



Search and Rescue Alberta Standards and Operational Guidelines



Executive Summary

Since Search and Rescue Alberta's inception in 1993 it has lacked a document that would clearly state to its membership general standards, and guidelines in regards to Search and Rescue in the province. The present Search and Rescue Alberta Executive tasked the Training and Standards Committee to develop an all-encompassing document dealing with Search and Rescue **Legal, Safety and Training** issues.

The Search and Rescue Alberta Training and Standards Committee started work on the document in the fall of 2012. After preliminary research on what had been done in other provinces it was decided to model Alberta's document on Nova Scotia's Emergency Management Office (EMO) *Standards and Operational Guidelines for Nova Scotia Ground Search and Rescue (2011)*. Permission was obtained from Nova Scotia's EMO for the use of the document.

Highlights of the proposed *Search and Rescue Alberta Standards and Operational Guidelines* include:

- Clear explanation of duties and responsibilities of Search and Rescue teams & volunteers in Alberta (Section 2);
- Search and Rescue Alberta expectation of our Tasking Agencies (Section 4);
- Minimum requirements for Search and Rescue Alberta teams and volunteers (Section 5 thru 12);
- Minimum requirements for Search Managers (Section 13 thru 15); and,
- Minimum training requirements for Search and Rescue Volunteers and Search Managers (Section 21).

This is first and foremost a living document for Search and Rescue Alberta that will be reviewed on regular basis and amended as necessary. To move forward on this issue it is the intention of the Search and Rescue Alberta Executive to have this document approved by Search and Rescue Alberta membership in 2013.

Respectfully,

Search and Rescue Alberta
Training and Standards Committee
June 2013

Addendum “A”

Search and Rescue Alberta recognizes that upon membership approving the *SAR Alberta Standard Operating Guidelines* grandfathering and transition periods must be allowed for its membership. This process can be expanded as required.

1. Section 13.4(1) states:

“Must have a minimal of 2 years’ experience as a Search and Rescue group member and have Team Leader\SAR Management Training as well as operational experience. Training courses must have Search and Rescue Alberta approval.”

Grandfather Clause:

Upon ratification of the *SAR Alberta Standard Operating Guidelines*, currently qualified Search Managers will not be required to meet SAR Team Leader Training requirements.

2. Section 13.4(2) states:

“Must have successfully completed ICS 200 with the 300 level recommended.”

Transitioning Clause:

Upon ratification of the *SAR Alberta Standard Operating Guidelines*, Search Managers will have 2 years in which to complete an *Incident Command System 200 Level (ICS 200)* training course.

