



Maritime Search and Rescue Course Catalogue

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Welcome to the Maritime Search and Rescue Council Course Catalogue

The Maritime Search and Rescue Council is a not-for-profit maritime search and rescue training and consultancy organisation dedicated to promoting maritime search and rescue (SAR) professionalism, training, research and progress around the world. We are a global network of professionals and organisations who share a common vision for ensuring the safety of those who operate in and around the world's oceans.

We believe that by working together and sharing our knowledge and expertise, we can make a real difference in saving lives at sea. Through our various initiatives, including SAR professional's recognition, global consultancy work, international training programs, research projects, continued professional development and advocacy efforts, we strive to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of search and rescue operations, as well as to promote public awareness of the importance of maritime SAR.

At the Maritime Search and Rescue Council we recognise that as an organisation dedicated to maritime search and rescue your ability to coordinate, respond and handle emergencies at sea or along the coast is crucial, often in challenging and unpredictable conditions. Continuous training and professional development (CPD) is essential to ensure that your team performs effectively and to the highest standards. Our courses are designed to equip your personnel with the necessary knowledge, skills, and competencies to respond swiftly and efficiently to emergencies, incorporating the latest search and rescue techniques, development, and advanced technologies.

Our courses deepen your organisation's understanding of the unique challenges and risks associated with maritime SAR operations, enabling the development of effective strategies to mitigate those risks. Investing in training not only enhances your organisation's professional growth but also benefits the communities you serve. By improving your team's skills and knowledge, you will provide a higher level of service to the public, ensuring they receive the assistance they need in an emergency.

Our courses are taught by highly experienced and qualified instructors with extensive knowledge and practical experience in maritime search and rescue. We utilise a variety of teaching methods, including hands-on training, simulations, and case studies, to maximise the learning experience for your team. We believe that your organisation's professional development is crucial to its success in this demanding field. That's why we offer regular CPD sessions and discounted training courses for members, along with flexible training options tailored to meet the specific needs and schedules of your personnel.

Join us in advancing your team's skills and enhancing your organisation's effectiveness as a maritime search and rescue leader.

Contact us at council@maritimesar.org to learn more about our training packages and to discuss how we can support your organisation and SAR operations.

Book your places on our next courses at www.maritimesar.org/bookings or contact us at council@maritimesar.org.



LOCATION: At MSARC designated training facility or at client's premises with access to suitable water environment

INSTRUCTOR TO STUDENT RATIO: 1:6

DURATION: 5 Days

PREREQUISITES: None, although basic maritime knowledge is beneficial

ASSESSMENT: Continual assessment by instructor throughout course via various exercises and verbal questioning to students during course delivery & 2 multiple choice exams

CERTIFICATION: "SAR Crew (Initial)" certificate issued upon successful completion

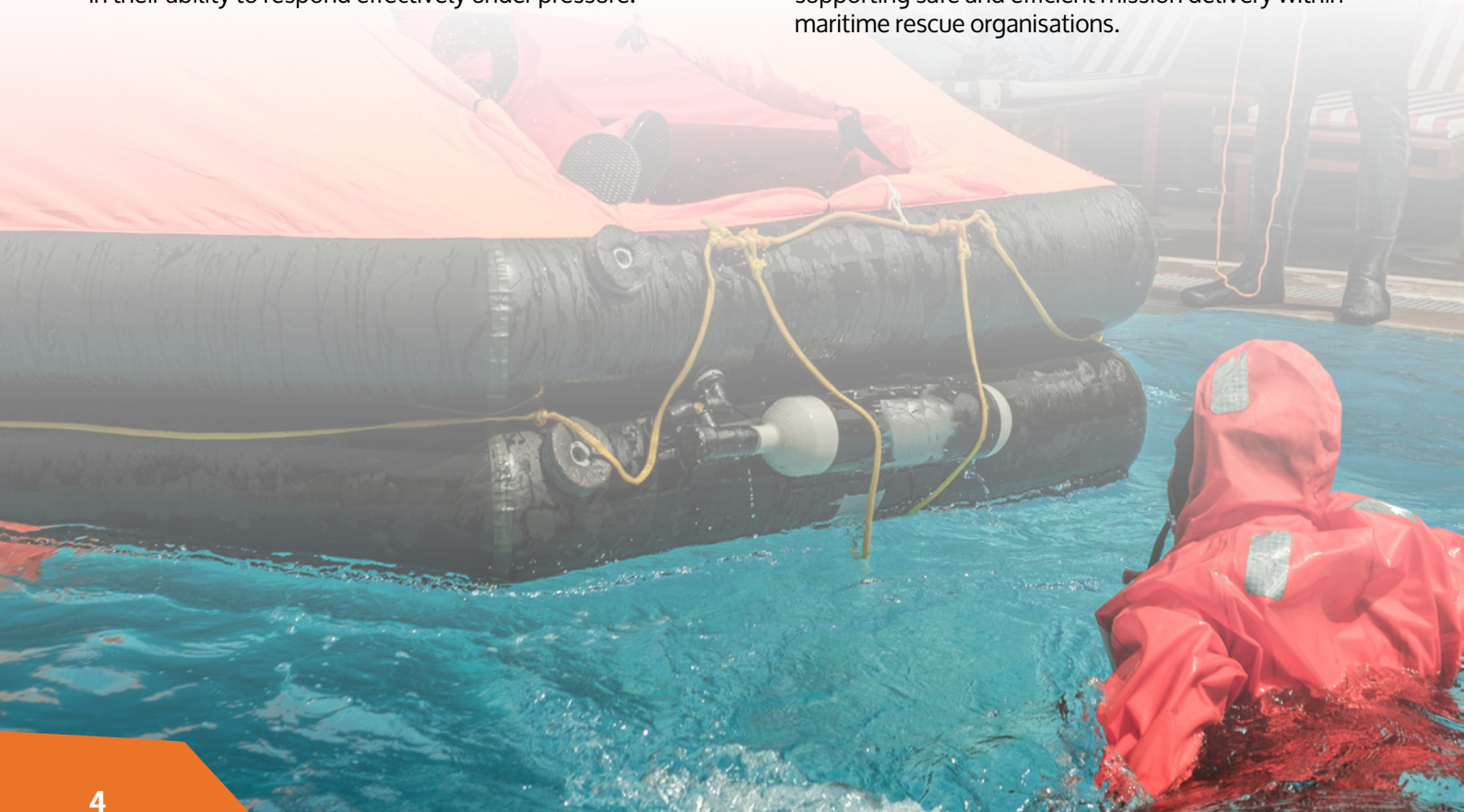
VALIDITY/RECERTIFICATION: No recertification required

The SAR Crew Initial Course provides new crew members with the foundational knowledge and practical skills required to integrate into maritime SAR teams safely and effectively. It is designed for personnel beginning their SAR journey and seeking competency in vessel-based rescue operations.

