

LAND SAR ADVISER

STANDARDS

Operational Role

Introduction

This document specifies the standards of performance required for the operational role of a Land SAR Adviser.

The land SAR adviser provides Search and Rescue planning and operational expertise to the SAR Field Controller and Police during a SAR operation.

This role, for the purposes of the standards, has been divided into four parts:

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Part 1 | Pre Operational |
| Part 2 | Operational |
| Part 3 | Post Operational |
| Part 4 | Background Knowledge |

The criteria should each fit into one of three categories:

- 1 Tasks which the Adviser must attend to personally
- 2 Tasks which can be delegated but which the Adviser needs to ensure are properly carried out.
- 3 Tasks which are carried out by a third party, such as the Police, but in which the Adviser needs to make input or be a catalyst.

Part 1

Provide pre operational expertise to police regarding the analysis and initial planning of a SAR operation.

Criteria

- 1.1 All existing information is analysed to ensure its relevance, scope and accuracy with regard to the SAR operation.
- 1.2 SAR situation assessment establishes whether a SAR operation is required.
- 1.3 The systems put in place to gather and analyse available information ensure that relevant information is obtained on an ongoing basis.

Relevant information may include:

- Nature of accident/mishap
- Description of person or party involved including condition, experience and resources carried.
- Details of the person or party members including medical conditions and behavioural patterns.

- Details of the area involved: terrain, purpose of trip, route plans, and intentions.
- Full details of the trip being undertaken
- Chronology of events including accurate times.
- Information gathering systems implemented.
- The current level of SAR involvement
- etc

1.4 The concept planning team assembled meets the likely requirements of the SAR operation.

This team may include: Other Advisers, Field Controllers, AREC, experts, Police.

1.5 The concept plan developed meets the requirements of the SAR operation.

1.6 The appointed Field Controller and field headquarters planning and control personnel meet the likely requirements of the SAR operation.

Planning and control personnel may include: Communications, local expertise, media liaison, Police Liaison Officer.

1.7 The recommended field headquarters location meets the likely requirements of the SAR operation.

Likely needs may include: Access, proximity, communications, aerial hazards for helicopters, working space, comfort and catering facilities.

Part 2

Provide SAR operational management expertise to the Field Controller and Police.

Criteria

2.1 The briefing of the Field Controller is based on the concept plan and includes all relevant information.

Information provided may include:

- Background information such as missing party description
- Available resources (personnel, skills, capability, equipment, transportation).
- Availability of those resources (time to arrival, limitations, time available).

- Nature of the environment in which the SAR operation is to take place (terrain, weather, rivers, shelter, hazards, access, times to cover distances) including forecasts for weather etc.
- Advice regarding the suitability of the available resources to the requirements of the SAR operation.
- Risk assessment briefing.

2.2 Assessment of the operational plan developed by the Field Controller and the planning team ensures the plan meets the requirements of the SAR operation.

Requirements of the plan may include:

- current and accepted search theory and methodology
- current and accepted rescue practices

2.3 SAR personnel who meet the requirements of the SAR operation are located and prepared for involvement.

SAR personnel may include:

- Team members, Team Leaders, FHQ support staff, Specialists.
- SAR personnel requirements may include:
- Skills, experience, equipment, food, self sufficiency, local knowledge

2.4 Transportation that meets the requirements of the SAR operation is arranged and made available.

2.5 Food and equipment that meets the requirements of the SAR operation is arranged and made available.

2.6 Strategies devised ensure identification and management of events arising during the course of the operation.

Events arising may include: Unexpected hazards, accidents to search personnel, changing weather or environment conditions, extended time requirements, communication difficulties, change in party/patient status, cold body finds.

2.7 Contingency planning meets the possible long term requirements of the SAR operation.

Requirements may include: Additional resources
Additional and replacement personnel
Operation suspension options

2.8 Strategies put in place during and after the operation ensure that, where possible, media use assists the SAR operation.

Media use may also include: Information gathering
Highlighting of lessons to be learned
Conveying credit for the efforts of those involved.

- 2.9 Strategies put in place ensure that friends and relatives are dealt with honestly, openly and sensitively.

Strategies may include: Ensuring their comfort and welfare
Information gathering
Providing progress briefings
Providing support services
Advising of search suspension plans
Cultural liaison

- 2.10 Communication networks established and maintained for the operation include the Field Controller, Police SAR administration and relatives/next of kin.

Communication networks may also include local and neighbouring SAR resource groups and/or advisers.

- 2.11 Regular reviews of the operational plan ensure that it continues to meet the requirements of the SAR operation.

- 2.12 Regular reviews of the information processing system ensure effective analysis, on an ongoing basis, of existing and newly available information.

- 2.13 Regular reviews of the information gathering process ensure it continues to meet the requirements of the SAR operation.

Information may be sourced from: Family/friends
Search teams
Local contacts
Police enquiries

- 2.14 Reviews of the performance of the Field Controller and key FHQ personnel identify assistance or intervention required.

The review may include factors such as:

- Stress, fatigue, ongoing suitability where circumstances have changed
- Shift changes

- 2.15 The recommendations from periodic audits and/or reviews of the entire operation are implemented

The period prior to an audit/review would be of the order of two days searching with no significant finds.

The audit/review should be conducted by an Adviser who has not been involved in the operation.

- 2.16 Operational recommendations of the NZ Land SAR Organisation are implemented in the SAR operation unless circumstances dictate otherwise.
- 2.17 Action recommended takes into account Police policy on expenditure and justifies additional expenditure.

Part 3

Manage the post operative phase of the SAR operation.

Criteria

- 3.1a The SAR Operational Management Team review of the operation takes place within two weeks.

The review may involve other Advisers and/or experts.

- 3.1b Scheduling and notification of the de-brief ensures that key personnel can attend.

Key personnel may include: Advisers, Field Controller, Police Liaison, Field Team Leaders, Communication Personnel, SAR Log Keeper, Key Field Team Members, Helicopter Pilots, Medical Personnel, Media Liaison, Victim &/or Relatives.

- 3.2 Information sharing during the de-brief/review ensures that all key personnel gain an overview of the entire SAR operation.
- 3.3 Identification and investigation of key points allow changes required for future SAR operations to be recommended.

Changes may be required to: Structures, systems, procedures, training, resources.

- 3.4 Debrief/review recommendations are implemented as soon as is practical.
- 3.5 Counselling services are made available and actively recommended for SAR personnel who may have been exposed to trauma or operational stress during the SAR operation.
- 3.6 Review of the incident from which the SAR operation developed ensures identification of causal sequence and root causes, where appropriate.

- 3.7 Periodic operational peer reviews for Field Controllers and Land SAR Advisers ensure standards of performance are maintained and training needs are identified.

Part 4

Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of SAR structure and terminology.

Criteria

- 4.1 The operational SAR structure, hierarchy and classes of operation are described.
- 4.2 The roles of the Land SAR Adviser and Field Controller are described.
- 4.3 Commonly used SAR terms are defined and their use explained.