



West Virginia Emergency Management Division

Search and Rescue Course Catalog

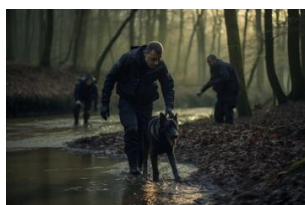


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Rope Rescue Courses

Rope Rescue Awareness: The 4-hour Rope Rescue Awareness class meets NFPA 1006, Ch. 5, 2021 edition. The text is Jones & Bartlett “Rope Rescue Techniques Principles and Practice” 5th Edition. Prerequisites are Rescue Core Prerequisites, NFPA 1006 Chapter 5, or WVU-FSE Rescue Core Course, OR Rope Rescue Low and High Angle Operations.

Rope Rescue Operations: The 20-hour Rope Rescue Operations class meets NFPA 1006, Ch. 5, 2021 edition. The text is Jones & Bartlett “Rope Rescue Techniques Principles and Practice” 5th Edition. Prerequisites are Rope Rescue Awareness, NFPA 1006, OR WVU-FSE Rescue Core Course, or Rope Rescue Low and High Angle Operations.

Rope Rescue Technician: The 20-hour Rope Rescue Technician class meets NFPA 1006, Ch. 5, 2021 edition. The text is Jones & Bartlett “Rope Rescue Techniques Principles and Practice” 5th Edition. Prerequisites are Rope Rescue Operations, NFPA 1006, OR Rope Rescue Low and High Angle Operations.

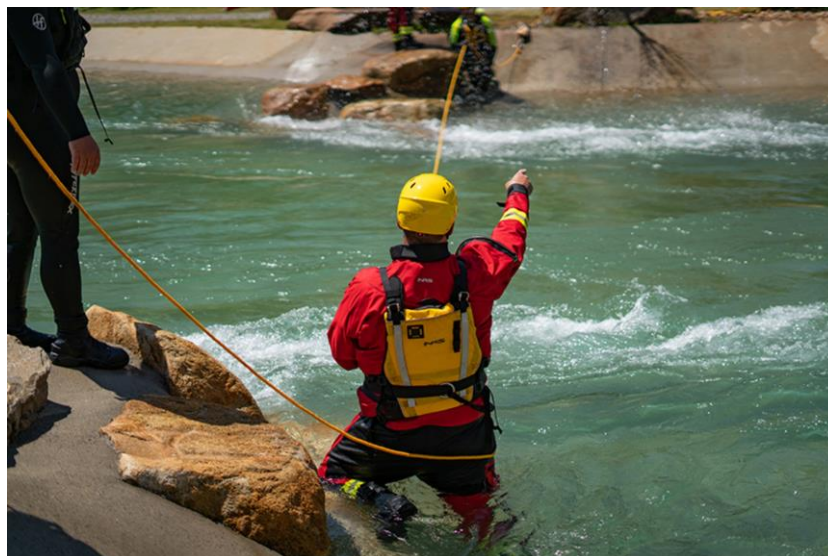


Swift Water Rescue Courses

Swift Water Awareness: This 4-hour class meets the Awareness Level requirements of NFPA 1006 Chapters 18, 17, and 23. The textbook is “Water Rescue: Principles and Practices, 3rd Edition NFPA 1006, Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications, 2021.” The same textbook is issued for Water Rescue Awareness, Operations, and Technician. Upon completion of all three levels, participants may be awarded a Water Rescue Core certificate.

Swift Water Operations: This 30-hour class meets the Operations Level requirements of NFPA 1006 Chapters 18, 17, and 23. The textbook is “Water Rescue: Principles and Practices, 3rd Edition NFPA 1006, Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications, 2021.” The same textbook is used for Water Rescue Awareness, Operations, and Technician. Prerequisites include pass swim test and Water Rescue Awareness or WVPST Rescue Core Prerequisites, and Rope Rescue Level 1 or Rope Rescue Operations. Upon completion of all three levels, participants may be awarded a Water Rescue Core certificate.

Swift Water Technician: This 30-hour class meets the Technician Level requirements of NFPA 1006 Chapters 18, 17, and 23. The textbook is “Water Rescue: Principles and Practices, 3rd Edition NFPA 1006, Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications, 2021.” The same textbook is used for Water Rescue Awareness, Operations, and Technician. Prerequisites include must pass swim test and Water Rescue Operations or Water Rescue Level 1. Upon completion of all three levels, participants may be awarded a Water Rescue Core certificate.