Training covers SAR organisation, crew responsibilities, and personal safety before progressing into seamanship, SAR operations on board vessel and emergency procedures. Participants engage in a 50/50 theory and practical based training and live exercises to simulate the pace and pressure of real rescues, developing confidence in their ability to respond effectively under pressure.

In addition, the course fosters teamwork, communication, and situational awareness - key elements of successful maritime SAR operations. Trainees learn to work seamlessly with other crew members and command structures, building the resilience and adaptability required for high-pressure environments. This holistic approach ensures graduates are not only technically competent but also prepared to contribute positively to the culture, safety, and effectiveness of their SAR teams.

By course conclusion, students will have developed their operational capability to serve as SAR crew, supporting safe and efficient mission delivery within maritime rescue organisations.



LOCATION: At MSARC designated training facility or at client's premises with access to suitable water environment

INSTRUCTOR TO STUDENT RATIO: 1:6

DURATION: 5 Days

PREREQUISITES: Completion of SAR Crew Initial Course or equivalent experience

ASSESSMENT: Continual assessment by instructor throughout course via various exercises and verbal questioning to students during course delivery & 1 multiple choice exam

CERTIFICATION: "SAR Crew (Advanced)" certificate issued upon successful completion

VALIDITY/RECERTIFICATION: No recertification required

The SAR Crew Advanced Course builds on the knowledge gained at the initial level, preparing crew members for more complex and demanding maritime SAR operations and for operational leadership roles. Designed for experienced personnel, it focuses on advanced operational, technical, and team-coordination skills.

Course content includes night operations, leading and supervising operational tasks on board the SAR vessel, vessel and equipment preparation and readiness, watch keeping, and non-technical skills to ensure smooth and efficient team performance. Students also refine their use of SAR equipment and learn to anticipate and respond to rapidly changing conditions.

In addition, the course develops resilience, teamwork, leadership and adaptability, ensuring participants are able to perform confidently in high-pressure environments. Emphasis is placed on decision-making, resource management, and supporting command structures, enabling candidates to maintain cohesion and effectiveness during demanding operations.

By the end of the course, participants are capable of contributing further to complex SAR operations, demonstrating both technical competence and the ability to support commanders.



3 SAR Commander (Initial)

LOCATION: At MSARC designated training facility or at client's premises with access to suitable water environment

INSTRUCTOR TO STUDENT RATIO: 1:6

DURATION: 5 Days

PREREQUISITES: SAR Crew Advanced qualification or equivalent experience.

Vessel command qualification and vessel handling experience

ASSESSMENT: Continual assessment by instructor throughout course via various exercises and verbal questioning to students during course delivery, 2 multiple choice exams and a final assessed exercise

CERTIFICATION: "SAR Commander (Initial)" certificate issued upon successful completion

VALIDITY/RECERTIFICATION: No recertification required

The SAR Commander Initial Course equips experienced SAR personnel with the skills to step into team leadership roles during maritime search and rescue operations. The course develops command capabilities through a balance of theory, leadership principles, and practical exercises.

Key learning areas include risk management, resource allocation, SAR operational management, management of vessel operations and emergencies, and non-technical skills as well as and coordination with external agencies. Participants learn to manage teams effectively, delegate tasks, and maintain safety oversight during high-pressure operations.

Participants engage in a 50/50 theory and practical based training and live exercises where they must take command, make timely decisions, and ensure safe and effective operations. Feedback and coaching from instructors develop confidence and competence in leadership roles.

On completion, participants are ready to develop further within their command positions, demonstrating both technical competence and the ability to lead crews in complex SAR environments.



LOCATION: At MSARC designated training facility or at client's premises with access to suitable water environment

INSTRUCTOR TO STUDENT RATIO: 1:6

DURATION: 5 Days

PREREQUISITES: SAR Commander Initial Course or equivalent experience

ASSESSMENT: Continual assessment by instructor throughout course via various exercises and verbal questioning to students during course delivery, 1 multiple choice exam and a final assessed exercise

CERTIFICATION: "SAR Commander (Advanced)" certificate issued upon successful completion

VALIDITY/RECERTIFICATION: No recertification required

The SAR Commander Advanced Course is designed for experienced commanders seeking to refine their leadership, decision-making, and operational management in complex maritime SAR environments. This advanced program challenges participants with highly realistic, multi-layered scenarios combined with theory session to grow and devolve background knowledge.

Commanders develop skills in interagency coordination, working with coastguard, aviation, and shore-based emergency services to ensure seamless communication and task integration. Training also covers the management of large-scale operations involving multiple vessels and aircraft, casualty triage and prioritisation, and the use of real-time information to adapt search areas and redeploy resources.

Commanders practice making time-critical decisions in uncertain environments, applying structured risk assessment models to balance crew safety, asset preservation, and operational success during extended taskings. Emphasis is placed on leadership under pressure, fostering resilience within teams, and managing communication across multiple channels and agencies. Practical scenarios simulate high-stake operations requiring resource prioritisation, casualty management, and coordination with air and shore-based units.

By course conclusion, participants are capable of confidently leading advanced SAR operations, demonstrating advanced skills in command, leadership, and operational oversight to ensure operational effectiveness and safety.



LOCATION: At MSARC designated training facility or at client's premises

INSTRUCTOR TO STUDENT RATIO: 1:12

DURATION: 3 Days

PREREQUISITES: Suitable for maritime SAR personnel with prior crew training

ASSESSMENT: Continual assessment by instructor throughout course via various exercises and verbal questioning to students during course delivery, 1 multiple choice exam and a final assessed exercise

CERTIFICATION: "Maritime SAR Immediate Emergency Medical Care" certificate issued upon successful completion