SAR Alberta
Standards and Training Committee
June 2013

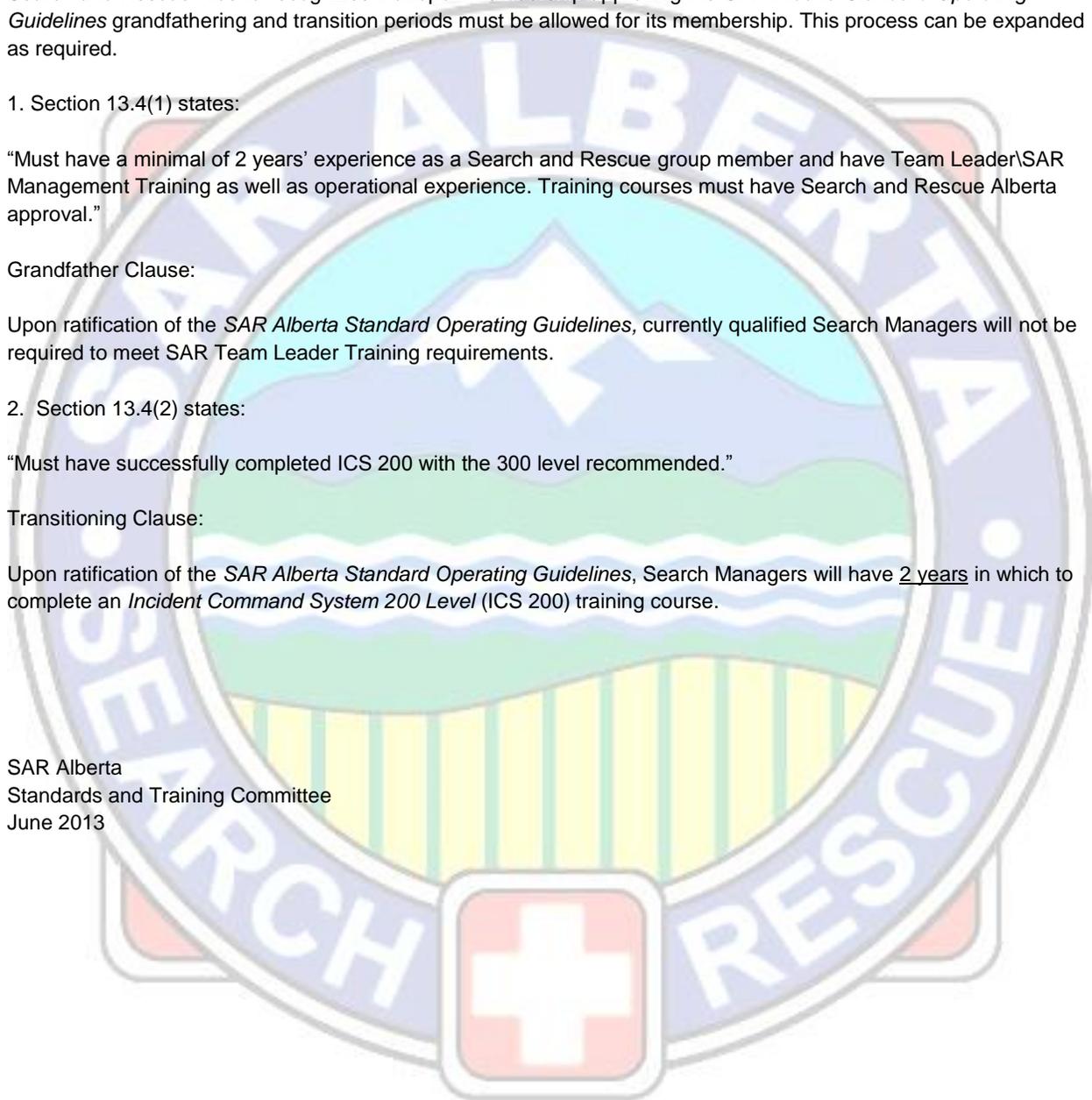


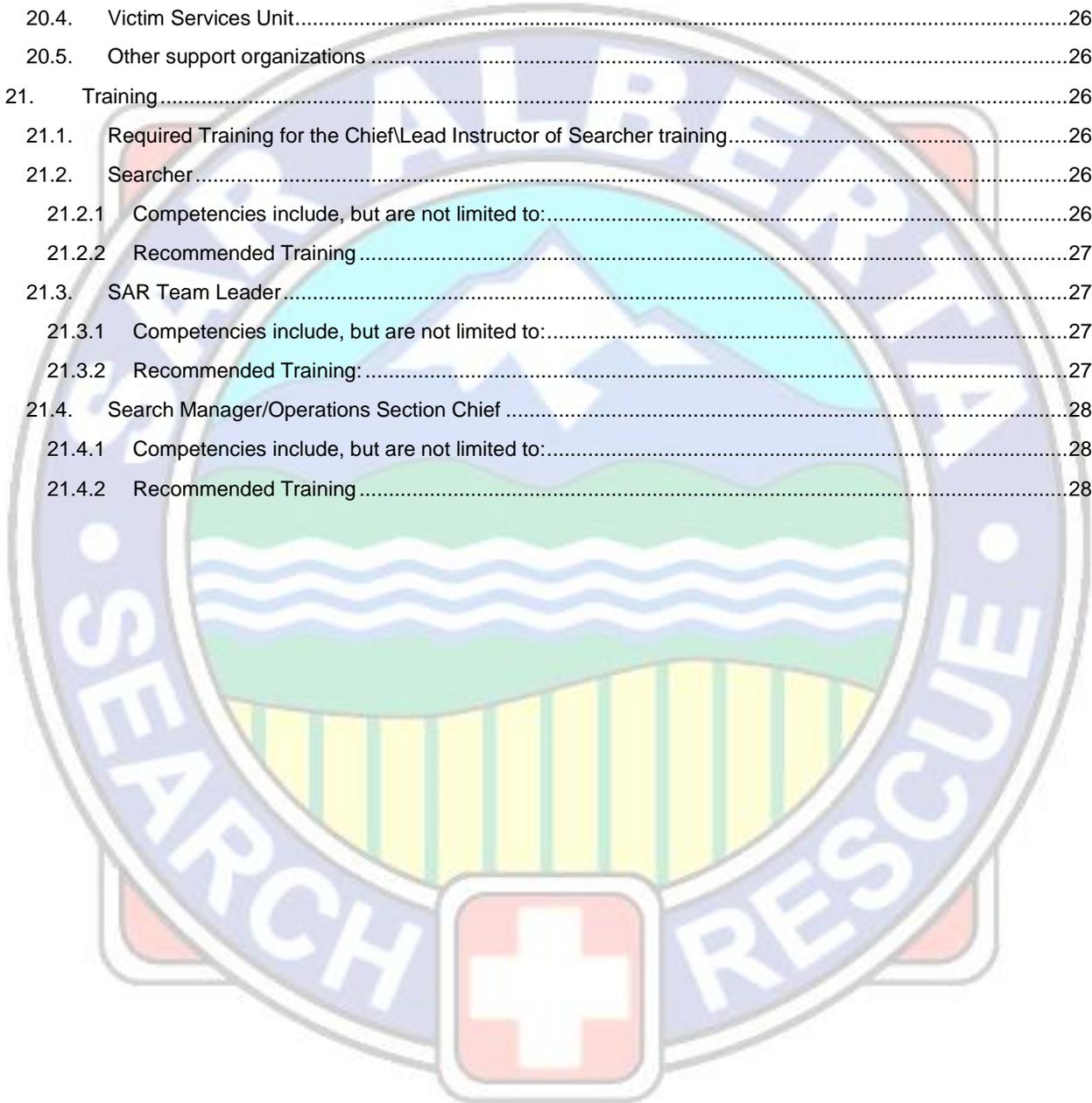
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1. Definitions

1.1. Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA)

The Alberta Emergency Management Agency leads the coordination, collaboration and co-operation of all organizations involved in the prevention, preparedness and response to disasters and emergencies to ensure the delivery of vital services during a crisis. The Alberta Emergency Management Agency is accountable and responsible to the government, to Albertans, to their communities and to industry for the protection of people, their property and the environment from the effects of emergency events.

1.2. Civil Emergency Response (CER)

Also known as aiding the Civil Authority whereby a Ground Search And Rescue team assists the municipality in the event of a disaster (natural or man-made). Responsibilities are appropriate to the level of hazard and team training, and include such tasks as setting up and manning road blocks and assisting in and/or conducting evacuations. This type of mandate would fall under the authority of a municipality. However, the team would be tasked to assist by the Tasking Agency.

1.3. Civil Air Search and Rescue Association (CASARA)

The Civil Air Search and Rescue Association (CASARA) is a Canada-wide volunteer aviation association dedicated to the promotion of aviation safety and to the provision of air search support services to Canada's National Search and Rescue program.

1.4. Evidence Search

A search for evidence (an item or items used to support a judgment or conclusion) in relation to a missing person file, crime, or lost material.

1.5. Search and Rescue (SAR)

Is the act of searching through a means of ground activity for a lost/missing person, marine vessel, aircraft, etc. This may be done by actively deploying personnel to the field/shoreline or through supporting investigative efforts. The "rescue" component of a Search and Rescue is the activity undertaken by a Search and Rescue team to extricate a person or persons, after locating, within their capability and training.

1.6. Search and Rescue Team

Search and Rescue Teams are self-directed and managed community organizations that are organized, trained, and equipped, to locate, access, stabilize, and transport to safety person or persons lost and/or injured, conduct evidence searches, act as Civil Emergency Response teams, aid in recovery operations or assist the Tasking Agency in other tasks as appropriate.

1.7. Search and Rescue Volunteer

Members of an organized group of volunteers who assists in the operation of ground search and rescue incidents. "Organized" means working cooperatively and systematically to apply recognized skills toward the successful resolution of a Search and Rescue incident.

1.8. Incident Commander (IC)

The Incident Commander is the person with overall responsibility for the execution of the Search And Rescue operation, and who represents the authority responsible for the area in which an incident has occurred. This is often a police officer assigned to the search operation by the police force of jurisdiction, acting as the Tasking Agency.

1.9. Incident Command System (ICS)

The Incident Command System is a standardized, on scene, all hazard management concept. Incident Command System allows its users to adopt an integrated organizational structure to match the complexities and demands of single or multiple incidents without being hindered by jurisdictional or political boundaries.

1.10. Missing Person Incident

An organized search for a person who has been reported missing to a Tasking Agency.

1.11. Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC)

The Office of the Fire Commissioner is a body of the Government of Alberta (GoA), Ministry of Municipal Affairs. They are the link between the GoA and Search and Rescue Alberta.

1.12. Operational Period

The period of time scheduled for execution of a given set of operation actions as specified in the Incident Action Plan. Operational Periods can be of various lengths, but they should be no longer than 24 hours.

1.13. Operational Standards

Operational standards are a minimum service level that accredited Search and Rescue teams must maintain.

1.14. Search Manager/Operations Section Chief

Under the direction of the Incident Commander, will manage the ground search and lead and direct individual ground search and rescue resources. The Search Manager/Operations Section Chief is usually an experienced and trained member of a volunteer ground search and rescue team or police authority. In certain circumstances the Incident Commander may act as the Search Manager/Operations Section Chief.

1.15. Spontaneous Volunteers

Any member of the community at-large who arrives at a missing person incident with a desire to help with the search operation.

1.16. Tasking Agency

The authorities having jurisdiction and responsibility for search and rescue in Alberta. Tasking Agencies include, but are not limited to, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Municipal Police Services, First Nations Police Services, Parks Canada, Kananaskis Country Public Safety (granted authority by the RCMP due to terrain considerations), or a Municipality.

2. Introduction

2.1. Preamble

Search and Rescue in Alberta is a community-based resource that combines Tasking Agency resources and civilian volunteers. The Search and Rescue program is designed to support the Tasking Agency's responsibility of conducting a search and/or rescue operation by providing specialized resources and expertise.

2.2. Acknowledgements

Search and Rescue Alberta would like to thank the Nova Scotia EMO for their permission on using their Guide as a model for the Alberta Document and to acknowledge the many individuals and groups who assisted during the development process.

2.3. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to ensure a well-managed and effective Search and Rescue program for the people of Alberta by:

- a. Establishing operational procedures and defining clear roles and responsibilities for Search and Rescue teams; and
- b. Ensuring a consistent approach to the management, administration, and operations of Search and Rescue resources in Alberta.

2.4. Authority

Search and Rescue Teams are tasked by a Tasking Agency to respond to a variety of incidents such as lost persons, evidence searches, or civil emergency response. Responsibilities are defined by the operating protocols of Search and Rescue Alberta and the internal policies of the Tasking Agency's, and individual teams.

2.5. Scope

All Search and Rescue Teams operating in the Province will be governed by this document.

2.6. Responsibilities

2.6.1 Search and Rescue Alberta

- 2.6.1(1) Developing Search and Rescue Standards, Guidelines and Procedures;
- 2.6.1(2) Monitoring overall performance and assisting of Search and Rescue teams as it relates to administration, training, and operations;
- 2.6.1(3) Identifying areas in which additional or revised standards are required;
- 2.6.1(4) Identifying critical issues related to the performance of Search and Rescue team members, teams, the Office of the Fire Commissioner and/or Tasking Agency's as it relates to a "Lost Person Incident" and working with the various stakeholders to resolve these issues.

2.6.2 Search and Rescue Teams

- 2.6.2(1) Complying with the Search and Rescue Standards, Guidelines and Policies;
- 2.6.2(2) Identifying areas in which additional or revised standards are required;
- 2.6.2(3) Identifying critical issues related to the performance of Search and Rescue team members, teams, the Office of the Fire Commissioner and/or Tasking Agency's as it relates to a "Lost Person Incident" and working with the various stakeholders to resolve these issues;
- 2.6.2(4) Ensure their volunteers understand their rights and obligations under provincial legislation, including the:
 - a. Alberta Human Rights Act;
 - b. Emergency Medical Aid Act;
 - c. Occupational Health & Safety Act; and
 - d. Worker's Compensation Act.