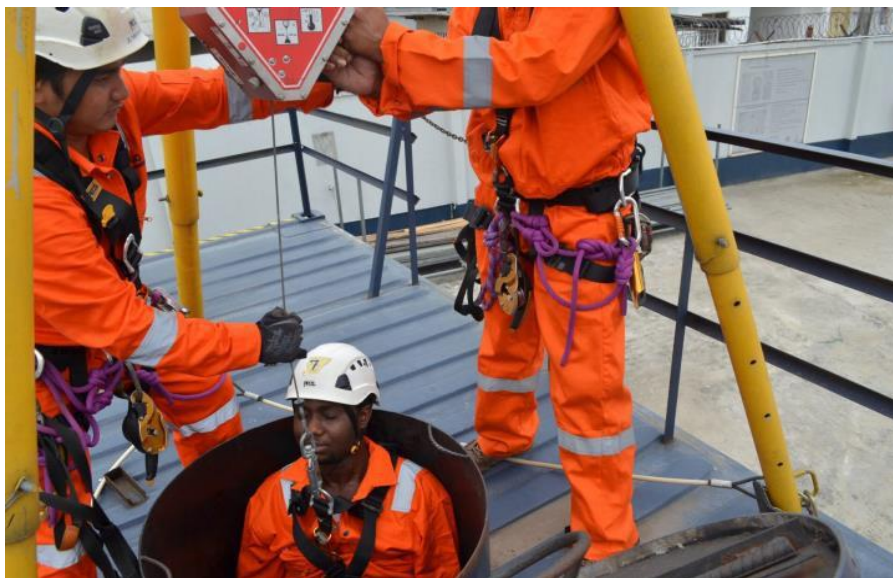


Confined Space Rescue Courses

Confined Space Rescue Awareness: This course teaches participants to recognize confined spaces, identify and assess associated hazards (like atmospheric and physical risks), and understand the importance of safety regulations such as OSHA 1910.146 and the NFPA standards. The focus is on hazard awareness and emergency response protocols, emphasizing the need for proper personal protective equipment (PPE), monitoring, and the implementation of site control.

Confined Space Rescue Operations: This course description details a training program for professionals to respond to and safely perform rescues in hazardous confined spaces, focusing on regulations, equipment, rigging, and practical techniques for patient packaging, retrieval, and scene management in simulated real- world scenarios, often in compliance with NFPA and OSHA standards.

Confined Space Rescue Technician: This course teaches specialized techniques for rescuing individuals trapped in hazardous spaces, covering topics like atmospheric monitoring, rope systems, patient packaging, and pre-incident planning to meet NFPA 1006 standards and OSHA requirements. These intensive courses, often lasting over 40 hours, combine classroom learning with hands-on practical scenarios to develop skilled technicians for fire, industrial, and disaster response teams.



Trench Rescue Courses

Trench Rescue Awareness: This course trains first responders to recognize trench hazards, assess a scene, identify safety needs, control the site, and understand the role of specialized rescue teams. Key topics include basic procedures, identifying collapse patterns, communicating with the incident command, and knowing when and how to request technical rescue resources for victims in shallow, non-intersecting trenches.

Trench rescue operations: This course trains emergency responders the necessary skills to manage rescues in non-intersecting trench collapses typically less than 8 feet deep, focusing on hazard identification, scene stabilization with various shoring systems, victim extrication, and rescuer safety. Course content covers regulatory compliance (OSHA and NFPA standards), soil analysis, shoring and shielding, victim care, and practical, hands-on evolutions in simulated trench environments.

Trench Rescue Technician: course is a practical training program for emergency responders focused on safely performing complex rescue operations in collapsed trenches and excavations, teaching the use of various shoring systems (timber, pneumatic, hydraulic), assessing soil stability and hazards, patient packaging, and coordinating heavy equipment. The courses are designed to meet NFPA 1006 and OSHA 29 CFR 1926 requirements, integrating classroom learning with hands-on exercises in realistic scenarios.



Urban Search and Rescue Courses

Urban Search and Rescue Awareness: This course provides non-technical personnel, including managers, dispatchers, and emergency responders, with foundational knowledge of US&R capabilities, hazards, equipment, and incident management. These courses, often lasting a few hours to a day, focus on the principles and challenges of urban environments following disasters like structural collapse, covering topics such as risk assessment, basic search and rescue concepts, the Incident Command System (ICS), and how to effectively utilize US&R task forces during an event.