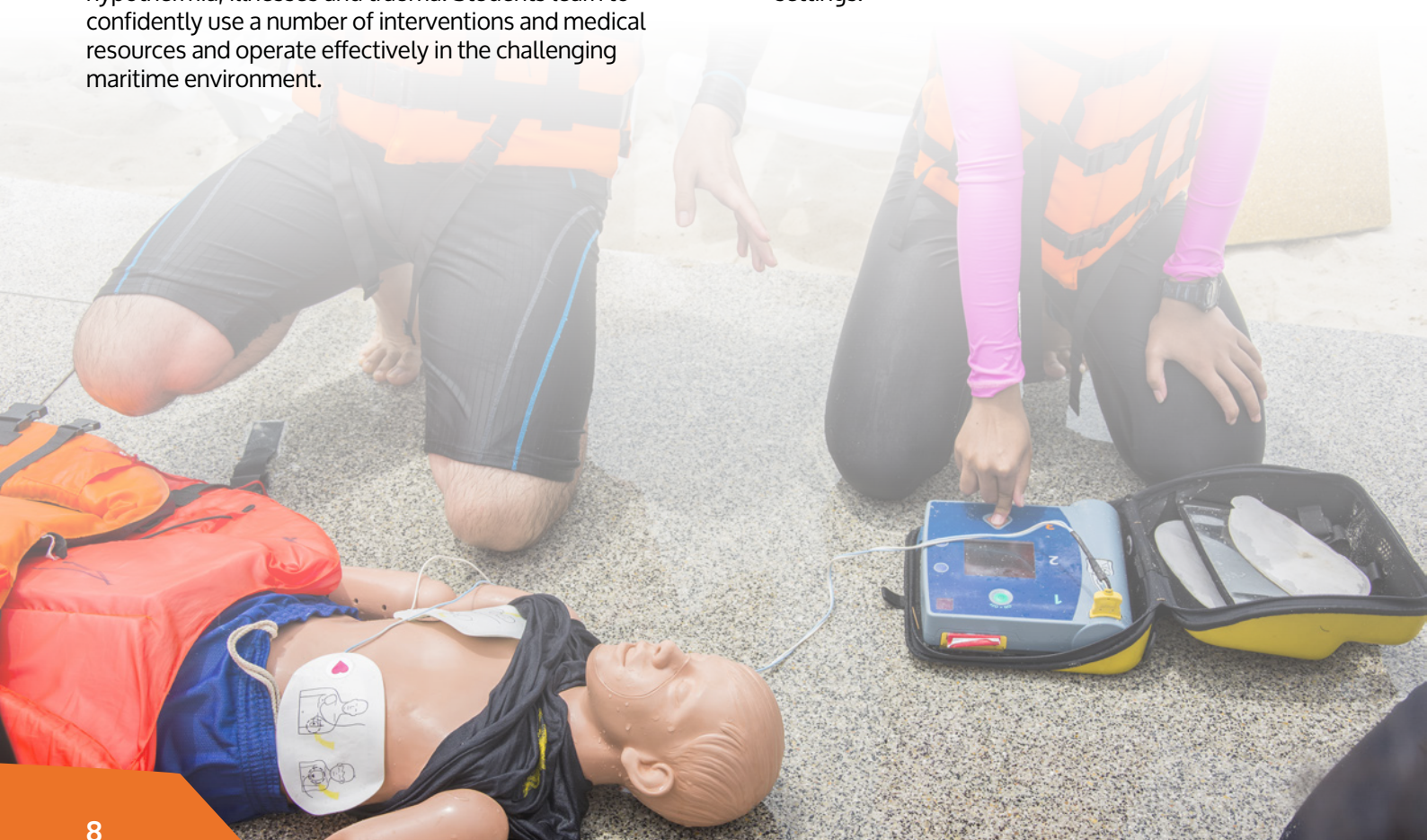
VALIDITY/RECERTIFICATION: 3 Years

The Maritime Immediate Emergency Medical Care Course provides SAR personnel with essential medical skills to stabilise casualties during maritime incidents. Focused on immediate care in the critical minutes before advanced medical support arrives, the course is tailored to the realities of SAR operations.

Training covers scene safety, casualty assessment, and lifesaving interventions including airway management, bleeding control, CPR, and treatment of shock, hypothermia, illnesses and trauma. Students learn to confidently use a number of interventions and medical resources and operate effectively in the challenging maritime environment.

Scenario-based exercises replicate real SAR incidents, requiring participants to provide rapid, effective care in confined and unstable conditions. Teamwork, communication, and casualty handover skills are integrated to ensure continuity of care from vessel to shore.

By the end of the course, participants are equipped with the competence and confidence to deliver immediate emergency medical care in maritime SAR settings.



Human Element and Non-Technical Skills for Maritime SAR Commanders

LOCATION: At MSARC designated training facility, or virtually delivered, or at client's premises

INSTRUCTOR TO STUDENT RATIO: 1:12

DURATION: 3 Days

PREREQUISITES: Appropriate maritime SAR experience

ASSESSMENT: Continual assessment by instructor throughout course via various exercises and verbal questioning to students during course delivery

CERTIFICATION: "Human Element and Non-Technical Skills in Maritime SAR" certificate issued upon successful completion of course

VALIDITY/RECERTIFICATION: None

The Human Element and Non-Technical Skills for Maritime SAR Commanders Operations course provides maritime commanders with essential leadership and operational skills to excel in high-pressure SAR environments.

Based on Human Element Leadership Management (HELM) principles, the program focuses on situational awareness, decision-making, communication, teamwork, leadership, and stress management, ensuring participants are fully prepared for challenging SAR missions. Commanders begin by mastering situational awareness, learning to understand their environment, anticipate hazards, and respond proactively. The course then covers decision-making, teaching participants to make swift, informed choices using both analytical and intuitive models.

Communication training enhances skills in conveying clear, accurate information to rescue teams and coordination centres, while role-playing exercises sharpen verbal and non-verbal communication.

In the teamwork and leadership module, commanders learn to build trust, collaborate effectively, and manage conflict within SAR teams, with a focus on inspiring and guiding teams in high-pressure situations. Stress and fatigue management techniques are introduced to help commanders maintain high performance during extended missions, with strategies for managing stress, fatigue, and burnout.

By course completion, participants are equipped with the non-technical and leadership skills necessary to confidently command SAR operations, ensuring the safety and success of their teams in demanding maritime environments.



LOCATION: At MSARC designated training facility or at client's premises

INSTRUCTOR TO STUDENT RATIO: 2:12

DURATION: 2 Days

PREREQUISITES: None

ASSESSMENT: Continual assessment by instructor throughout course via various exercises and verbal questioning to students during course delivery

CERTIFICATION: "Coastal Incident and Flood Initial Responder (DEFRA Module 2)" certificate issued upon successful completion of course

VALIDITY/RECERTIFICATION: 3 Years

The Coastal Incident and Flood Initial Responder course, aligned with the DEFRA Flood Rescue Concept of Operations Training – Module 2, equips participants with the fundamental knowledge and skills to respond safely and effectively to water and flood incidents. It is designed for emergency responders, maritime teams, and supporting agencies who may be deployed in dynamic flood and coastal incident environments.

Training begins with hazard recognition, personal safety, and the use of appropriate PPE. Students then develop competency in wading techniques, basic rescue methods, and scene risk assessment. Practical sessions place participants in realistic scenarios, teaching them to recognise water dynamics, communicate effectively in noisy and hazardous conditions, and provide immediate support to casualties while awaiting specialist teams.