2.6.3 Search and Rescue Volunteers

- 2.6.3(1) Carrying out the duties of their position;
- 2.6.3(2) Complying with workplace rules, regulations, policies and legislation;
- 2.6.3(3) Informing their Team Leader, Search Manager, or IC of any discriminatory behavior;
- 2.6.3(4) Treating clients, coworkers and the public with respect and dignity;
- 2.6.3(5) Understanding their right to a safe work environment;
- 2.6.3(6) Understanding their right to refuse unsafe work;
- 2.6.3(7) Understanding their right to competent supervision or direction;
- 2.6.3(8) To provide care and services according to the volunteer's level of skill and training as described in the team's job description for the volunteer's role; and
- 2.6.3(9) The responsibility to provide honest and complete background/personal information to the team's screening process

2.6.4 Search and Rescue Volunteers Serving as a Director or Executive

- 2.6.4(1) The responsibility to the team and tasking agencies to develop and follow a clear team mission while following Search and Rescue Alberta standards.
- 2.6.4(2) To support the goals of Search and Rescue Alberta, by cooperating with, and publicly supporting, other Search and Rescue Alberta members in the performance of their own training and response to call-outs.
- 2.6.4(3) The responsibility to fulfill the duties of the Executive.
- 2.6.4(4) Duty of Honesty, to the team and tasking agencies to:
- Provide accurate and timely assessments of the team's abilities and skills to Search and Rescue Alberta and tasking agencies; and
 - Provide accurate information on training and team conduct during call-outs to Search and Rescue Alberta;
- 2.6.4(5) Duty of Loyalty to:
- The mission of the team; and
 - Ensure that the policies, procedures and training of the team are consistent with the team's mission and tasking agency's requirements.
- 2.6.4(6) Duty of Care to:
- Develop and follow policies and procedures consistent with the Canadian and Albertan Human Rights Acts, the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and the Alberta Employment Standards Code;
 - Have insurance for volunteers and the Executive as appropriate for the level of risk associated with team activities; and
 - Assess and minimize the level of risk in all team volunteer's roles & tasks.
- 2.6.4(7) Duty of Skill to:
- Provide competent supervision and direction of volunteers; and
 - Meet the requirements of tasking agencies for minimum skills and abilities.
- 2.6.4(8) Duty of Diligence to:
- Develop and follow a screening process;
 - Develop and follow a termination process;
 - Develop record keeping of volunteer's training and skills;
 - Regularly review team policies and practices; and
 - Provide resources appropriate to the tasks assigned to the volunteers.
- 2.6.4(9) Duty of Prudence to:
- Manage the Team's finances;
 - Manage the Team's reputation; and
 - Manage other team resources.

2.6.5 Role of Search and Rescue Teams

The role of a volunteer Search and Rescue Team is:

- 2.6.5(1) Assist the Tasking Agency in locating missing or overdue individuals and/or objects;
- 2.6.5(2) Access, stabilize, and evacuate distressed or injured individuals to ensure their timely transfer to appropriate care or place of safety;
- 2.6.5(3) Provide such other assistance to municipal, provincial, and federal agencies as required, able to, and authorized.
- 2.6.5(4) Reducing the number and impact of Search and Rescue incidents by proactive prevention initiatives, which could include Community Awareness, Adventure Smart, Hug A Tree, or Companion Cave Rescue Workshops.

2.6.6 Eligible Search Teams Task Activities

- 2.6.6(1) Wilderness search rescue, and recovery;
- 2.6.6(2) Urban search: defined as a search for a missing person in any area included in the definition of an urban environment;
- 2.6.6(3) Surface searching on water;
- 2.6.6(4) Searching by use of dogs using certified/approved search dogs;

- 2.6.6(5) Air search when properly trained;
- 2.6.6(6) Medical rescue (rescue and transportation from remote areas to EMS);
- 2.6.6(7) Evidence search;
- 2.6.6(8) Underwater Search and Recovery;
- 2.6.6(9) Equestrian Mounted Search and Rescue;
- 2.6.6(10) Domestic animal rescue; (to avoid owners getting into harms' way)
- 2.6.6(11) Helicopter Rescue;
- 2.6.6(12) Avalanche rescue;
- 2.6.6(13) Cave rescue;
- 2.6.6(14) Civil Emergency Response;
- 2.6.6(15) High Angle rescue; and
- 2.6.6(16) Mountain Rescue.

2.6.7 Ineligible Search and Rescue Activities

- 2.6.7(1) Search and Rescue Alberta teams will not participate in any activity that members are not trained & qualified to do.

2.6.8 Search and Rescue Team Membership

Search and Rescue Team operating in Alberta must adhere to the Search and Rescue Alberta Bylaws.

3. Search and Rescue Team Member Roles

Search and Rescue Teams operating in Alberta must follow the Incident Command System.

3.1. Search Manager/Operations Section Chief

The Search Manager/Operations Section Chief is a subject matter expert that may fill the operations side of a Unified Command format as determined by the Incident Commander for ground search operations. This position works in conjunction with the Incident Commander to ensure that the task progresses effectively and efficiently towards the objectives.

The Search Manager provides leadership and direction, makes, reviews, and approves decisions, in conjunction with the Incident Commander, relative to the search. Additionally, the Search Manager oversees all other management functions in regards to the Search and Rescue operations.

Duties include but not limited to:

- 3.1(1) Responsible for all Search and Rescue operations under the direction of the Incident Commander;
- 3.1(2) Manages the functional aspects of the Search and Rescue task;
- 3.1(3) Assists in determining overall objectives (ICS202 Incident Objectives);
- 3.1(4) In consultation with the Incident Commander assigns ICS staff positions of Command, Operations, Planning, Logistics, Administration/Finance, and Safety Officer;
- 3.1(5) Determines operational periods;
- 3.1(6) Ensures planning meetings are scheduled;
- 3.1(7) Reports to and updates the Incident Commander;
- 3.1(8) Reviews team assignment debriefings and modify overall objectives accordingly;
- 3.1(9) Adequately briefs incoming Search Management team at shift changes;
- 3.1(10) Assists with evaluating the urgency of the incident and determining the nature and magnitude of the initial response;
- 3.1(11) With the Incident Commander selects the location of the incident base and command post, and approves the location of other incident facilities;

- 3.1(12) Initiates or approves the requisition of resources within their scope of authority as directed by the Incident Commander;
- 3.1(13) Solicits assistance from appropriate technical specialists when special problems arise;
- 3.1(14) Interfaces with representatives of other agencies involved in the incident; and
- 3.1(15) Works to ensure the safety of personnel by identifying and mitigating hazards.

3.2. Search and Rescue Team Leader

The Search and Rescue Team Leader is the person responsible for the conduct of an individual ground search team resource, strike team or task force. The Search and Rescue Team Leader reports to the Search Manager or designate. The Search and Rescue Team Leader plans, organizes, leads, supervises, and executes a Ground Search Team assignment.

Duties include but are not limited to:

- 3.2(1) Responsible to the Operations Section Chief or designate;
- 3.2(2) Ensure team members are adequately prepared and properly dressed and equipped for a mission;
- 3.2(3) Ensure the safety of the team;
- 3.2(4) Takes leadership role in relation to monitoring and overseeing tasks of the searchers;
- 3.2(5) Keeps accurate notes on team's activities;
- 3.2(6) Evaluates team effectiveness;
- 3.2(7) Ensures proper care of subject, evidence, finds;
- 3.2(8) Ensures well-being of team back at base (i.e. directing them to food, rest areas, etc.);
- 3.2(9) Evaluate team's condition to continue, rest, or stand down; and
- 3.2(10) Additional duties as assigned

3.3. Searcher

The heart of any Search and Rescue operations is the dedicated members who are assigned field tasks during search operations.

Duties include but not limited to:

- 3.3(1) Being fit to perform their duties;
- 3.3(2) Informing the team leader of any prescription or over-the-counter medication they are taking which may affect their ability to perform their duties;
- 3.3(3) Responsible to the team leader;
- 3.3(4) Searches in a safe and dedicated manner;
- 3.3(5) Assumes the task as assigned;
- 3.3(6) Will be properly outfitted and equipped for weather or conditions;
- 3.3(7) Prepares team and personal equipment;
- 3.3(8) Prepares and maintains personal equipment
- 3.3(9) Signing in/out;
- 3.3(10) Staying in staging area until assigned; and
- 3.3(11) Will be properly identified.