Urban Search and Rescue Operations: This course provides technical training for emergency responders to locate and free trapped individuals from collapsed structures and hazardous environments, covering techniques like structural assessment, breaching, digging, shoring, and advanced rope and confined space rescue. Courses vary by specialty and level but generally include classroom instruction on standards like NFPA 1006, practical exercises on skills such as patient packaging, rigging, and rappelling, and certifications upon successful completion.

Urban Search and Rescue Technician: This course provides specialized training in finding and rescuing trapped individuals from collapsed structures, rubble, and other urban hazards. The curriculum covers technical rescue disciplines, including rope rescue, confined space rescue, and structural collapse rescue, focusing on practical skills like shoring, breaching, cutting, lifting, and patient packaging, often requiring completion of a Common Core module. Training is rigorous, involving hands-on skill testing and written examinations, and leads to national certifications such as those from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the Department of Defense.



Drone Courses

The FAA Part-107 Exam Prep: This course is designed to equip students with all the necessary knowledge and skills to successfully pass the FAA Part-107 exam, which certifies them as remote pilots for unmanned aerial systems (UAS). This comprehensive four-day course includes theoretical instruction, practice questions, review sessions, and hands-on drone training. By the end of this class, students will have a thorough understanding of the FAA Part-107 regulations and will be well-prepared to take and pass the FAA Part-107 exam. Students will also gain practical experience with drone operations, enhancing their overall competency as remote pilots.

Aerial Search and Rescue Procedures: This course is for current and future advancements in UAS technology. *Strategies and tactics of UAS operations in a SAR environment. UAS platforms and payload options. Camera settings. Basic thermal operations. Lost person behavior. Flight planning. *Aerial search patterns. Interior flight operations. Mobile field stations.

The ASTM Public Safety Remote Pilot in Command: This course, a 4- day program compliant with ASTM International standards, enhances skills for public safety. Featuring classroom work, quizzes, and manual flight exercises (all requiring a satisfactory score), it's designed for pilots with their own drones. Prerequisites: FAA Part-107 license, FEMA NIMS 100 ,200 ,700, 800 certifications, and documented hazmat training. Upon successful completion of this 4-day course, compliant with ASTM International standards, participants will demonstrate proficiency in advanced drone operations for public safety, mastering manual flight patterns with satisfactory or higher performance.



Basic Search and Rescue Skills for First Responders

Search and Rescue Skills for First Responders: This course is a 20-hour course designed to equip participants with awareness, basic knowledge and the introductory skills necessary to effectively initiate and respond to a missing person's mission. Students will be exposed to Search Operations, methods for establishing the search area, an overview of SAR skills (management, Lost Person Behavior, Tracking, Search Team Leader and Search Team member) Land Navigation (with and Without Technology) Clue Awareness, Patient Packaging and Litter handling. This course emphasizes a broad overview of many Search and Rescue related skills using classroom instruction, practical exercises and hands on learning.



Search and Rescue

Basic K-9 Walker and Flanker Skills

Basic K-9 Walker and Flanker: This course is a specialized training program for handlers and their dogs, teaching them how to conduct a tactical follow-up or search operation using a K-9 for tracking and the handlers to move tactically around the K-9 team to provide forward security. The "walker" is typically the K-9 handler focused on the dog's tracking, while "flankers" are other team members moving ahead and at an angle to scan for threats or the quarry. These courses cover topics like K-9 psychological behaviors, scent work, tactical movement, threat assessment, and team communication, preparing canine teams for real- world scenarios such as finding hidden suspects or tracking a fugitive.



Search and Rescue

Land Navigation Courses

Land Navigation - Basic: This 16-hour course teaches fundamental skills in using a map and compass to find your way in the wilderness, covering topics like map interpretation, terrain association, compass use, calculating distance and direction, and practical field exercises for hands-on experience. This course includes lessons and hands-on exercises featuring topographic maps, understanding contour lines grid systems, setting azimuths/bearings, establishing pace counts and using various techniques to navigate between points.

Land Navigation - Intermediate: This 16-hour course includes advanced map-and-compass skills (with a focus on wilderness search & rescue) such as finding your position, plotting coordinates, using terrain association for route planning, and performing exercises that may include cross-country movement and/or night navigation. This course bridges basic knowledge and practical application while preparing participants for more challenging navigation in various terrains and conditions.