By the end of the course, responders are confident in applying safe working practices, supporting coordinated rescue operations, and contributing to team-based water incident management, ensuring their readiness to assist in challenging coastal and flood response operations.



LOCATION: At MSARC designated training facility, or at client premises with appropriate water training facilities in vicinity (to be discussed with client)

INSTRUCTOR TO STUDENT RATIO: 2:12

DURATION: 4 Days

PREREQUISITES: None

ASSESSMENT: Continual assessment by instructor throughout course via various exercises and verbal questioning to students during course delivery

CERTIFICATION: "Coastal Incident and Flood Responder (DEFRA Module 3)" certificate issued upon successful completion of course

VALIDITY/RECERTIFICATION: 3 years

The Coastal Incident and Flood Responder course, aligned with the DEFRA Flood Rescue Concept of Operations Training – Module 3, provides a solid foundation for water rescue professionals, focusing on rescues from shoreside locations or vessels, particularly in moving water environments.

Participants will learn key skills such as reading water conditions, performing non-buoyant rescues, and executing bank-based and tethered rescue swimming. The course emphasises teamwork and prepares rescuers to handle unstable surfaces like mud and ice. The program begins with water rescue scene management, covering dynamic risk assessment, hazard recognition, and the Incident Management Structure, with a focus on team safety.

It then delves into the roles of water and flood rescue technicians, hydrology, and search strategies in water environments, preparing participants to conduct effective rescue operations.

Training also includes thorough instruction on the selection, care, and use of personal protective equipment (PPE), along with practical sessions in swimming, ferry gliding, and mastering rescue techniques such as talk, reach, throw, row, go/tow, and helicopter rescues. Boat handling, paddle and rope systems, knot techniques, and shallow water navigation are covered in detail.

The final stage introduces advanced rescue techniques and equipment, including inflatable adjuncts, rope systems, and managing hazards like entrapment and contamination, as well as working with helicopters and dealing with low visibility.

By the course's end, participants will have the skills and knowledge to conduct water and flood rescues in even the most challenging scenarios, ensuring the safety and success of their operations.



Coastal Incident and Flood Team Commander (DEFRA)

LOCATION: At MSARC designated training facility, or at a client premises with appropriate water training facilities in vicinity (to be discussed with client)

INSTRUCTOR TO STUDENT RATIO: 1:12

DURATION: 2 Days

PREREQUISITES: Candidates must be certified to DEFRA Module 2,3 or 4

ASSESSMENT: Continual assessment by instructor throughout course via various exercises and verbal questioning to students during course delivery

CERTIFICATION: "Coastal Incident and Flood Commander (DEFRA Team Commander)" certificate issued upon successful completion of course

VALIDITY/RECERTIFICATION: 3 years

The course is designed for personnel with in-date Module 2, 3, or 4 certification, focusing on the responsibilities of a team commander within search and rescue operations.

It covers a broad range of topics such as incident management, risk assessment, communication, scene management, welfare, and the DEFRA Flood Rescue Concept of Operations from a commander's perspective. Participants will develop critical skills for leading operations, including managing risk, coordinating resources, and understanding legal frameworks.

The course emphasises incident management, dynamic risk assessment, health and safety, and the importance of clear communication during all phases of an operation. Briefing and debriefing techniques, crime scene management, and the welfare of team members are also addressed.

Commanders will gain a thorough understanding of water rescue personal protective equipment (PPE), search management techniques, and flood management considerations, enabling them to make informed decisions regarding crew deployment and rescue efforts.

The program includes resource management, incident planning, and media relations, with special attention to challenges like night operations and urban or rural flood rescues. Participants will also learn about the credentialing process to ensure team readiness.

By the end of the course, commanders will be fully equipped to lead search and rescue teams effectively in hazardous environments, ensuring operational success and team safety.



10 Maritime Skills for SAR

LOCATION: At MSARC designated training facility, or at client premises with appropriate water training facilities in vicinity (to be discussed with client)

INSTRUCTOR TO STUDENT RATIO: 1:6

DURATION: 3 Days

PREREQUISITES: Appropriate maritime experience

ASSESSMENT: Continual assessment by instructor throughout course via various exercises and verbal questioning to students during course delivery, 1 multiple choice/ written exam on day 2, 1 practical assessment on day 3

CERTIFICATION: "Maritime Skills for SAR" certificate issued upon successful completion of course

VALIDITY/RECERTIFICATION: None

The Maritime Skills for SAR course is a comprehensive programme aimed at enhancing the safety, navigation, and practical skills of maritime personnel, with a focus on personal and vessel safety, environmental compliance, and seamanship.

Combining theoretical knowledge with hands-on experience, the course equips participants with the skills needed for safe and efficient maritime operations, including search and rescue (SAR) missions.

A core component is personal and vessel safety, emphasising the correct use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and adherence to safety protocols to protect crew and passengers. The course also covers environmental compliance, teaching participants about maritime regulations and best practices to reduce environmental impact while maintaining operational efficiency.

Vessel handling and seamanship are key aspects of the training, with participants honing skills in ropework, anchoring, and docking through practical exercises to ensure safe vessel operation, particularly in SAR scenarios.

The navigation module refreshes participants' understanding of collision regulations, buoyage systems, and passage planning, crucial for safe navigation and preventing incidents at sea. The course culminates in a practical assessment, where participants demonstrate their skills in route planning, vessel handling, and emergency management.

A debriefing session allows for reflection and feedback, ensuring participants leave the course with improved maritime safety, operational capabilities, and confidence in handling real-world challenges.



LOCATION: At MSARC designated training facility, or virtually delivered, or at client's premises

INSTRUCTOR TO STUDENT RATIO: 1:12

DURATION: 1 Day

PREREQUISITES: In date GMDSS Radio Qualification (SRC/VHF or higher)

ASSESSMENT: Continual assessment by instructor throughout course via various exercises and verbal questioning to students during course delivery. 1 multiple choice/written exam and verbal radio exercise exam

CERTIFICATION: "Maritime SAR Communications" certificate issued upon successful completion of course

VALIDITY/RECERTIFICATION: 5 years (1/2 day virtual CPD Session with Maritime Search and Rescue Council for revalidation)

This course will delve into the intricacies of communication protocols essential for effective Search and Rescue (SAR) operations. Participants will explore standard operating procedures for distress, urgency, and safety communications, gaining a comprehensive understanding of how to navigate these critical situations.

The curriculum emphasises the importance of clear and efficient coordination with other vessels, aircraft, and shore stations during a SAR mission, ensuring that participants can effectively manage communication flow in high-pressure environments.

Additionally, the course will include a thorough review of relevant sections of the IAMSAR Manual, highlighting international best practices and guidelines that underpin successful SAR operations. Through engaging, hands-on training, participants will participate in simulated SAR scenarios that replicate real-world maritime emergencies and search and rescue events.

