization.

3.1.2 *field*, *n*—the location, away from the base or command post, in which a land search team member is searching or performing other tasks.

3.1.3 *field operations*, *n*—searches and other tasks being performed away from the base or command post.

3.1.4 *initial planning point (IPP)*, *n*—the point that is initially used to plan the search incident. The IPP may be the original point last seen or the last known position. The IPP may also be a point entirely separate based on the best available investigative information. IPP does not move after planning begins.

3.1.5 *land search team*, *n*—a group of individuals searching on the surface of the earth.

3.1.6 *land search team member*, *n*—a person who, at a minimum, meets the requirements of this guide.

3.1.7 *non-wilderness*, *n*—an area located within, or immediately next to, urban boundaries, no further than 0.5 miles (0.8 kilometers) from a road readily accessible by emergency personnel, and which may include parks, wild areas, private, state, and municipal lands.

3.1.8 *normal area of operation*, *n*—(1) the area(s) where an AHJ performs its search operations on a regular basis; (2) the area(s) where the AHJ is frequently called to assist with search operations managed by others.

3.2 For definitions of other terms used in this guide see Guide F1633, Terminology F1773, Classification F1993, Practice F2047, 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 must have to perform as a Non-Wilderness Land Search Team Member. No other skills are included or implied.

4.2 Every person who is identified as a Non-Wilderness Land Search 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 Non-Wilderness Land Search Team Member.

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

4.3.2 Though this guide establishes the minimum standard of training, it does not imply that a Non-Wilderness Land Search Team Member is a “trainee,” “probationary,” or other similar term member of a team, organization, or agency.

4.3.3 Determining the requirements and qualifications for non-wilderness land search team members is the responsibility of the AHJ.

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

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 Non-Wilderness Land Search Team Member.

4.5 This guide does not stand alone and must be used with the referenced documents to provide the specific information needed by a Non-Wilderness Land Search Team Member or AHJ.

4.6 This guide by itself is not a training document. It is an outline of the topics required for training or evaluating a Non-Wilderness Land Search Team Member.

4.7 This guide can be used to evaluate a book or other document to determine if its content includes the information required for training a Non-Wilderness Land Search 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, skills and abilities defined in this guide are not presented in any particular order and do not represent a training sequence.

4.9 A Non-Wilderness Land Search Team Member shall document his or her training by completion of a position task book, or equivalent, 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 must be demonstrated, the AHJ shall determine the best way to evaluate a person’s knowledge. This may be by written exam, oral exam, demonstration, or by some combination of the three.

5. Personal Fitness

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

5.2 Non-Wilderness Land Search 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 Non-Wilderness Land Search Team Members is the “Light” level as defined in NWCG PMS 307, “Work Capacity Testing for Wildland Firefighters” (see Appendix X1).

³ http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/newshelt/workcaptest_lo.pdf