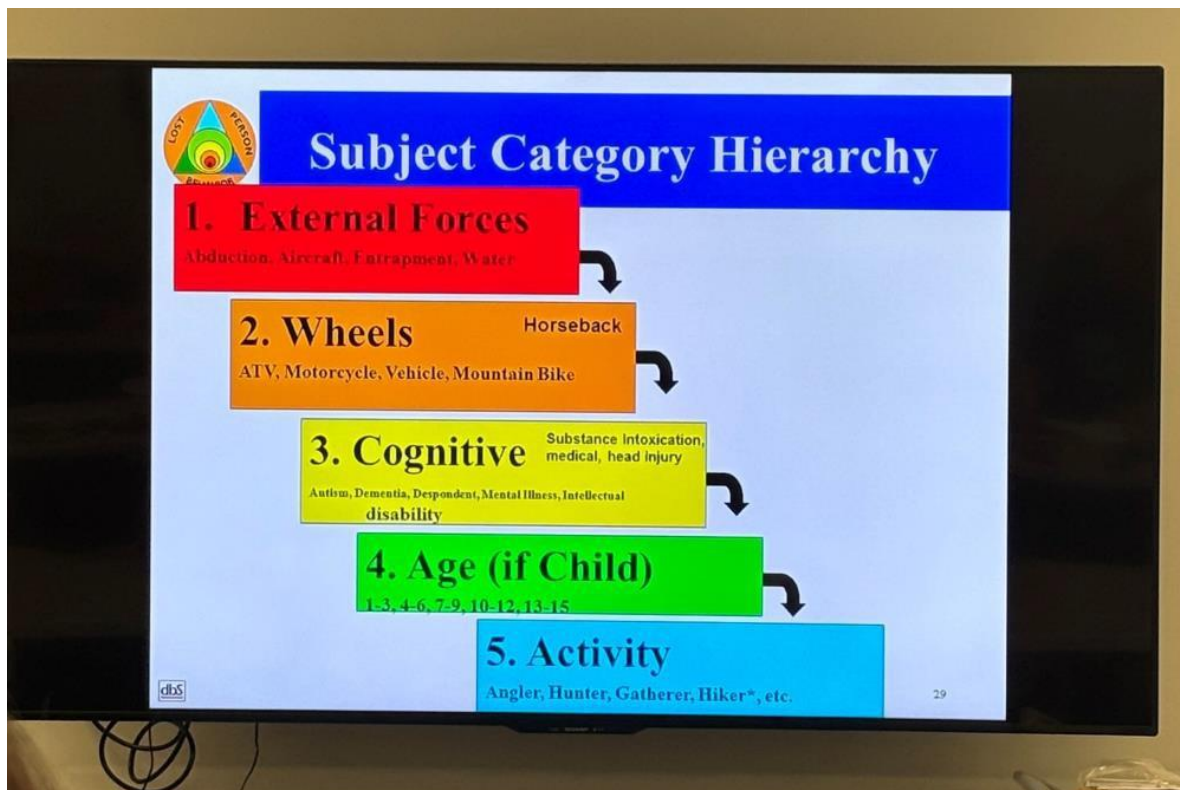


Land Navigation - Advanced: This 16-hour course includes advanced skills beyond basic map and compass use, focusing on complex terrain, nighttime navigation, long-distance travel, and high-pressure situations. Key elements typically include mastering topographic map interpretation, advanced compass techniques, dead reckoning, triangulation, and route planning. The goal is to develop confidence, discipline, and self-reliance to navigate diverse and challenging environments without technology, often preparing participants for complicated wilderness search and rescue environments and leading SAR teams in wilderness settings.

Search and Rescue

Lost Person Behavior

The Lost Person Behavior: This course is a two-day classroom workshop (16 hours) based on Dr. Robert Koester's Lost Person Behavior research and is designed to support search planning for both ground searchers and command staff. Students will be introduced to the latest information and research regarding the lost person behavioral profiles, including important subject background information, implications for search and rescue, search statistics, behavioral statistics, and how to plan a search for each subject type. Emphasis is placed on the new research concerning people with Alzheimer's, despondency, intellectual disabilities / psychosis and abducted children. The instructors present opportunities to work on several practical scenarios that leave attendees with basic knowledge, skills, and confidence to create a strategic and tactical plan for their next missing person's operation. Before arriving in class, students will benefit from downloading the free Lost Person Behavior App into their phone/tablet and gaining some familiarity with SARTopo via the free CalTopo app/ online platform. Students will receive Dr. Koester's Lost Person Behavior book, a Lost Person Behavior workbook, and the Endangered and Vulnerable Adults & Children handbook.



Search and Rescue

Ground Team Member

Search and Rescue Ground Team Member: This course provides essential field skills for locating missing people, including land navigation, basic first aid, radio operations, and search patterns, often involving practical exercises with overnight field conditions. This course teaches fundamental techniques for wilderness and urban environments, preparing members to act as effective field searchers and earn certifications.