This practical approach allows them to practice using the correct phonetic alphabet and procedure words while effectively conveying vital SAR incident information.

The module aims to enhance participants' confidence and competence in handling real-life SAR communications, preparing them to respond decisively and accurately in critical situations.

By the end of the course, attendees will be equipped with the essential skills needed to facilitate clear communication and coordination, significantly improving the effectiveness of their SAR operations.



LOCATION: At MSARC designated training facility, or virtually delivered, or at client's premises

INSTRUCTOR TO STUDENT RATIO: 1:12

DURATION: 1 Day

PREREQUISITES: Maritime Radar qualification and/or appropriate experience

ASSESSMENT: Continual assessment by instructor throughout course via various exercises and verbal questioning to students during course delivery.

1 multiple choice/written exam

CERTIFICATION: "Maritime SAR Radar Operator" certificate issued upon successful completion of course

VALIDITY/RECERTIFICATION: 5 years (1/2 day virtual CPD Session with Maritime Search and Rescue Council for revalidation)

The SARROP Course is an in-depth training programme focused on the critical role of radar operation in Search and Rescue (SAR) scenarios.

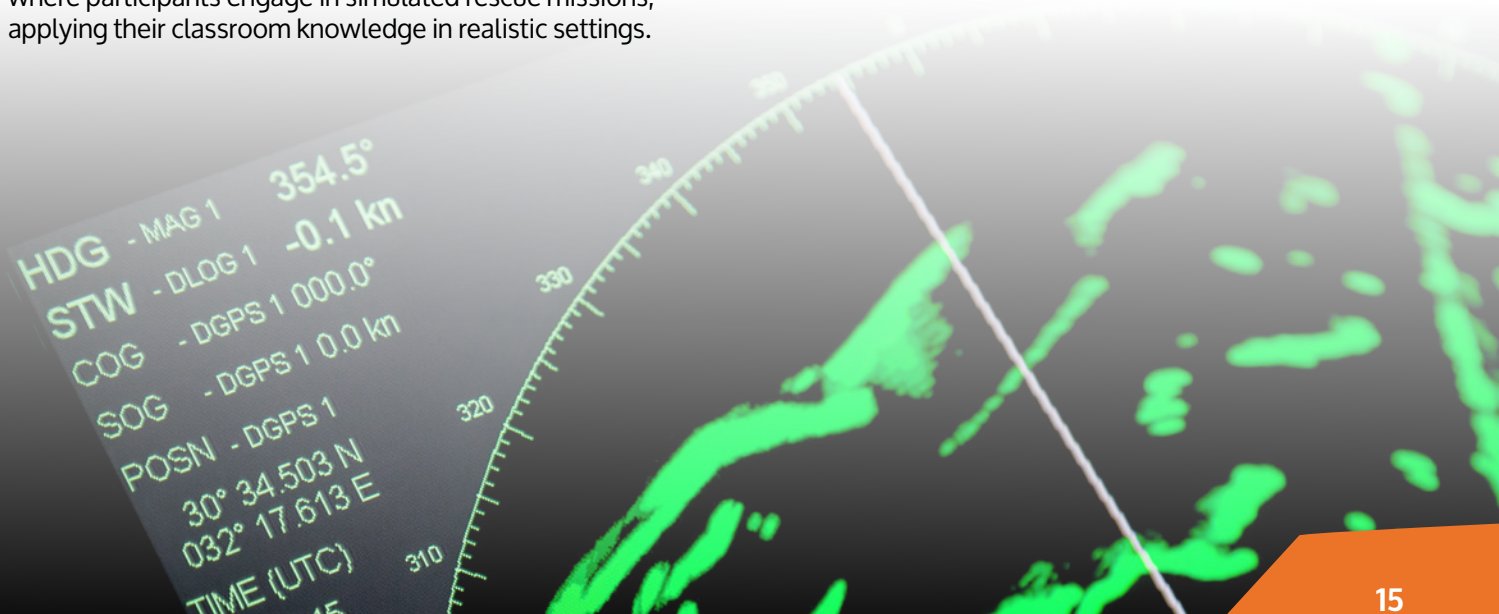
It covers both foundational and advanced radar techniques, equipping participants with essential knowledge of radar principles, display interpretation, and radar's application in locating casualties during SAR missions. The course emphasises the effective use of radar in challenging conditions, such as poor visibility, and teaches participants how to interpret complex radar data to enhance decision-making.

Participants will learn to implement radar-based search patterns and navigate SAR operations using radar, preparing them to handle high-pressure rescue missions where accurate and timely information is vital.

A core part of the course involves practical SAR scenarios where participants engage in simulated rescue missions, applying their classroom knowledge in realistic settings.

The programme begins with an introduction to the fundamentals of radar, focusing on optimising settings like gain and clutter controls, followed by hands-on exercises using radar simulators. It then progresses to advanced techniques for managing radar data in difficult conditions and developing effective search strategies using radar technology.

The course concludes with simulated SAR exercises, reinforcing participants' skills in radar navigation and casualty location. By the end, participants will have a comprehensive understanding of radar operation in SAR contexts and the confidence to apply these skills in real-world rescue missions, ensuring they can contribute effectively to maritime SAR operations.



LOCATION: At MSARC designated training facility, or delivered in UK, or at client's premises

INSTRUCTOR TO STUDENT RATIO: 1:6

DURATION: 2 Days

PREREQUISITES: None

ASSESSMENT: Continual assessment by instructor throughout course via various exercises and verbal questioning to students during course delivery

CERTIFICATION: "Maritime SAR Helicopter Operations" certificate issued upon successful completion of course

VALIDITY/RECERTIFICATION: 5 Years (1/2 day virtual CPD Session with Maritime Search and Rescue Council for revalidation)

This comprehensive course focuses on the coordination of Search and Rescue (SAR) operations between helicopters and maritime vessels, covering key operational aspects and ensuring participants are prepared for these complex missions.

It begins with an introduction to SAR helicopter operations, emphasising the roles and responsibilities of vessel crews, helicopter signals, communication protocols, and safety procedures when working near helicopters. Participants receive detailed training on the equipment used in helicopter operations and the techniques for transferring personnel and equipment between vessels and helicopters, a critical skill in high-risk scenarios.

A highlight of the course includes a visit to a local SAR helicopter base, offering hands-on exposure to the equipment and helicopters used in their region. As the course progresses, participants explore the command and control elements of joint SAR operations, focusing on leadership, coordination, and the communication protocols needed for seamless collaboration between SAR vessels and helicopters.

The module culminates in simulated joint SAR scenarios, where participants practice coordinating vessel-helicopter operations, solidifying their understanding of command dynamics, communication, and logistics.

