

Revised April 10, 2023

Search Operations and Specialized Event Activities

1. Objective/Purpose:

To define the policy for Unit member participation in search operations and Unit specialized event activities. This policy only applies to official operations/activities. Members who participate in activities not approved by the Unit shall do so as a private citizen without any liability coverage normally provided during approved operations and shall not use Unit equipment or identify themselves as Unit members.

2. Scope:

The policy applies to all **Regular and Probationary** NMMSAR Unit members.

3. Policy:

Because of Unit and member personal liability considerations it is important that all members understand the official Unit policy on member participation in search operations and Unit specialized event activities.

- a. Unit members will only respond to searches for which a formal call-out was initiated by the New Mexico State Police, official searches will have a mission number assigned.
- b. Unit members will not participate in other activities, such as special events and activities, etc., as a representative of the Unit, unless approved by the NMMSAR Review Board. Request for this type of Unit participation is to be made to the President of NMMSAR.
- c. Unit equipment issued by NMMSAR shall be used only by active members during authorized search operations and/or activities. Unit uniforms shall only be worn during authorized activities.
- d. Only active Regular Unit members shall participate in authorized search operations.
 - 1. Probationary members may partake in SAR search operations depending on certifications and NMMSAR board approval.
 - 2. Only those Unit members who have actively participated in the Unit's training program, and are adequately equipped, shall participate in search operations. The determination if a member is qualified to participate shall be made on a case-by-case basis by the Board or On-Site Unit Team Leader for each search operation.
- e. Only active Regular Unit members shall participate in authorized Unit special events or activities.
 - 1. Probationary members may partake in SAR special events or activities depending on certifications and prior NMMSAR Review Board approval.
 - 2. Non-members; such as friends, family members, walk-ons, etc.; shall not participate in special events and activities unless prior approval is received from the Review Board.
- f. Only those Unit members who have actively participated in the Unit's training program, and are adequately equipped, shall participate in search operations and activities. The determination if a member is qualified to participate shall be made on a case-by case basis by the Review Board or On-Site Unit Team Leader for each search operation or activity.
- g. Only the rider, and not the horse, vehicle or trailer will have State SAR provided insurance coverage once the member has signed in at Incident Base (IB). Limited liability coverage may be in effect at specialized events, depending on the nature of the event. Any insurance available to the Unit may become

secondary to the individual Unit member's personal liability coverage.

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