



National Association for Search and Rescue

FUNDAMENTALS OF

Search and Rescue

Chapter 1

Overview of Land Search
and Rescue



Welcome to FUNSAR

- Introductions
- Class Format
- Logistics Issues



Objectives

- Define Search and Rescue
- Demonstrate awareness of national volunteer organizations including:
 - NASAR
 - Citizen Corps
 - CERT



A Brief History of SAR

Hunter/gatherers → technology →
exploration of lands → technology →
exploration of mountains and oceans →
technology → wars → technology →
exploration of space →?



Search and Rescue: What Is It?

- Search: To locate persons in distress
- Rescue: To retrieve persons in distress, provide for their initial medical or other needs, and deliver them to a place of safety

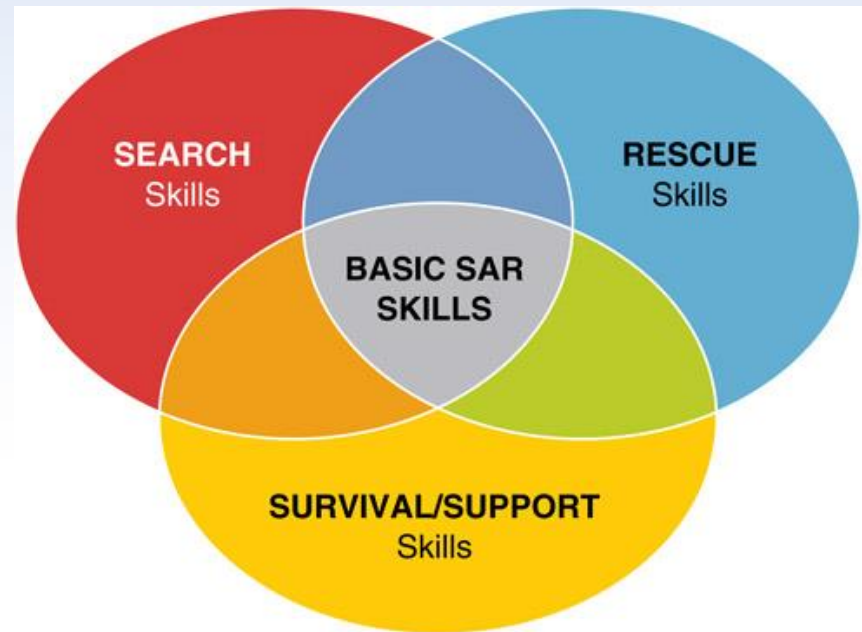


Foundational Concepts in SAR

- Two additional concepts:
 - The elements of SAR education
 - The SAR tool acquisition process

SAR Education

- Search and rescue skills are diverse and cover many areas.
- Divided into three basic categories
 - Search
 - Rescue
 - Survival/support





Search Training

- Studies specializing in search techniques, theory, and search planning
- Training including land, air, cave, K9, or water-based

Rescue Training



- Training in diverse rescue applications
- Urban, cave, ice, mountain/high angle, wilderness environments



Survival/Support Training

- Training essential to make the complete SAR Responder
- Wilderness survival, fitness, improvisation, land navigation, communication



Tools for SAR

- Gather knowledge from many sources
 - Formal education
 - Training
- Know what tool to use in what application.
- Need a broad base of knowledge and skills
- Must learn how to improve SAR to advance beyond basic tool application



Getting Involved in SAR

- Many organizations involved in SAR
 - NASAR
 - USA Freedom Corps
 - Citizen Corps
 - Community emergency response teams
 - National, state, and local organizations



National Association for Search and Rescue (NASAR)

- SAR specialties coordinate skills to maximize effectiveness in emergency situations.
- Provide educational opportunities, publications, conferences, workshops, and symposia
- www.nasar.org



NASAR Technician Program

- Developed national standards and certification processes for search and rescue personnel
 - SAR TECH I / Crewleader III
 - SAR TECH II
 - SAR TECH III





NASAR Curriculum Programs

- Recognized courses
- For all levels of experience, from the ground searcher to the incident commander
- Umbrella organization
 - Has ties to SAR-related organizations
 - National SAR Committee (NSARC)



USA Freedom Corps

- Opportunity for community to protect the United States and support first responders
- Culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility
- Resources of the federal government with nonprofit, business, educational, faith-based, and other sectors
- Strengthens other programs



Citizen Corps (1 of 2)

- Public education and outreach, training, and volunteer service
- Make communities safer from crime, terrorism, and disasters
- Build on the successful community efforts to prevent crime and respond to emergencies



Citizen Corps (2 of 2)

- Coordinated by FEMA
- Citizen Corps Programs
 - Neighborhood Watch Program (NWP)
 - Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)
 - The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
 - The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)
- www.citizenscorps.gov



Community Emergency Response Teams

- Volunteers save more lives than all trained rescuers combined.
- CERT programs train civilians to assist disaster-impacted communities.
- Supported and coordinated by FEMA
- <http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/CERT/>



The Four Elements of a CERT Program (1 of 2)

- Teach citizens what immediate services to expect after a major disaster
- Teach about the responsibility for mitigation and preparedness



The Four Elements of a CERT Program (2 of 2)

- Train citizens in needed life-saving skills
 - Decision making, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number
- Organize teams
 - Extension of first responder services
 - Offer immediate help to victims until professional services arrive



Other Organizations

- Several opportunities to get involved
 - American Red Cross
 - AmeriCorps
 - Corporation for National and Community Service