The course concludes with an assessment, ensuring participants are equipped with the skills necessary to manage joint SAR missions, contributing to the safety and success of future operations.



14 SAR Vessel Rescue Swimmer

LOCATION: At MSARC designated training facility or at client's premises with access to suitable water environment

INSTRUCTOR TO STUDENT RATIO: 1:6

DURATION: 4 Days

PREREQUISITES: Strong swimming ability, basic SAR knowledge, and medical fitness

ASSESSMENT: Continual assessment by instructor throughout course via various exercises and verbal questioning to students during course delivery and 1 multiple choice exam

CERTIFICATION: "SAR Vessel Rescue Swimmer" certificate issued upon successful completion

VALIDITY/RECERTIFICATION: 5 Years

The SAR Vessel Rescue Swimmer course trains participants to operate as rescue swimmers deployed from maritime SAR vessels during maritime incidents such as people in the water. Designed for highly capable and physically prepared personnel, the program develops advanced rescue and survival skills in the open sea.

The course begins with water survival, swim techniques, and rescue approaches before progressing into controlled entries from vessels, reaching casualties quickly, and performing safe recovery methods. Participants learn casualty assessment, stabilization, and transfer techniques, as well as self-preservation strategies in rough seas.

Team communication, coordination with vessel crews, and use of specialist equipment is emphasised throughout. Realistic scenario training builds confidence under stress, ensuring rescue swimmers can operate decisively in unpredictable environments.

By course completion, participants are prepared to serve as highly trained rescue swimmers, capable of carrying out demanding water recoveries while ensuring both casualty and personal safety during maritime SAR operations.



LOCATION: At MSARC designated training facility, or delivered in UK, or at client's premises

INSTRUCTOR TO STUDENT RATIO: 1:6

DURATION: 3 Days

PREREQUISITES: STCW Advanced Fire-fighting or equivalent National Fire-fighter Qualification or Industrial Fire-fighter Qualifications/Experience

ASSESSMENT: Continual assessment by instructor throughout course via various exercises and verbal questioning to students during course delivery.

One written exam on day 2, and practical assessment on day 3

CERTIFICATION: "Maritime Fire Incident Commander – Level 1" certificate issued upon successful completion of course

VALIDITY/RECERTIFICATION: 5 Years (1/2 day virtual CPD Session with Maritime Search and Rescue Council for revalidation) and Rescue Council for revalidation)

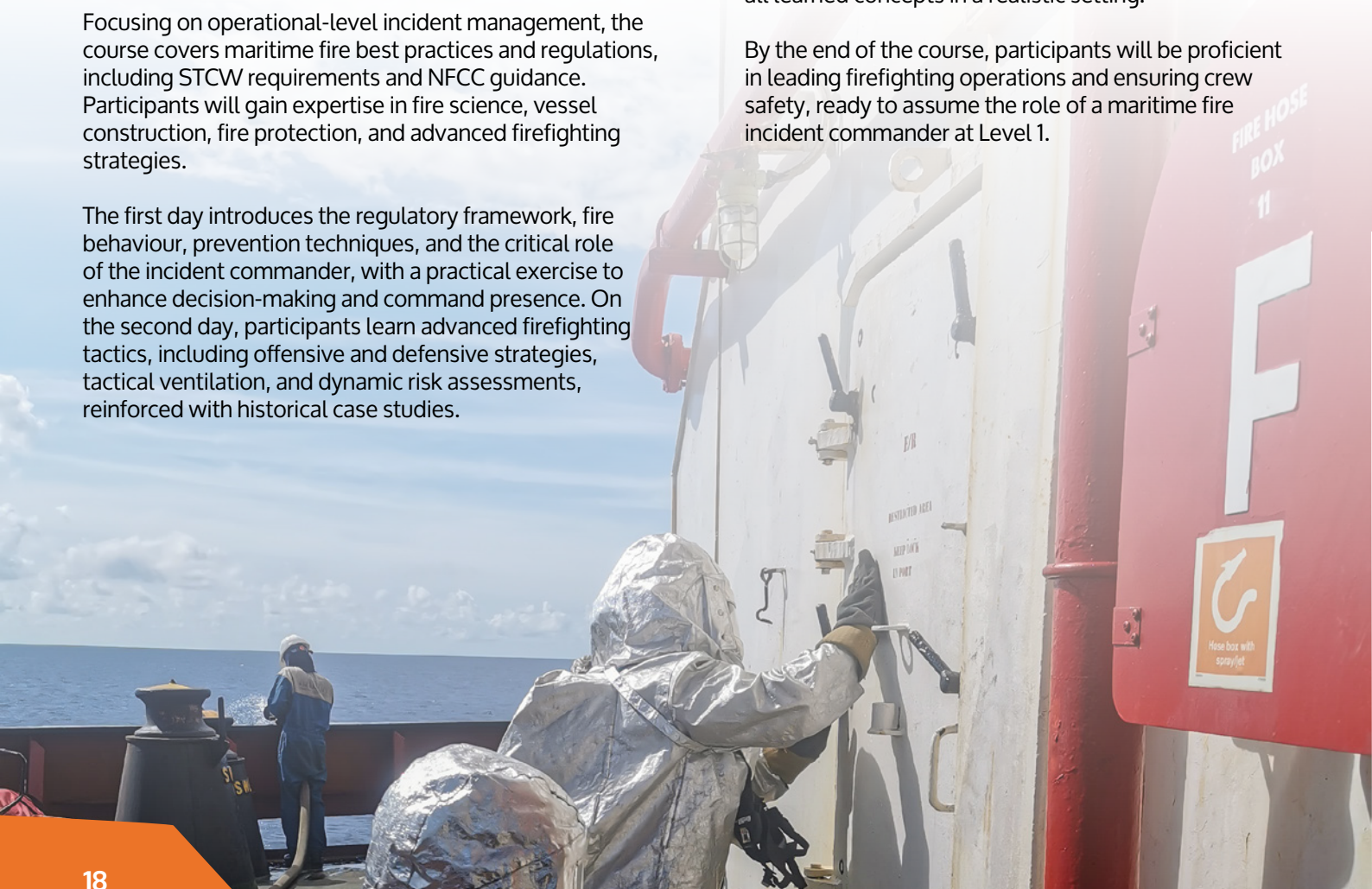
The Maritime Fire Incident Commander Level 1 course is an intensive three-day training program designed to equip external incident commanders with the essential skills needed to manage fire incidents aboard vessels effectively.

Focusing on operational-level incident management, the course covers maritime fire best practices and regulations, including STCW requirements and NFCC guidance. Participants will gain expertise in fire science, vessel construction, fire protection, and advanced firefighting strategies.