4. General Expectations and Requirements

4.1. Preamble

The Search and Rescue program in Alberta is a partnership between two individual agencies/groups; The Tasking Agencies and Search and Rescue teams. Both of these groups/agencies has specific roles, responsibilities, authorities, and accountability within their jurisdiction.

4.2. Purpose

The purpose of this section is to define Search and Rescue Alberta's expectations of its Tasking Agencies and the requirements of Search and Rescue groups.

4.3. Scope

This section applies to the Tasking Agencies and Search and Rescue teams as it relates to incidents and/or events where the services of Search and Rescue teams(s) are utilized for operations.

4.4. General Expectations of Tasking Agencies

- 4.4(1) Call-out appropriate Search and Rescue Team(s) once a need is determined. Time is a critical factor in Search and Rescue operations and any delay can negatively affect the effectiveness, efficiency, outcome and financial cost of the search. The Tasking Agency should call-out Search and Rescue team(s) as soon as possible.
- 4.4(2) The Tasking Agency will assign a qualified Incident Commander. The Tasking Agency may choose its own qualification for an Incident Commander, and request appropriate resources that are required to support the Search and Rescue mission.
- 4.4(3) Ensure that a debriefing is held as soon as practicable after the conclusion/suspension of a operation at a designated time and location convenient for the Search and Rescue team.
- 4.4(4) Ensure the safety of all personnel, police and Search and Rescue volunteers involved in the operation.
- 4.4(5) Immediately address issues or concerns regarding safety, ability, competency, etc. of the Search and Rescue team with the team leadership.
- 4.4(6) Report any issues/concerns in regards to safety, ability, competency, of Search and Rescue teams to the Office of the Fire Commissioner.
- 4.4(7) Provide the Search Manager/Operations Sections Chief with an operational briefing.
- 4.4(8) Provide investigation services.
- 4.4(9) Provide a liaison with other agencies.
- 4.4(10) Scene control and protection.
- 4.4(11) Logistical support.
- 4.4(12) Documentation of incident.
- 4.4(13) Assign Incident Command Roles as appropriate.
- 4.4(14) If required arrange for a Critical Incident Stress debriefing and/or defusing for Search and Rescue team at the conclusion of a difficult or stressful search.
- 4.4(15) Ensure that persons operating vehicles at search scenes such as ATVs, vessels, etc. have the required registration, license, insurance coverage, and meet any standards required (such as the Provincial Standard Operating Regulation for ATVs) to operate the type of vehicle being used.
- 4.4(16) Certifying Search and Rescue team and/or members' expense claim for lost/damaged equipment.
- 4.4(17) Remain on scene at the conclusion of a search during demobilization until all searchers and other support personnel have been accounted for.
- 4.4(18) Ensure compliance with all applicable safety legislation such as the Canada Labour Code, the Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Act, Regulation and Code, and the Criminal Code of Canada, etc.

4.5. Search and Rescue Alberta Responsibilities

- 4.5(1) Provide up to date emergency contact numbers for 24/7 availability to Search and Rescue Alberta for further distribution to the Office of the Fire Commissioner and the appropriate Tasking Agency(s).

4.6. Search and Rescue Team Responsibilities

- 4.6(1) Only respond to call-outs from a Tasking Agency.
- 4.6(2) Follow the direction of the Tasking Agency during call-outs.
- 4.6(3) Only respond to a tasking by a Tasking Agency with qualified personnel and equipment appropriate for the tasking.
- 4.6(4) Conduct training sessions as required to maintain operational readiness for operations;
- 4.6(5) Arrive on scene fully operational, ready to be deployed and self-sufficient for the first operational period.
- 4.6(6) Respond to a tasking as requested by the Tasking Agency with a trained Search Management team including a Search Manager and appropriate General staff.
- 4.6(7) Comply with the Search and Rescue Alberta standards as set forth in the Search and Rescue Alberta Standards and Operational Guidelines.
- 4.6(8) Operate in a professional manner.
- 4.6(9) Operate in a safe manner on route to/from the scene complying with all provincial and federal legislation.
- 4.6(10) Comply with all safety procedures/policies while on scene of the Tasking Agency and as outlined in the Search and Rescue Alberta Standards and Operational Guidelines as well as any relevant safety legislation.
- 4.6(11) Provide timely and accurate response to request for information or reporting from the Office of the Fire Commissioner and/or the Tasking Agency.
- 4.6(12) Identify and inform, through Search and Rescue Alberta, the established Search and Rescue committee of any areas in which the Tasking Agency did not fulfill their responsibilities as defined in the Search and Rescue Alberta Standards and Operational Guidelines.
- 4.6(13) Provide up to date Search and Rescue Emergency Contact Numbers to Search and Rescue Alberta.

5. Search and Rescue Alberta Operational Member Requirements

5.1. Preamble

A search and rescue incident is often a physically and mentally demanding task oriented operation. To perform under such conditions in a safe and effective manner requires team members to meet criteria set by their team and Search and Rescue Alberta Standards appropriate to the tasks expected under the team's mission statement. ***(Individual members are responsible to notify team leadership if they have any physical or mental issues that might affect their ability to perform tasks as assigned).***

5.2. Requirements for Operational Membership in a Search and Rescue Team that is a Regular member of Search and Rescue Alberta

- 5.2(1) All operational members must be at least 18 years of age.
- 5.2(2) Members must pass criminal records and vulnerable sectors checks.
- 5.2(3) Team Members must disclose any new criminal charges and will be suspended until charges are cleared (charges suspended/found not guilty) or a pardon has been granted.
- 5.2(4) Cause for automatic disqualification or dismissal include falsifying information on the member's application.
- 5.2(5) All members must be properly trained for the task assigned. (Individual members are responsible to notify team leadership if they feel that they have not received sufficient training for the task assigned).

6. Operational Expenses

6.1. Preamble

Search and Rescue Alberta does not reimburse operational expenses of Regular or Associate Members.

7. Reporting

7.1. Preamble

A comprehensive reporting system is critical to the Search and Rescue program. In addition to documentation of the incident, information gathered is vital to other aspects such as prevention and training.

7.2. Purpose

The purpose of this standard is to ensure that search incidents are properly documented.

7.3. Scope

All Search and Rescue teams operating in the Province of Alberta will comply with the reporting requirements of the Tasking Agency for individual searches, and provide summary reports to Search and Rescue Alberta as requested.

8. Workers Compensation

8.1. Preamble

Operational members of Search and Rescue teams in the Province of Alberta are covered under the Worker's Compensation Board Alberta when involved with activities sanctioned by the Government of Alberta, Ministry of Municipal Affairs. These activities would include conducting work that is authorized by or under the control of the Province of Alberta, local government (including municipalities, counties, improvement districts, towns, villages, First Nations, and Métis Settlements), local law enforcement agency, or National Park, and, the work is designed to protect and preserve life, property, the environment, or public services in the event of an emergency, or minimize damage to these. Members are also covered during training and other events as approved by the Government of Alberta, Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

8.2. Scope

This coverage applies to all members registered with a recognized Search and Rescue team in Alberta and operating within parameters set by the Government of Alberta, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and are covered continuously from the time they leave their residences until, having dealt with the situation, they return home. This coverage is also provided to volunteers who register with the Search and Rescue team during search incidents. Coverage cannot be extended if injured when the trip was interrupted by an activity that is distinctly personal.

8.3. Worker's Compensation Procedures

8.3(1) To be eligible for coverage all team members and other volunteers must be registered with the applicable Search and Rescue team. Documentation of date and time of registration must be readily available.

8.3(2) Search and Rescue teams must call the Provincial Operations Centre (POC) and receive an Agency Response Readiness Centre (ARRC) number before engaging in any activity directly related to Search and Rescue activities. This includes actual searches, training and public events.

- 8.3(3)** All members shall take the necessary precautions to reduce the risk of injury such as complying with safe work practices or wearing appropriate personal protective equipment as required.
- 8.3(4)** All members must report incidents or injuries to the Search Manager and/or Incident Commander as soon as possible.
- 8.3(5)** An injury report form is to be filled out at the command centre describing the search and what led up to the injury, description of the injury and follow-up with the injured person.
- 8.3(6)** All injuries must be documented using WCB Worker's Accident Report and reported as soon as practicable to the Office of the Fire Commissioner so as to comply with the requirement to report to WCB within 72 hours. All applicable sections of the Worker's Accident Report must be completed.
- 8.3(7)** Failure to comply with the requirement to report to WCB within 72 hours may result in monetary penalties therefore it is imperative that injuries are reported as required above.