Search and Rescue

Team Leader

Search and Rescue Team Leader: This course prepares individuals to effectively plan, organize, and manage SAR missions by focusing on leadership principles, operational tactics, and team welfare. Key topics include briefing and debriefing teams, allocating resources, assessing search areas, understanding Incident Command System (ICS), risk management, and maintaining team morale, especially during high-stress incidents. The course emphasizes the transition from a technician to a leader, responsible for the mission's tactical and logistical success and the well-being of the team.



Basic Search and Rescue

Mission Management

Basic Search and Rescue Mission Management: This course teaches individuals to understand and participate in the coordination of missing person searches, focusing on federal SAR architecture, mission types, resource management, and basic search theory, often including a scenario-based tabletop exercise. Courses aim to provide a broad overview of Search and Rescue skills and management for agencies like the Volunteer Search and Rescue Teams, Civil Air Patrol (CAP), state, and federal entities, equipping participants to initiate and respond to Search and Rescue incidents effectively.



Advance Search and Rescue

Mission Management

Advanced Search and Rescue Mission Management: This course prepares experienced personnel to lead and manage large-scale or extended Search and Rescue operations, focusing on Incident Command System (ICS) integration, effective communication, advanced mapping tools like SARTopo/CALTopo, resource management, crew safety, and remote planning for multi-agency incidents. These courses often build upon foundational SAR training and provide practical exercises to develop leadership and decision-making skills necessary for coordinating complex scenarios and ensuring mission success.



Crime Scene Preservation

Crime Scene Preservation: This course teaches first responders, investigators, and attorneys the principles and practical techniques for securing a crime scene, documenting. The goal is to ensure the integrity of the evidence found at a scene, which is fundamental to solving crimes and achieving successful prosecutions.



Basic Man Tracking For Search and Rescue

Basic Human Tracking: This 16-hour workshop is designed to help any SAR team member become a better searcher by becoming more "track aware." Instruction consists of a classroom introduction to visual human tracking skills. Lessons will illustrate how tracking skills are useful during the search for a missing person. Participants will have an opportunity to practice skills themselves. The sciences involved in tracking skills include the following learning points:

- (1) Effect of footfall on ground
- (2) Tools used to assist the tracker
- (3) Documentation associated with tracking evidence
- (4) Discuss misconceptions about visual human tracking
- (5) Tactics and methods for finding tracks and signs on different ground covers.



Advance Man Tracking For Search and Rescue

Advance Human Tracking: This course involves enhancing the foundational skills of human tracking for complex situations, such as law enforcement investigations, search and rescue operations, or even the financial sector's fight against modern slavery. This courses provide specialized training on topics like victim trauma interviewing, digital evidence gathering, mounted tracking, and advanced spoor analysis. The goal is to equip professionals with the knowledge and skills to effectively intervene, investigate, and mitigate the challenges associated with locating missing people.



Wilderness First Aid (NASAR)

Wilderness First Aid: This course is a 16-hour course designed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively respond to medical emergencies and injuries in remote and outdoor settings. Students will learn how to assess, treat, and manage common injuries and illnesses that may occur in wilderness environments, where access to medical help is limited or delayed. This course emphasizes hands-on training, scenario-based learning, and practical application of first aid principles in challenging outdoor conditions.