The first day introduces the regulatory framework, fire behaviour, prevention techniques, and the critical role of the incident commander, with a practical exercise to enhance decision-making and command presence. On the second day, participants learn advanced firefighting tactics, including offensive and defensive strategies, tactical ventilation, and dynamic risk assessments, reinforced with historical case studies.

The final day emphasises the Incident Command System (ICS) tailored for maritime emergencies, enhancing emergency communication and coordination with shore services. Participants will engage in a full-scale incident command drill, applying all learned concepts in a realistic setting.

By the end of the course, participants will be proficient in leading firefighting operations and ensuring crew safety, ready to assume the role of a maritime fire incident commander at Level 1.



LOCATION: At MSARC designated training facility, or delivered in UK, or at client's premises

INSTRUCTOR TO STUDENT RATIO: 1:6

DURATION: 2 Days

PREREQUISITES: Valid Maritime Search and Rescue Council "Maritime Fire Incident Commander – Level 1" certificate

ASSESSMENT: Continual assessment by instructor throughout course via various exercises and verbal questioning to students during course delivery.

One written exam and practical assessment on day 2

CERTIFICATION: "Maritime Fire Incident Commander – Level 2" certificate issued upon successful completion of course

VALIDITY/RECERTIFICATION: 5 Years (1/2 day virtual CPD Session with Maritime Search and Rescue Council for revalidation) and Rescue Council for revalidation)

The Maritime Fire Incident Commander Level 2 course is an advanced two-day training program for external incident commanders focused on tactical-level command and control of fire incidents aboard vessels.

Building on foundational knowledge, the course emphasises strategic planning, large-scale incident management, and integration with external emergency services, preparing participants to assist ship captains and shoreside management effectively.

The first day covers advanced firefighting tactics, including offensive and defensive strategies, tactical ventilation, and fireground management, with practical exercises simulating tactical planning and decision-making.

Day two focuses on managing complex operations, such as multi-compartment fires, ensuring crew safety, and maintaining accountability while managing stress and fatigue. Participants learn to conduct dynamic risk assessments, document incidents, and analyse case studies from significant maritime fire events. The course culminates in a full-scale tactical command drill, enabling participants to apply their skills in realistic scenarios.

By the end of the program, graduates will possess the advanced command and control skills needed to oversee maritime fire incidents, ensuring vessel and crew safety while coordinating effectively with shore-based emergency operations.



LOCATION: At MSARC designated training facility, or delivered in UK, or at client's premises

INSTRUCTOR TO STUDENT RATIO: 1:6

DURATION: 5 Days

PREREQUISITES: Basic maritime navigation skills

ASSESSMENT: Continual assessment by instructor throughout course via various exercises and verbal questioning to students during course delivery.

One written exam and practical assessment on day 5

CERTIFICATION: "Maritime Search and Rescue Navigator" certificate issued upon successful completion of course

VALIDITY/RECERTIFICATION: 5 Years (1/2 day virtual CPD Session with Maritime Search and Rescue Council for revalidation) and Rescue Council for revalidation)

The Maritime Search and Rescue Navigator course provides a comprehensive overview of SAR operations, blending foundational knowledge with advanced techniques.

Participants learn the legal and regulatory frameworks, including key international conventions like SOLAS and IAMSAR guidelines, while understanding the roles of various SAR organisations and the importance of effective communication in emergencies.

The course covers SAR planning processes, emphasising initial response and assessment for efficient search execution. Participants delve into advanced navigation techniques, utilising nautical charts, electronic systems, and GPS, and practice navigating in challenging conditions through simulations.

Participants study various search patterns, learning to select appropriate methods based on situational factors, and use planning tools to optimise efforts.

Coordination of SAR operations across vessels, aircraft, and shore-based resources is also a focus, with training in communication protocols and the integration of diverse assets.

The program culminates in scenario-based training where participants apply their skills in realistic simulations, followed by a debriefing session to discuss performance and lessons learned, ensuring they are well-prepared for real-world SAR operations.



LOCATION: At MSARC designated training facility, or virtually delivered, or at client's premises

INSTRUCTOR TO STUDENT RATIO: 1:12

DURATION: 3 Days

PREREQUISITES: Appropriate maritime experience

ASSESSMENT: Continual assessment by instructor throughout course via various exercises and verbal questioning to students during course delivery.

Two scenario based assessments on day 3.

CERTIFICATION: "Maritime Search and Rescue On Scene Coordinator – Basic (IMO 3.15)" certificate issued upon successful completion of course

VALIDITY/RECERTIFICATION: No recertification required

The Maritime On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) course, aligned with IMO 3.15 Model Course criteria, equips participants with the essential knowledge and skills to effectively manage search and rescue (SAR) operations.

It begins with the fundamental principles of SAR coordination, highlighting the OSC's critical role in managing rescue efforts, including understanding communication protocols, the chain of command, and situational awareness.

Interactive sessions enable participants to assess incident scenes and evaluate available resources, supported by practical examples and case studies. The course progresses to practical coordination and communication strategies essential for successful SAR missions, covering action plan development, tasking of SAR units, and resource integration.

Hands-on exercises simulate real-life scenarios, allowing participants to practice decision-making under pressure and effective resource management while maintaining clear communication. The final portion features advanced SAR simulations where participants navigate dynamic rescue situations as OSCs, making real-time decisions and coordinating multiple rescue units.

Emphasising post-mission debriefing, the course teaches how to conduct effective reviews, identify lessons learned, and implement improvements for future missions.

The program concludes with a comprehensive debriefing, providing feedback on performance and reinforcing participants' readiness for real-world maritime rescue operations.



Maritime Search and Rescue On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) (IMO 3.15) – Advanced

LOCATION: At MSARC designated training facility, or virtually delivered, or at client's premises

INSTRUCTOR TO STUDENT RATIO: 1:12

DURATION: 2 Days

PREREQUISITES: Valid "Maritime Search and Rescue On-Scene Coordinator (IMO 3.15) - Basic" certificate or hold adequate maritime SAR experience on a dedicated Search and Rescue Unit (SRU)

ASSESSMENT: Continual assessment by instructor throughout course via various exercises and verbal questioning to students during course delivery.

Two scenario based assessments on day 2

CERTIFICATION: "Maritime Search and Rescue On Scene Coordinator – Advanced (IMO 3.15)" certificate issued upon successful completion of course

VALIDITY/RECERTIFICATION: No recertification required

The Advanced Maritime Search and Rescue On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Course, aligned with IMO 3.15 Model Course criteria, is designed to enhance participants' skills in leading and coordinating complex SAR operations.

It begins by emphasising effective teamwork, particularly in bridge team management, where participants learn to lead diverse SAR teams through clear information sharing, motivation, and relationship building.

