

Core competency standards for ground search and rescue operations: Searcher, team leader, and SAR manager



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Contents

Technical Committee on Ground Search and Rescue 6

Preface 8

SDG Foreword 10

0 Introduction 11

- 0.1 Background information 11
- 0.2 How to use this Standard 12
 - 0.2.1 Core roles 12
 - 0.2.2 Core competencies build on each core role 12
 - 0.2.3 Foundation for a training curriculum 12
 - 0.2.4 Evaluation of core competencies 13
 - 0.2.5 Recognition of regional or jurisdictional differences 13

1 Scope 13

- 1.1 General 13
- 1.2 Purpose 13
- 1.3 Terminology 13

2 Reference publications 14

3 Definitions 14

4 Searcher core competencies 17

- 4.0 General 17
 - 4.1 Program 18
 - 4.1.0 Overview 18
 - 4.1.1 SAR structure in Canada 19
 - 4.1.2 Incident command system (ICS) 19
 - 4.1.3 Roles and responsibilities 19
 - 4.1.4 Legal requirements 20
 - 4.1.5 Liability protection and workers' compensation 21
 - 4.1.6 Finance and administration 21
 - 4.1.7 Media policy 21
 - 4.2 Human factors 21
 - 4.2.0 Overview 21
 - 4.2.1 Personal qualities and/or attributes 22
 - 4.2.2 Physical demands 22
 - 4.2.3 Psychological demands 23
 - 4.2.1 Personal clothing and equipment 23
 - 4.2.2 Body management 24
 - 4.2.3 Environment 25
 - 4.3.0 Overview 25
 - 4.3.1 Weather 25
 - 4.3.2 Natural disaster 25
 - 4.3.3 Animals 26

4.3.4	Plants	26
4.3.5	Terrain	26
4.4	First aid and survival skills	27
4.4.0	Overview	27
4.4.1	First aid	27
4.4.2	Survival skills	27
4.5	Transportation safety	28
4.5.0	Overview	28
4.5.1	Use of personal vehicle during a GSAR incident	29
4.5.2	GSAR response vehicles	29
4.5.3	Vehicle and trailer combinations	29
4.5.4	Watercraft	29
4.5.5	Off-road vehicles	30
4.5.6	Aircraft	30
4.6	Navigation	30
4.6.0	Overview	30
4.6.1	Maps	30
4.6.2	Compass	31
4.6.3	Global positioning system (GPS)	32
4.6.4	Map and compass	32
4.6.5	Pacing/tally system	32
4.7	Field communication and technologies	33
4.7.0	Overview	33
4.7.1	Field communications	33
4.7.2	Radio operations	33
4.7.3	Satellite and cell phones	34
4.7.4	Emergency alerting devices	34
4.7.5	SAR electronic technologies	34
4.8	Lost-person behaviour	34
4.8.0	Overview	34
4.8.1	Lost-person behaviour	35
4.9	Search competencies	35
4.9.0	Overview	35
4.9.1	Search theory	35
4.9.2	Notification	36
4.9.3	Activation (call out), checking in, and initial briefing	36
4.9.4	Assignments	37
4.9.5	Search strategies and tactics	37
4.9.6	Containers	38
4.9.7	Attraction	38
4.9.8	Cue awareness and detection	39
4.9.9	Evidence	39
4.9.10	Human remains	40
4.9.11	Night searches	40
4.9.12	Shoreline searches	41
4.9.13	Urban searches	41
4.9.14	Demobilization	42
4.10	Specialized resources	42
4.10.0	Overview	42

4.10.1	Specialized resources	42
5	Team leader competencies	43
5.0	General	43
5.1	Program	44
5.1.0	Overview	44
5.1.1	SAR structure in Canada	45
5.1.2	Incident command system (ICS)	45
5.1.3	Roles and responsibilities	45
5.1.4	Legal requirements	46
5.1.5	Liability protections and workers' compensation	46
5.1.6	Finance and administration	46
5.1.7	Documentation	47
5.1.8	Media policy	47
5.2	Human factors	47
5.2.0	Overview	47
5.2.1	Leadership and supervision	48
5.2.2	Risk management	48
5.2.3	Team safety	48
5.2.4	Psychological health and safety	49
5.3	Environment	49
5.3.0	Overview	49
5.3.1	Weather	50
5.3.2	Natural disaster	50
5.3.3	Animals	50
5.3.4	Plants	51
5.3.5	Terrain	51
5.4	First aid and survival skills	52
5.4.0	Overview	52
5.4.1	First aid	52
5.4.2	Survival skills	53
5.5	Transportation safety	53
5.5.0	Overview	53
5.5.1	Use of personal vehicle during a GSAR incident	53
5.5.2	GSAR response vehicles	54
5.5.3	Vehicle and trailer combinations	54
5.5.4	Watercraft	54
5.5.5	Off-road vehicles	55
5.5.6	Aircraft	55
5.6	Navigation	56
5.6.0	Overview	56
5.6.1	Maps	56
5.6.2	Compass	56
5.6.3	Global positioning system (GPS)	56
5.6.4	Map and compass	57
5.6.5	Pacing/tally system	57
5.7	Field communication and technologies	58
5.7.0	Overview	58
5.7.1	Role of field communications	58