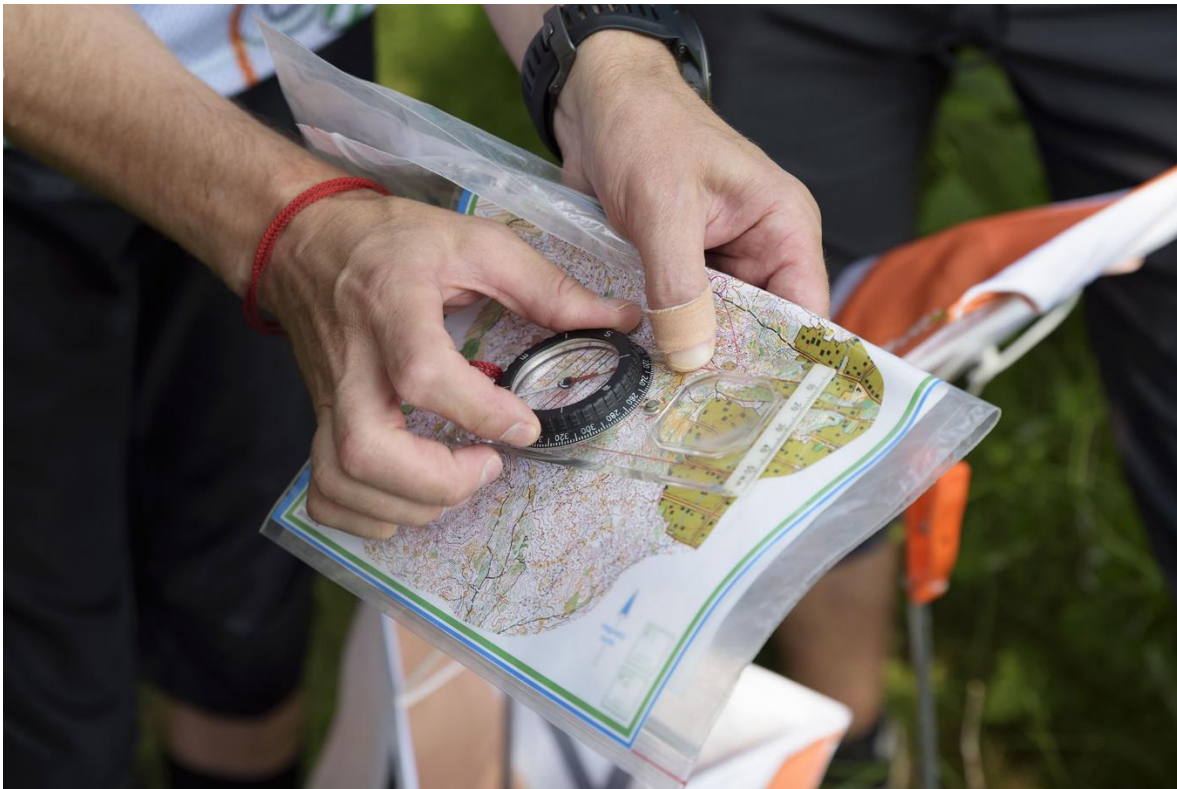
FUNSAR / SAR TECH II (NASAR)

FUNSAR / SAR TECH II: This course will be a FUNSAR / SAR TECH II class with 24 hours of online classes and 40 hours (two weekends of day/ nighttime field work). The classes will cover everything needed to take the SARTECH II test on the last day. Students should come prepared to spend two weekends in the woods and learn how to do Map and Compass, Area and Line Search Skill, Night Navigation, Fire and Shelter Building, Knots and Stokes Basket Evacuation, Tracking, Communications, Mock Search. This course will give participants their national certification through NASAR.



SAR TECH I (NASAR)

SARTECH I: This course will be a National Association for Search and Rescue (NASAR) Advanced Search and Rescue (ADSAR) with SARTECH I certification Exam with 12 hours of online classes and 20 hours of day/nighttime field work. Students are required to have NASAR SARTEch II prior to taking this class. The classes will cover everything needed to take the SARTEch I test on the last day. Students should come prepared to spend a weekend in the woods to practice and learn Night Searching Skills, rope skills to keep yourself safe, patient evacuation skills including an improvised litter, navigation and GPS work, and some camp comradery. This course will give participants their national certification as SAR TECH I.



Search and Rescue Initial Action (NASAR)

Search and Rescue Initial Action: This course teaches first-on-scene responders the fundamental skills to manage a lost person incident effectively. It covers incident size-up, assessing the missing person's behavior and probability areas, and planning initial search tactics to maximize the chance of a quick, safe recovery. The 8-hour course utilizes lecture, tabletop exercises with real cases, and mapping to provide a systematic approach to the initial stages of a search.



Managing the Lost Person Incident

Managing the Lost Person Incident (MLPI): This NASAR course teaches the essential knowledge and leadership skills to manage search and rescue (SAR) operations from initial response to demobilization, focusing on strategy, tactics, and planning for complex, multi-agency incidents. Designed for experienced responders ready for management roles, the 40-hour course covers Lost Person Behavior, investigation, and the use of tools like the Lost Person Questionnaire to optimize search outcomes.



First Responder Wilderness (NASAR)

Wilderness First Responder: This NASAR course is an intensive, professional-level 80-hour program that trains participants to provide advanced medical care in remote, low-resource, and outdoor environments. Through a blend of hands-on training, lectures, and realistic scenarios, the Wilderness First Responder course covers topics like patient assessment, environmental hazards, wound care, and evacuation techniques, preparing individuals to handle medical emergencies in challenging conditions where immediate medical help is delayed or unavailable.