The completed Worker's Accident Report must be either electronically mailed or faxed to WCB at 1-800-661-1993 or online at www.wcb.ab.ca.

9. Hazard Assessment and Control

9.1. Preamble

The prevention of incidents, including near misses, injuries, or property damage relies on the assessment of hazards and the adequate implementation of controls. This is a legal requirement under the Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Act and the Criminal Code of Canada.

9.1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this section is to outline procedures for the assessment of hazards and the implementation of controls.

9.1.2 Scope

This section applies to all Search and Rescue teams operating under the authority of the Government of Alberta, Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

9.1.3 Hazard Assessment

The goal of the hazard assessment process is to identify hazards, classify the hazards, and evaluate the risk of the hazard. Hazard assessments must be:

- 9.1.3(1)** Documented;
- 9.1.3(2)** Shared with everyone;
- 9.1.3(3)** Repeated at reasonable intervals; and,
- 9.1.3(4)** Include the measures necessary to control or eliminate the hazard.

9.1.4 Hazard Control

The goal of hazard control is to mitigate risk to "As Low As Reasonably Practical". Hazard controls should be implemented utilizing the hierarchy of controls. The idea behind this hierarchy is that the control methods at the top of the list are potentially more effective and protective than those at the bottom. The hierarchy is as follows:

- 9.1.4(1)** Elimination – If the hazard can be eliminated or substituted this should be the first consideration.
- 9.1.4(2)** Engineering Controls – Engineering controls remove a hazard or place a barrier between the searcher and the hazard.
- 9.1.4(3)** Administrative Controls- Administrative controls include the implementation of procedures, processes, and training to reduce risk.
- 9.1.4(4)** Personal Protective Equipment – Personal Protective Equipment is considered the last line of defense and should only be considered after all other reasonable controls have been considered.

10. Near Miss/Injury Incident Investigation

10.1. Preamble

Incidents which have or may have resulted in injury or property damage should be documented and investigated for the purpose of preventing future incidents. Identifying the cause of such incidents is a vital step in prevention.

10.2. Purpose

The purpose of this section is to outline procedures for documentation and investigation of incidents that have or may have caused injuries to personnel or property damage.

10.3. Scope

This section applies to all Search and Rescue teams operating under the authority of the Government of Alberta, Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

10.4. Near Miss / Injury / Property Damage Investigation Procedures

- 10.4(1) In addition to the WCB Form for injured workers, all incidents which may or have caused injury or property damage must be documented on site with the Incident Commander and/or Search Manager.
- 10.4(2) Near Miss / Injury / Property Damage incidents must be investigated by the tasking agency and, when directed, Search Managers/Incident Commander to determine the cause.
- 10.4(3) Actions must be taken by Search and Rescue team leadership to prevent a future occurrence in a time frame relevant to the risk or potential risk. In situations that pose an imminent risk for injury action must be taken immediately.
- 10.4(4) A near miss incident or injury must be communicated to other team members and/or teams when necessary to prevent reoccurrence.

11. Personal Protective Equipment

11.1. Preamble

The search for missing/lost persons and the training for such incidents are conducted most often in environments that pose a health and safety risk to personnel. Risks such as eye injury, sprains/strains, cold injuries, etc. are probable when carrying out duties in the search environment. To reduce the risk to safety and health of team members; personal protective equipment must be worn where required.

11.2. Purpose

The purpose of this section is to establish criteria for the wearing of Personal Protective Equipment while engaged in search activities or other assignments as tasked.

11.3. Scope

This standard applies to all members of Search and Rescue teams operating in the Province of Alberta under the authority of the Government of Alberta, Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

11.4. Personal Protective Equipment Standard

- 11.4(1) All Search and Rescue personnel shall wear appropriate personal protective equipment as required by the Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Act, Regulation and Code when conditions exist that present a risk to the health and safety of personnel.

This includes but is not limited to:

- a. Approved eye protection in areas of risk for eye injury;
 - b. Approved head protection in areas of risk for head injury;
 - c. Approved safety footwear for areas of risk for foot injury;
 - d. Appropriate safety gloves for areas of risk to hand injuries;
 - e. Appropriate reflective clothing for areas of vehicle contact risk;
 - f. All other required Personal Protective Equipment as warranted by conditions.
- 11.4(2) All personnel shall wear appropriate clothing for the environmental conditions in which he/she will be tasked, such as appropriate dress for cold or wet conditions.
- 11.4(3) Personnel not wearing the appropriate personal protective clothing shall not engage in field operations.
- 11.4(4) Team Leaders shall ensure that all personnel under his/her span of control are properly dressed and equipped to engage in the task as assigned.

12. Alcohol and Recreational Drug Use

12.1. Preamble

The search for missing/lost persons and other duties assigned to Search and Rescue teams require that individuals be competent and coherent. Performing duties while under the influence of alcohol or drugs places the individual, his/her fellow searches, the lost/missing person and the public at risk. In addition the use of alcohol and/or recreational drugs will tarnish the image of the Search and Rescue program and compromise the integrity of dedicated search members.

12.2. Purpose

The purpose of this section is to establish a zero tolerance policy in relation to alcohol and/or recreational drug use.

12.3. Scope

This policy applies to all Search and Rescue personnel in the Province of Alberta under the authority of the Government of Alberta, Ministry of Municipal Affairs. This policy also applies to Spontaneous Volunteers registered with the Search and Rescue team during any particular incident.

12.4. Alcohol and Drug Use Policy

- 12.4(1) No Search and Rescue team member shall report for duty or engage in training activities while under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs;
- 12.4(2) All personnel are responsible to inform the Incident Commander or designate of any activity involving the use of alcohol and/or recreational drugs.

13. Search Manager Qualifications (Operation Section Chief)

13.1. Preamble

The search for missing/lost persons can be a complicated incident which requires proper training and experience to manage effectively. The Search Manager/Operation Sections Chief works in conjunction with the Incident Commander to determine operational objectives. The Search Manager/Operation Sections Chief is the subject matter expert in relation to ground search and rescue activities. Search Managers can also work in various positions under the Incident Command System structure.

13.2. Purpose

The purpose of this section is to define the minimum qualifications for the position of Search Manager\ Operation Section Chief.

13.3. Scope

This section applies to all Search and Rescue team operating in the Province of Alberta under the authority of the Government of Alberta, Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

13.4. Search Manager\ Operation Section Chief Qualifications Standard

- 13.4(1) Must meet all the eligibility requirements for Operational team member status as per individual Search and Rescue team definition.
- 13.4(2) Must have a minimal of 2 years' experience as a Search and Rescue Team member and have Team Leader and SAR Management Training as well as operational experience. Training courses must have Search and Rescue Alberta approval. Must have successfully completed ICS 200 with the 300 level recommended.
- 13.4(3) Must attend refresher training at least every five years. Refresher training courses must have Search and Rescue Alberta approval.

*See Addendum A – Grandfather and Transitioning Clause for more information.

14. Operations (Search and Rescue Team Call-Out)

This section includes standards/procedures in regards to operations.

14.1. Preamble

The Search and Rescue teams operating in the Province of Alberta are a valuable resource to the various organizations and authorities that may require the specialized service they provide. The call out procedure for activating Search and Rescue teams may vary depending on the incident and the tasking agency. It is imperative that the Tasking Agency conduct the initial investigation to determine as soon as possible whether the Search and Rescue resource is required. The Tasking Agency has the ability to consult with a Search and Rescue Search Manager to assist with the investigation process to identify the need for Search and Rescue resources.