5.7.2	Radio operations	58
5.7.3	Satellite and cell phones	58
5.7.4	Emergency alerting devices	59
5.7.5	SAR electronic technologies	59
5.8	Lost-person behaviour	59
5.8.0	Overview	59
5.8.1	Lost-person behaviour	59
5.9	Search competencies	60
5.9.0	Overview	60
5.9.1	Search theory	60
5.9.2	Notification	60
5.9.3	Activation (call-out) checking in, and initial briefing	61
5.9.4	Assignments	61
5.9.5	Search strategies and tactics	61
5.9.6	Containment	62
5.9.7	Attraction	62
5.9.8	Clue management	62
5.9.9	Evidence	63
5.9.10	Human remains	63
5.9.11	Night searches	64
5.9.12	Shoreline searches	64
5.9.13	Urban searches	64
5.9.14	Demobilization	65
5.10	Specialized resources	65
5.10.0	Overview	65
5.10.1	Specialized resources	66
6	SAR manager competencies	66
6.0	General	66
6.1	Program	67
6.1.0	Overview	67
6.1.1	SAR structure in Canada	67
6.1.2	Incident command system (ICS)	68
6.1.3	Essentials of effective search management	68
6.1.4	Legal and policy requirements	69
6.1.5	Media policy	69
6.2	Roles and responsibilities	70
6.2.0	Overview	70
6.2.1	Role of the SAR manager	70
6.2.2	Specific responsibilities of the SAR manager	71
6.2.3	Management and leadership	71
6.2.4	Critical incident stress management	72
6.3	Planning	73
6.3.0	Overview	73
6.3.1	GSAR pre-plans	73
6.3.2	Resource management	73
6.3.3	GSAR team criteria	74
6.3.4	Information management and documentation	74
6.3.5	Lost-person behaviour	75

6.4	Implementation	75
6.4.0	Overview	75
6.4.1	First notice procedures and determining urgency	75
6.4.2	Types and use of information	76
6.4.3	Initiating response activities	77
6.4.4	Establishing search area	77
6.4.5	Segmenting search area	77
6.4.6	Search theory	78
6.4.7	Incident action plan (IAP)	78
6.4.8	On-scene risk assessment and management	79
6.4.9	Search strategies and tactics	79
6.5	Search operations	79
6.5.0	Overview	79
6.5.1	Assignments	79
6.5.2	Briefings and debriefings	80
6.5.3	Human remains	80
6.5.4	External relationships	81
6.5.5	Search suspensions and termination	81
6.5.6	Demobilization	82
6.6	Post incident	82
6.6.0	Overview	82
6.6.1	After action report (AAR)	82
6.7	Specialized resources and SAR technologies	82
6.7.0	Overview	82
6.7.1	Management of specialized resources	83
6.7.2	SAR electronic technologies	83
6.8	Urban searches	83
6.8.0	Overview	83
6.8.1	Managing an urban search	84

Annex A (normative)	— Core competency cross-walk table	85
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Preface

This is the second edition of CSA Z1620, *Core competency standards for ground search and rescue operations: Searcher, team leader, and SAR manager*. It supersedes the previous edition published in 2015.

This Standard contains knowledge and performance specifications for determining and evaluating competency for three core roles in ground search and rescue (GSAR) operations: searcher, team leader, and search and rescue (SAR) manager. Although this Standard is intended for lost and missing person responses, it has been demonstrated that the core competencies within this Standard are relevant to support the participation of GSAR groups in emergency management and disaster response.

Users of this Standard should understand the core competencies contained in this document are minimum levels. This Standard does not have the force of law unless mandated by legislation or referenced in regulations of the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ). Users of this Standard are advised to contact the AHJ in their area to determine the extent this Standard is referenced.

This Standard was developed through a highly collaborative effort between federal, provincial/territorial, local, and volunteer search and/or rescue agencies and organizations. The *National Criteria for Ground Search and Rescue* was used to develop the framework of this Standard. Numerous training manuals and reference materials were consulted in the development of the content of this Standard. CSA Group sincerely acknowledges the contribution of those GSAR agencies and organizations that provided their education materials to help inform the Technical Committee developing this standard.

The requirements of this Standard result from consensus of the CSA Technical Committee on Ground Search and Rescue, which represents a broad spectrum of stakeholder interests. The Technical Committee received input from other stakeholders and through public comments received as a result of a wide distribution of the draft Standard during the public review and comment period.

CSA Group acknowledges that the development of this Standard was made possible, in part, by the financial and in-kind support of the Search and Rescue Volunteers Association of Canada (SARVAC) and other agencies responsible for search and rescue, and by the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Search and Rescue New Initiatives Fund (SAR NIF).

CSA Group and the Search and Rescue Volunteer Association of Canada sincerely acknowledge the contributions of the GSAR community in Canada for its continued support of this Standard.

This Standard was prepared by the Technical Committee on Ground Search and Rescue, under the jurisdiction of the Strategic Steering Committee on Public Safety, and has been approved by the Technical Committee.

This Standard has been developed in compliance with Standards Council of Canada requirements for National Standards of Canada. It has been published as a National Standard of Canada by CSA Group.

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