Semi-technical Rescue

Semi-technical Rescue: This course provides initial awareness and foundational skills for first responders to identify technical rescue situations, hazards, and perform initial operations within the National Incident Management System (NIMS) framework. Courses teach the fundamentals of rope rescue, including knots, basic equipment, anchor selection, system safety, and patient packaging, often using hands-on practice and realistic scenarios to build confidence and basic competence for a range of rescue types, such as structural collapse, confined space, or water rescue.



Identification of Human Remains

for First Responders

Identification of Human Remains for First Responders: This course is an invaluable resource designed for search and rescue teams, law enforcement, fire/rescue personnel, and park rangers. It equips participants with the skills to distinguish between human and non-human remains, crucial for effective identification of human remains.

Human vs. Non-Human Bone Identification: Essential for distinguishing human remains from animal bones at a scene.

Taphonomy: The study of how environmental factors (insects, plants, animals) and time affect the body and skeleton after death.

Trauma Analysis: Interpreting the effects of injuries, both before (antemortem) during (perimortem) and after (postmortem) death, including blunt force, sharp force and gunshot wounds.

Recovery Methods: Archaeological and forensic techniques for excavating and documenting remains from various contexts, including surface and buried scenes.



Using ALS (Alternative Light Sources)

Alternative Light Sources: This course on using alternative light sources (ALS) for search and rescue (SAR) would train participants to use specialized handheld lights to locate human remains or trace evidence in challenging environments. Unlike standard flashlights, ALS devices produce specific wavelengths of light, such as ultraviolet (UV) and violet, which cause certain substances to fluoresce (glow).

Course objectives:

This training course aims to teach students how to:

1. Use and apply different types of alternative light sources.
2. Understand the principles of light and luminescence in a search context.
3. Improve the speed and effectiveness of search and recovery efforts.
4. Properly document discoveries for legal or investigative purposes.



Search and Rescue

ATV/UTV Safety and Operations

Search and Rescue ATV / UTV Safety and Operations: This course is designed specifically to provide students who will find themselves driving their UTV/SXS vehicle in remote or scenic areas with limited support conducting search and rescue operations. The course will provide a basic level of instruction in off-road driving of UTV/SXS and develop off-road driving skills. The class will cover different SXS/UTV driveline systems and suspensions their subcomponents unique to today's SXSs and how they work. Specifically, the difference of the driveline, belt systems, and CVT style transmissions. Students will better understand the pros and cons to each system and how to get the vehicle they are using to perform to its fullest. Students will learn different driving techniques while driving off road such as vehicle dynamics, approach and departure considerations, tire set up, drive line set up, the proper use of traction and momentum, failed hill climbs, obstacle negotiation, and proper throttle and brake control usage.



Search and Rescue

K-9 Air Scent Courses

Beginner-level Search and Rescue K-9 Air Scent: This course teaches handlers and their dogs to work as a team, with the dog searching large areas for human scent using the wind, while the handler guides and trusts the dog's natural abilities to find a missing person. The training focuses on building a solid foundation of basic obedience and socialization, associating scent with a strong reward, teaching the dog to «quarter» (zig-zag) in the air to find the scent, and to perform a reliable trained «alert» or «indication» to signal the handler when a person is found. This course prepares the dog for more complex searches by gradually increasing search area size, introducing varied terrains, and ensuring the dog can operate reliably off-leash in realistic scenarios.

Search and Rescue K-9 Air Scent intermediate: This course builds on foundational skills by increasing training area size (up to 35-45 acres) and duration (up to 2.5 hours), introducing varying time between subject locations and "negative" search areas, and requiring more accurate K-9 communication, scent discrimination, and navigation for mission readiness. Handlers learn to work effectively with varying wind and terrain, radio in their position, and accurately estimate the probability of detection (POD) and probability of area (POA). Successful completion of these progressive challenges makes a team eligible for a pre-evaluation test and potential mission-ready status.

Advanced air scent K-9: This course focuses on enhancing a dog's ability to find human scent in complex environments, emphasizing skills like working with distractions, navigating challenging terrain and weather conditions, locating "inaccessible" and "aged" hides, and developing the teamwork and problem-solving required for real-world searches and professional certification. The training builds on foundational scent skills and aims to achieve mission-ready proficiency for SAR operations.



Search and Rescue

K-9 Trailing/Tracking Courses

Search and Rescue K-9 Trailing and Tracking Beginner: This course teaches handlers how to train their dogs to follow a person's scent to a specific location. These courses cover essential topics such as understanding scent theory, selecting appropriate equipment and training fields, developing a scent-following routine, introducing the dog to simple tracks, reading canine behavior, handling distractions, and working towards mission-ready status. The goal is to develop an independent tracking dog that can work reliably in real-world scenarios.