14.2. Purpose

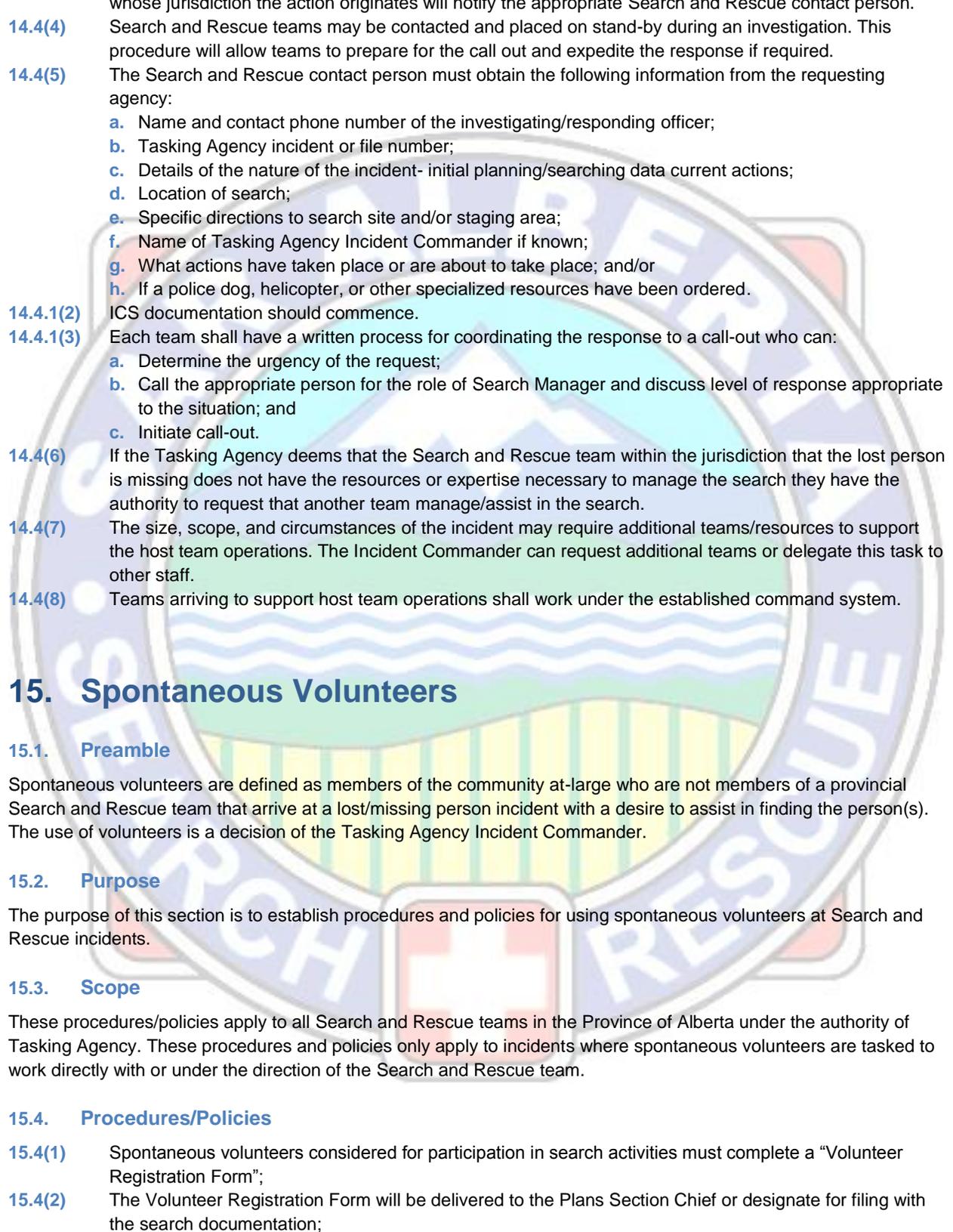
The purpose of this section is to outline the procedures for calling out the Search and Rescue teams to respond to an incident or other tasking.

14.3. Scope

These procedures apply to all the Search and Rescue teams operating in the Province of Alberta.

14.4. Call-Out Procedure

- 14.4(1) A Search and Rescue team will initiate ground search operations on the basis of a call from a tasking agency which could be:
 - a. Police Authority (RCMP, Municipal Police, First Nations Police);
 - b. Provincial Government Public Safety Authority (Kananaskis Country, Alberta Parks, Recreation and Tourism);
 - c. Federal Government (Parks Canada, Department of National Defense (DND)); or a
 - d. Municipality.
- 14.4(2) Search and Rescue teams will initiate such other activities as requested by the Tasking Agency.

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- 14.4(3)** When the services of a Search and Rescue team are required, the appropriate Tasking Agency within whose jurisdiction the action originates will notify the appropriate Search and Rescue contact person.
- 14.4(4)** Search and Rescue teams may be contacted and placed on stand-by during an investigation. This procedure will allow teams to prepare for the call out and expedite the response if required.
- 14.4(5)** The Search and Rescue contact person must obtain the following information from the requesting agency:
- a.** Name and contact phone number of the investigating/responding officer;
 - b.** Tasking Agency incident or file number;
 - c.** Details of the nature of the incident- initial planning/searching data current actions;
 - d.** Location of search;
 - e.** Specific directions to search site and/or staging area;
 - f.** Name of Tasking Agency Incident Commander if known;
 - g.** What actions have taken place or are about to take place; and/or
 - h.** If a police dog, helicopter, or other specialized resources have been ordered.
- 14.4.1(2)** ICS documentation should commence.
- 14.4.1(3)** Each team shall have a written process for coordinating the response to a call-out who can:
- a.** Determine the urgency of the request;
 - b.** Call the appropriate person for the role of Search Manager and discuss level of response appropriate to the situation; and
 - c.** Initiate call-out.
- 14.4(6)** If the Tasking Agency deems that the Search and Rescue team within the jurisdiction that the lost person is missing does not have the resources or expertise necessary to manage the search they have the authority to request that another team manage/assist in the search.
- 14.4(7)** The size, scope, and circumstances of the incident may require additional teams/resources to support the host team operations. The Incident Commander can request additional teams or delegate this task to other staff.
- 14.4(8)** Teams arriving to support host team operations shall work under the established command system.

15. Spontaneous Volunteers

15.1. Preamble

Spontaneous volunteers are defined as members of the community at-large who are not members of a provincial Search and Rescue team that arrive at a lost/missing person incident with a desire to assist in finding the person(s). The use of volunteers is a decision of the Tasking Agency Incident Commander.

15.2. Purpose

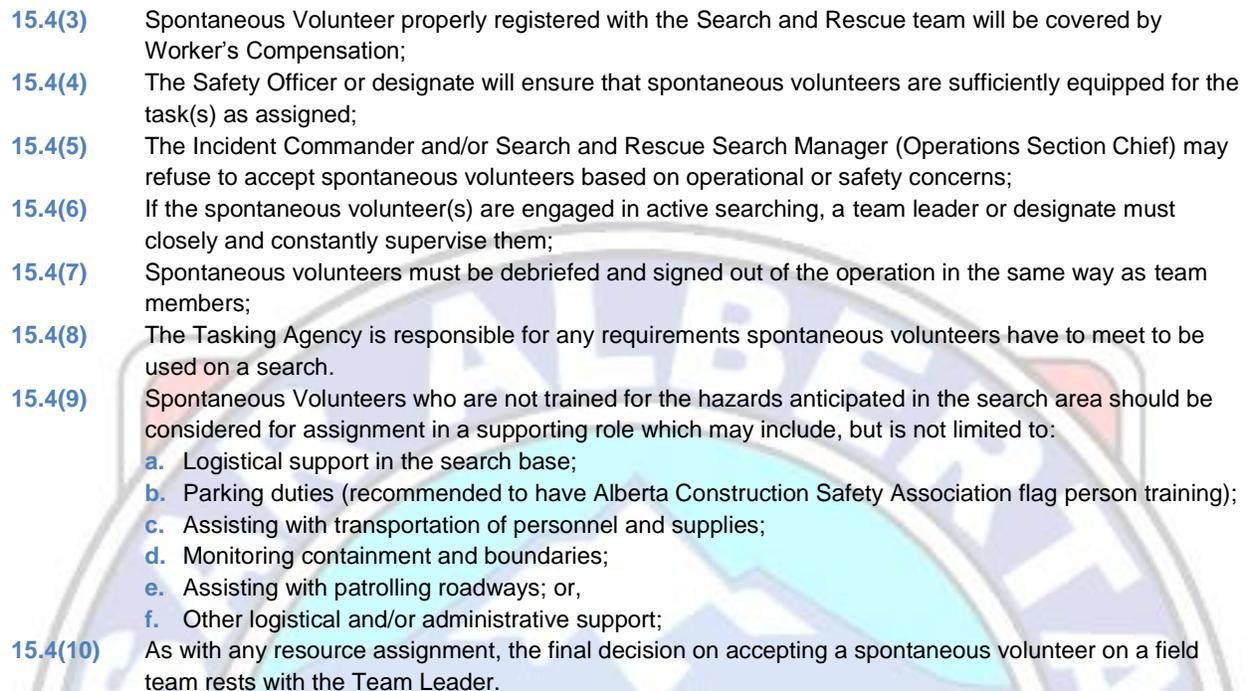
The purpose of this section is to establish procedures and policies for using spontaneous volunteers at Search and Rescue incidents.

