



## Washington State SAR Coordinators Minimum Training Standards

### **Purpose:**

To set attainable standardized minimum training standards for Washington State Search and Rescue Coordinators. The standards are suggested as minimum to necessary to provide a professional level of service to the citizens, communities and state while providing the level of knowledge required to maintain safe working conditions within the SAR community.

### **Discussion:**

There are 39 counties in Washington State and each county sheriff is assigned the responsibility for search and rescue within their respective counties under RCW 38.52.

There is no standardized curriculum or training standards for search and rescue coordinators across the state. Each county may or may not even have training for their SAR coordinator. One reason I have heard for this is there are none published. Well here we go (**Draft**).

I have also found a great difference in the training and experience levels within the state of the existing coordinators. Some have had specific SAR management training while others have not. With the increase of technology, statistical data and litigation I believe that it is imperative for SAR coordinators in the state to become knowledgeable in their field to better assist the public in need as safely, rapidly and competently as possible.

In listing out these training standards I have tried to develop a level system that allows for a staggered training program to mitigate the effect on the individual department as to amount of training required each year for their SAR coordinators. The counties can also decide at what level they choose to attain for their coordinators. Counties with a minimal amount of calls each year might opt to training to a lower level than those with high mission numbers and difficulty.

Some minimal training is also dictated by NIMS Compliance such as ICS. Most SAR Coordinators are the Incident Commanders during their incidents. Incident commanders are required to have trained through ICS 400.



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### Level 3 – Basic

- Basic search management course (24 hours)
- First Aid and Blood Borne Pathogens instruction complying with WISHA WAC-296.
- IS-700 National Incident Management System “NIMS” (3 hours on-line).
- ICS-100 or equivalent Introduction to Incident Command System (2 hours on-line).
- ICS-200 or equivalent Basic Incident Command System (12 hours on-line) Classroom preferred.
- Local Resource Familiarization.
- Washington State EMD – SAR Response System Orientation.

Note: Search management courses may include curriculum equivalent to various ICS levels.

### Level 2 - Intermediate

- Basic/ Intermediate Helicopter Operations & Safety course (8 hours)
- Water Safety Awareness course (2 hours)
- Water search techniques awareness training (3 hours)
- Air search techniques awareness training (3 hours)
- ELT/EPIRB/PLB awareness training (3 hours)
- Alzheimer and dementia patient awareness training (1 hour)
- Suburban and urban search strategies training (3 hours)
- ICS-300 or equivalent Intermediate Incident Command System (24 hours \*)
- ICS-400 or Equivalent
- Public Information Officer (PIO)

### Level 1 - Advanced

- National SAR School Inland Search and Rescue Planning (40 hours)
- Advanced Search Management, by ERI (24 hours)
- NASAR Planning Section Chief for Search and Rescue (24 hours)
- Fatigue Management during extended operations.

Experience as IC or Planning Section member during at least ten searches involving more than twenty searchers each.

Develop an ongoing refresher requirement for each level of the standard.