Search and Rescue K-9 Trailing/Tracking Intermediate: This course builds upon basic training to enhance a dog and handler team's ability to follow a person's scent over longer distances and time delays, in varying terrain and challenging conditions with distractions like contaminated areas, extra dogs, and people. Key skills learned include scent discrimination to identify a specific person, working from scent lineups, navigating different surfaces, and recognizing when the dog is on or off the desired trail. The goal is to progress toward mission-ready status, where the team can successfully locate missing individuals in real-world scenarios.

Search and Rescue K9 Trailing/Tracking Advance: This course description includes advanced scent work in challenging environments, like urban areas or wilderness, focusing on skills like handling aged trails, multiple dogs on one track, and differentiating scents. Key objectives are preparing handlers and dogs for certification standards, refining techniques for high-traffic areas, incorporating technology like drone overwatch, and developing tactics for complex scenarios such as cold trails and heavily contaminated sites.



Search and Recovery

K-9 Human Remains Detection Land Courses

Search and Rescue K-9 Human Remains Detection (HRD) Beginner: This course teaches handlers the basics of utilizing a canine partner to locate deceased individuals, focusing on scent theory, proper handling, and safe deployment in real-world scenarios. These courses cover fundamental K-9 and handler skills like scent discrimination, obedience, land navigation, and first aid, preparing participants to join professional SAR teams.

Search and Rescue K-9 Human Remains Detection (HRD) Intermediate: This course refines a dog and handler team's abilities to locate deceased individuals, focusing on advanced scent discrimination in challenging conditions and varied terrains to build towards full deployment readiness. While specific course details vary by organization, such courses typically cover advanced search strategies, navigating distractions in real-world environments, scent-specific training on deceased remains (including burned or underwater), and the practical application of search patterns like expanding squares or sector searches. Many courses include a mandatory pre-course computer-based training component and culminate in an operational exercise to simulate deployment scenarios and evaluate readiness for a certified K9 Search Specialist within a disaster response framework.

K-9 Human Remains Detection (HRD) Land Advance: This course builds upon basic training to refine a handler and canine team's ability to locate human remains in complex and challenging land environments. These advanced courses focus on working with advanced odor sources like deep buried or diffused remains, using varied scenarios including urban and wooded areas, and improving the dog's ability to work independently while maintaining scent discrimination from non-target odors. Key aspects include advanced handler skills in scent theory, search planning, evidence preservation, and problem-solving in real-world conditions.



Search and Recovery

K-9 Human Remains Detection Water Courses

Search and Recovery Water K-9 Human Remains Detection (HRD) beginner: This course teaches handlers how to train and work with dogs on the water to locate human remains. Training includes exposing dogs to different watercraft and boat environments, teaching odor recognition and imprinting on water, and developing protocols for boat and shoreline searching. The goal is to enable dogs to effectively indicate the strongest odor source for human remains underwater or on the shoreline.

Search and Recovery Water K-9 Human Remains Detection (HRD) Water Intermediate: This course teaches handlers and their dogs to locate human remains in aquatic environments, covering topics like odor imprinting on water, operating from various watercraft, reading canine indications, and shoreline and open water search strategies. These courses enhance existing HRD capabilities by focusing on the unique challenges of marine environments, including how human decomposition scent moves in and across water, and how to work effectively on different types of vessels. The goal is to equip advanced teams with the skills to find submerged bodies and fragments of human remains in or near water during missing person incidents and disaster recovery.

Search and Recovery Water K-9 HRD Advanced: This course specializes in training for experienced canine and handler teams focused on locating human remains (HRD) in aquatic environments, including shoreline and open water searches from boats. These courses, often 3 days long, enhance skills in scent detection in water, working from various platforms, understanding scent movement in marine environments, and handling real-world scenarios. The training provides precision and speed in high-stakes recoveries, offering critical support to first responders and closure for families, and builds on the dogs' ability to detect scent before remains are visible.



SARTopo/CalTopo

SARTopo/CalTopo: This course provides training on using SARTopo/CalTopo, a web-based and mobile mapping tool, for search and rescue (SAR) operations. Course content varies, but generally covers using features for real-time mapping, GPS tracking, creating and sharing markers, managing offline maps, and coordinating team assignments to plan and manage missions effectively. Specific courses cater to different skill levels and roles, from introductory mapping to advanced incident management and remote planning.