15.3. Scope

These procedures/policies apply to all Search and Rescue teams in the Province of Alberta under the authority of Tasking Agency. These procedures and policies only apply to incidents where spontaneous volunteers are tasked to work directly with or under the direction of the Search and Rescue team.

15.4. Procedures/Policies

- 15.4(1)** Spontaneous volunteers considered for participation in search activities must complete a "Volunteer Registration Form";
- 15.4(2)** The Volunteer Registration Form will be delivered to the Plans Section Chief or designate for filing with the search documentation;

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- 15.4(3) Spontaneous Volunteer properly registered with the Search and Rescue team will be covered by Worker's Compensation;
- 15.4(4) The Safety Officer or designate will ensure that spontaneous volunteers are sufficiently equipped for the task(s) as assigned;
- 15.4(5) The Incident Commander and/or Search and Rescue Search Manager (Operations Section Chief) may refuse to accept spontaneous volunteers based on operational or safety concerns;
- 15.4(6) If the spontaneous volunteer(s) are engaged in active searching, a team leader or designate must closely and constantly supervise them;
- 15.4(7) Spontaneous volunteers must be debriefed and signed out of the operation in the same way as team members;
- 15.4(8) The Tasking Agency is responsible for any requirements spontaneous volunteers have to meet to be used on a search.
- 15.4(9) Spontaneous Volunteers who are not trained for the hazards anticipated in the search area should be considered for assignment in a supporting role which may include, but is not limited to:
- Logistical support in the search base;
 - Parking duties (recommended to have Alberta Construction Safety Association flag person training);
 - Assisting with transportation of personnel and supplies;
 - Monitoring containment and boundaries;
 - Assisting with patrolling roadways; or,
 - Other logistical and/or administrative support;
- 15.4(10) As with any resource assignment, the final decision on accepting a spontaneous volunteer on a field team rests with the Team Leader.

15.5. Guidelines for Management of Family Members as Volunteer Searchers

The use of family members as Spontaneous Volunteers is a special case and the decision of whether or not to use any individual family members must be made by the Incident Commander who may consult with the Search Manager.

- 15.5(1) Family members may be used as guides to particular sites such as showing Search and Rescue groups to a hunting or fishing camp;
- 15.5(2) Family members must be processed as spontaneous volunteers and given clear instructions as to their role;
- 15.5(3) Family members must always be escorted and should be kept under supervision. Family members should normally not be assigned to search activities.

16. Air Support Resources

16.1. Preamble

The use of air craft can greatly enhance the ground search and rescue operation. The various air craft available are able to cover a wide range of territory in a relatively short time. In addition, aircraft resources can be used to search territory inaccessible or unsafe for ground search personnel. Air craft support can also be used to extricate persons from remote areas. Accessing air support resources requires following established procedures. The availability of air support resources is dependent on weather conditions.

16.2. Purpose

The purpose of this section is to highlight what is available to the Tasking Agency in air support resources for SAR operations.

16.3. Scope

These procedures apply to all Search and Rescue Teams operating in the Province of Alberta under the authority of Government of Alberta, Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

16.4. Air Support Resource Considerations\Procedures

The Incident Commander is responsible for authorizing the use of air support. Assistance from the various agencies or private companies that can provide air support must be approved by the IC.

When the IC chooses to request aircraft, it can be operated by a governmental or nongovernmental agency. Nongovernmental aircraft should be operated by a commercial air service as defined in the Canadian Air Regulations Part 7 and licensed by the Canadian Air Transportation Agency, or have equivalent training and certification. This is to ensure that the aircraft and personnel used meet established safety standards and carry proper liability insurance for the work being preformed.”

There's a huge liability in using private aircraft for a search, only those either operated by a Government agency or under the umbrella of one such CASARA and Commercial operators should be used as these aircrews must meet standards for training and competencies. The aircraft are also maintained to a better standard generally

16.5. Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Helicopter

The RCMP has helicopter resources equipped with Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) cameras. This thermal imaging resource may be beneficial during night-time operations. This resource is requested directly from the IC during RCMP jurisdictions. This resource can also be requested by the Incident Commander of other Tasking Agency's as per their protocols/procedures. The cost of this resource is either that of the RCMP or as established by agreement with other Tasking Agency's such as municipal police forces. There may be other helicopters with similar equipment available locally.

16.6. Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) Fixed Wing and Helicopter

Royal Canadian Air Force aircraft are to be considered a last resort only for search and rescue operations. RCAF support cannot be authorized for Search and Rescue operations without approval from the Tasking Agency. To request support from the RCAF the Tasking Agency will make the request to the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC) in Trenton, Ontario.

16.7. Civil Air Search and Rescue Association (CASARA) Fixed Wing

CASARA is primarily a JRCC resource, however if CASARA resources are not required by the JRCC they may respond to emergency requests on behalf of the Province. CASARA can be activated on the request of the Tasking Agency.

17. Vehicle / Vessel Safety

17.1. Preamble

The search for missing persons is often conducted in areas where varying terrain and water ways interface. During these situations, Search and Rescue members may be tasked to work with various vehicles and/or vessels. The use of such vehicles/vessels are the responsibility of the Incident Commander, however the safety of Search and Rescue members is shared with Search and Rescue Alberta. To help ensure the safety of Search and Rescue members when working with or around vehicles / vessel standards must be established.

17.2. Purpose

The purpose of this section is to establish general overview of safety standards in regards to operating or working with or around vehicles and vessels.

17.3. Scope

This section applies to all Search and Rescue teams operating in the Province of Alberta under the authority of Government of Alberta, Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

17.4. Vehicles

Vehicles include Light Vehicles, ATVs; snowmobiles; amphibious; as well as, but not limited to Bicycles. See Search and Rescue Alberta individual standards for Boat, Snowmobile and Quad operations.

17.4.1 Vehicle Standards

- 17.4.1(1) All vehicles used during Search and Rescue operations involving Search and Rescue team members, whether as an operator or passenger, must be operated in accordance with
- The Alberta Traffic Safety Act;
 - The Alberta Off-Highway Vehicle General Regulations; and
 - All other provincial/Municipal legislation affecting off-highway vehicles and their operation.
- 17.4.1(2) Operators shall operate in a safe manner and not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- 17.4.1(3) In addition to the Incident Commander, the Search and Rescue team management and Team Leaders share in the responsibility for the safety of Search and Rescue members operating with or near vehicles.

17.5. Vessels

17.5.1 Vessel Standards

The use of vessels at a ground search operations may be required in areas where lakes, or rivers interface with the search area. To ensure the safety of Search and Rescue personnel working with or around vessels the following standards must be complied with:

- 17.5.1(1) The Incident Commander shall ensure that all vessels used during search operations involving Search and Rescue members will:
- Be operated by a competent and experienced operator;
 - Have on board the required safety equipment as per the Small Vessel Regulations;
 - Have the proper lighting as required by the Collision Regulations if operated at night and in low visibility;
 - Comply with maximum Horsepower and Gross Weight Restrictions as indicated on the vessel hull;
 - Be in good working condition including the motor if attached.
 - Operator must possess a Pleasure Craft Operators License or equivalent.
- 17.5.1(2) All Search and Rescue members shall wear an approved and appropriate sized PFD and/or Survival Immersion suits(based on hazard assessment) while on board.

18. Safety Standards for Searches in Swift Water Environments

18.1. Preamble

The abundance of water ways in Alberta often means that search operations will interface with various bodies of water such as rivers, lakes, and streams. Searchers are often tasked to search along shorelines for missing persons and/or clues. These types of searches often add to the risk of searchers therefore safety standards must be established.

18.2. Purpose

The purpose of this section is to establish basic safety standards for Ground Search and Rescue personnel working in close proximity to water.

18.3. Scope

The standards below apply to all Search and Rescue teams operating in the Province of Alberta under the authority of Tasking Agency.

18.4. Swift Water Safety Standards

- 18.4(1) Search and Rescue team searchers working in swift water environments should have Swift Water Rescue Training;
- 18.4(2) Search and Rescue team searchers shall be tasked in groups of 2 or more;
- 18.4(3) Search and Rescue team searchers shall be briefed on the conditions prior to tasking;
- 18.4(4) Search and Rescue team searchers shall wear an approved and appropriate size PFD while in the warm zone during swift water searches;
- 18.4(5) Search and Rescue team searchers shall not be tasked in areas of high risk until conditions are safe to operate;
- 18.4(6) Search and Rescue team searchers shall carry at least one throw bag per team (minimum 15 m\50 ft floating line) and be trained in its use;
- 18.4(7) Harness and line tethers shall be used on steep or unstable shores;
- 18.4(8) Search and Rescue team searchers shall wear highly reflective vests or jackets.

19. MEDIA RELATIONS

19.1. Preamble

Missing person events, especially high profile cases such as a lost child, will attract media organizations as they seek information so they can produce the news and report to the public. Management of the media is critical to the operation and has the ability to provide assistance to the search effort. The Incident Commander or Public Information Officer must develop a plan for the media to ensure accurate information is provided without disruption of the search operations.

19.2. Scope

This procedure applies to all Search and Rescue operations in the Province of Alberta.

19.3. Media Relations Procedure

- 19.3(1) The Tasking Agency having legal responsibility as well as expertise in dealing with the media will assume responsibility for all media relations during ground search incidents.
- 19.3(2) All requests by the media to any personnel at a Search and Rescue event will be referred to the (I/C, Information Officer or designate)
- 19.3(3) Consideration should be given to the priorities of the media by providing regular briefings, as well as tours of the search area when convenient and authorized by Tasking Agency,
- 19.3(4) Under no circumstances should search members discuss the search incident with the media unless authorized by the Incident Commander. This is a Tasking Agency responsibility.
- 19.3(5) Once authorized by the Incident Commander, the Search Manager may provide information to the media on general search tactics, search conditions, etc. The Search Manager or designate shall not discuss confidential information or release information not authorized by the Incident Commander.

20. Support Services (Subject and Searcher)

20.1. Preamble

The search for missing persons may be a traumatic event for all persons involved especially tragic situations such as the incidents involving injury or death. Incidents such as this can be very stressful for the subject, families and the searchers themselves. There are organizations with the training and expertise to recognize abnormal stress and provide assistance to those affected. Incident Commanders and Search Managers should have contact information for various types of support services written into preplans. These services must be contacted as soon as possible to provide support to those in need. The responsibility to activate various support services at an incident lies with the Tasking Agency.

20.2. Scope

The Support Services Standard applies to all Search and Rescue operations in the Province of Alberta.

20.3. Support Services Procedure

20.4. Victim Services Unit

- 20.4(1) Most Police Authorities have personnel trained to provide victim services and critical incident stress debriefing to persons affected by a traumatic event;
- 20.4(2) The use of Victim Services Unit should always be considered when dealing with family members on a search site;
- 20.4(3) Family members should always be asked if they require or want the support before making service available;

20.5. Other support organizations

- 20.5(1) The use of Salvation Army, Red Cross and religious services should always be considered when dealing with family members at a search site.
- 20.5(2) Family members should always be asked if they require or want the support before making the service available.

21. Training

This section contains standards as related to training.

21.1. Required Training for the ChiefLead Instructor of Searcher training

- 21.1(1) Search and Rescue ChiefLead instructor must have taken following courses:
 - i. Search and Rescue Alberta approved Search Management course
 - ii. Search and Rescue Alberta approved Searcher Instructor course
 - iii. ICS 200

21.2. Searcher

The Searcher needs to be able to display competencies in the following disciplines prior to deployment in the field.

21.2.1 Competencies include, but are not limited to:

- 21.2.1(1) Basic Survival;
- 21.2.1(2) Helicopter Operations;
- 21.2.1(3) Incident Command System 100

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- 21.2.1(4) Land Navigation;
 - 21.2.1(5) Search Philosophy;
 - 21.2.1(6) Search Tactics;
 - 21.2.1(7) Clue Awareness;
 - 21.2.1(8) Search Operations;
 - 21.2.1(9) Communications;
 - 21.2.1(10) Note Taking;
 - 21.2.1(11) Evidence Handling;
 - 21.2.1(12) Search and Rescue Clothing and Equipment;
 - 21.2.1(13) Environmental Hazards;
 - 21.2.1(14) Chemical Hazard Awareness;
 - 21.2.1(15) Standard First Aid;
 - 21.2.1(16) Health and Fitness;
 - 21.2.1(17) Search and Rescue Resources;
 - 21.2.1(18) Lost Person Behavior;
 - 21.2.1(19) Ropes, Knots, and Rescue Equipment;
 - 21.2.1(20) Legal Aspects for the Searcher;
 - 21.2.1(21) Understanding the Search and Rescue Alberta Standards and Operational Guidelines; and
 - 21.2.1(22) Risk Management.

21.2.2 Recommended Training

- 21.2.2(1) Search and Rescue Alberta approved Team Leader;
- 21.2.2(2) Tracking;
- 21.2.2(3) Wilderness First Aid;
- 21.2.2(4) Swift Water Rescue; and
- 21.2.2(5) Rope Rescue;

21.3. SAR Team Leader

The prerequisite for SAR Team Leaders is successful completion of Search and Rescue Alberta approved Searcher course.

21.3.1 Competencies include, but are not limited to:

- 21.3.1(1) Small Unit Leadership;
- 21.3.1(2) Team Safety;
- 21.3.1(3) Maps, Land Navigation and Route Planning;
- 21.3.1(4) Search Techniques and Tactics;
- 21.3.1(5) Briefing;
- 21.3.1(6) Debriefing;
- 21.3.1(7) Hazardous Terrain Skills;
- 21.3.1(8) Stress Management Skills;
- 21.3.1(9) Handling of Deceased;
- 21.3.1(10) Casualty Recovery;
- 21.3.1(11) Advanced GPS and RTT (Real-time tracking);
- 21.3.1(12) Principles of Search Management;
- 21.3.1(13) Advanced survival;
- 21.3.1(14) Search Operations; and
- 21.3.1(15) Search and Rescue Technology.

21.3.2 Recommended Training:

- 21.3.2(1) Wilderness First Aid
- 21.3.2(2) SAR Team Leader course

21.4. Search Manager/Operations Section Chief

The prerequisites for search manager are all levels of search training (Search and Rescue Alberta approved Searcher, SAR Team Leader and Search Management courses).

21.4.1 Competencies include, but are not limited to:

- 21.4.1(1) Management and leadership;
- 21.4.1(2) Incident Command System 200;
- 21.4.1(3) Operational Pre-Planning;
- 21.4.1(4) Search and Rescue Resources;
- 21.4.1(5) Clue Orientation;
- 21.4.1(6) Initiating the Search;
- 21.4.1(7) Planning the Search;
- 21.4.1(8) Gathering Subject Information;
- 21.4.1(9) Predicting Lost Person Behavior;
- 21.4.1(10) Establishing the Search Area;
- 21.4.1(11) Setting Priorities- Assigning Probabilities of Area (POA) to the Search;
- 21.4.1(12) Allocating Search and Rescue Resources-Search and Rescue Tactics;
- 21.4.1(13) Measuring Coverage-Tracking Probability of Detection (POD);
- 21.4.1(14) Changing Search Priorities-Shifting POA;
- 21.4.1(15) Briefing and Debriefing;
- 21.4.1(16) Documentation;
- 21.4.1(17) Suspending Search Operations;
- 21.4.1(18) Demobilization;
- 21.4.1(19) Managing Search Base Operations and Searcher Safety;
- 21.4.1(20) Managing Searcher Stress;
- 21.4.1(21) Managing External Influences;
- 21.4.1(22) Search and Rescue Technology;
- 21.4.1(23) Post Incident Considerations; and
- 21.4.1(24) Role of the Agency Administrator;

21.4.2 Recommended Training

- 21.4.2(1) Public Speaking;
- 21.4.2(2) Media Training; and
- 21.4.2(3) ICS 300.