The course explores collaboration with shore-based facilities, offering practical insights into their roles during operations and providing a comprehensive understanding of the OSC's responsibilities in multi-faceted SAR missions.

Participants are equipped with strategies to manage complex incidents, focusing on thorough documentation for operational efficiency and developing robust communication plans tailored to intricate situations.

They learn to delegate tasks effectively by breaking down missions into manageable sections, and the command and control process is examined through the OODA loop (Observe, Orient, Decide, Act), applied specifically to their OSC roles.

The course culminates in hands-on practical exercises, including tabletop and simulator-based scenarios, allowing participants to apply their knowledge and refine their decision-making and leadership skills in realistic, high-pressure SAR environments.



LOCATION: At MSARC designated training facility, or virtually delivered, or at client's premises

INSTRUCTOR TO STUDENT RATIO: 1:12

DURATION: 1 Day

PREREQUISITES: None

ASSESSMENT: Continual assessment by instructor throughout course via verbal questioning to students during course delivery.

CERTIFICATION: "Maritime SAR Law and Legislation" certificate issued upon successful completion of course

VALIDITY/RECERTIFICATION: No recertification required

The Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR) Law and Legislation Training Day is designed to equip participants with a comprehensive understanding of the legal frameworks and obligations that govern maritime SAR operations.

The course aims to ensure that participants are well-versed in the international conventions, national laws, and regulations that dictate how SAR missions must be conducted, including the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR Convention) and relevant sections of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) guidelines.

Throughout the day, students will delve into the legal responsibilities of states and SAR coordinators, the rights and duties of rescuers, and the legal implications of SAR actions, including issues of liability and jurisdiction.

Through a combination of lectures, case studies, and discussions, participants will learn how to navigate the complex legal landscape of SAR operations, ensuring that their actions are not only effective but also compliant with international and national law.

By the end of the training, participants will be better equipped to make legally sound decisions in SAR operations, minimise legal risks, and ensure that their actions align with global best practices, ultimately enhancing the safety and efficiency of maritime rescue efforts.



LOCATION: At MSARC designated training facility, or delivered in UK, or at client's premises

INSTRUCTOR TO STUDENT RATIO: 1:6

DURATION: 3 Days

PREREQUISITES: Appropriate maritime SAR experience

ASSESSMENT: Continual assessment by instructor throughout course via various exercises and verbal questioning to students during course delivery.

Scenario based practical assessment on day 3.

CERTIFICATION: "Maritime Mass Rescue Operations" certificate issued upon successful completion of course

VALIDITY/RECERTIFICATION: No recertification required

The Maritime Mass Rescue Operations Training Course is an intensive 3-day program designed to prepare participants for effectively managing large-scale rescue operations at sea.

The course begins by establishing a thorough understanding of the core principles and planning aspects essential for successful mass rescue operations. Participants will explore the importance and challenges of mass rescues, delve into the regulatory frameworks guiding these operations, and learn how to develop comprehensive rescue plans. Key topics include risk assessment, resource management, and coordination among various agencies and assets.

As the course progresses, participants will engage in practical, scenario-based simulations that replicate complex mass rescue situations, allowing them to apply their knowledge in real-time. These exercises focus on deploying rescue assets, managing large numbers of casualties, and ensuring effective communication and coordination with multiple stakeholders.

The course culminates in a debriefing session where participants will review their performance, discuss lessons learned, and receive feedback to refine their skills. By the end of the training, participants will be equipped with the expertise and confidence needed to handle maritime mass rescue operations efficiently and effectively.



LOCATION: At MSARC designated training facility, or delivered in UK, or at client's premises

INSTRUCTOR TO STUDENT RATIO: 1:6

DURATION: 2 Days

PREREQUISITES: Appropriate maritime SAR experience

ASSESSMENT: Continual assessment by instructor throughout course via various exercises and verbal questioning to students during course delivery.

Scenario based practical assessment on day 2.

CERTIFICATION: "Maritime Migration SAR Operations" certificate issued upon successful completion of course

VALIDITY/RECERTIFICATION: No recertification required

The two-day Maritime Migration Search and Rescue (SAR) Operations course is meticulously designed to equip participants with the essential skills and knowledge required to effectively manage and coordinate search and rescue operations in the context of maritime migration, including mass rescue operations in the migrant context.

This comprehensive program begins by introducing participants to the unique challenges and complexities associated with migration-related SAR incidents, including understanding the legal and humanitarian frameworks that govern such operations. Through a combination of theoretical knowledge and practical exercises, participants will explore essential topics such as risk assessment, communication protocols, and the practicalities of engaging with migrant casualty vessels.

Hands-on training will cover effective use of search patterns, coordination with different assets, management of limited resources and casualty assessment and intervention. Participants will engage in realistic scenarios that simulate the pressures and dynamics of actual migration SAR operations, enhancing their decision-making and leadership skills in high-stress environments.

By the end of the course, attendees will have developed a robust understanding of best practices in maritime migration SAR, preparing them to lead and coordinate successful rescue efforts while ensuring the safety and dignity of vulnerable populations at sea.



LOCATION: At MSARC designated training facility, or virtually delivered, or at client's premises

INSTRUCTOR TO STUDENT RATIO: 1:12

DURATION: 2 Days

PREREQUISITES: Appropriate maritime experience

ASSESSMENT: Continual assessment by instructor throughout course via various exercises and verbal questioning to students during course delivery.

CERTIFICATION: "Polar SAR" certificate issued upon successful completion of course

VALIDITY/RECERTIFICATION: No recertification required

The two-day Polar Search and Rescue (SAR) training course is specifically crafted to equip participants with the critical skills and knowledge necessary for effective operations in the unique and challenging environments of polar regions.

This intensive program begins by addressing the distinct hazards and operational complexities associated with polar SAR, including extreme weather conditions, ice navigation, and the physiological challenges posed by cold environments. Participants will gain an understanding of the legal frameworks governing polar operations and the collaborative dynamics among various agencies involved in search and rescue efforts.

The course combines theoretical instruction with virtual exercises, focusing on essential topics such as risk assessment, emergency planning, and effective preparedness.

By the end of the training, attendees will be well-prepared to lead and coordinate SAR missions in polar settings from their own vessel, ensuring safety and effectiveness in some of the most demanding environments on the planet.



LOCATION: At MSARC designated training facility, or delivered in UK, or at client's premises

INSTRUCTOR TO STUDENT RATIO: 1:12

DURATION: 15 Days (3 weeks)

PREREQUISITES: Appropriate maritime SAR experience with a MRCC or similar environment

ASSESSMENT: Continual assessment by instructor throughout course via various exercises and verbal questioning to students during course delivery. Written exams and practical plotting exams throughout the course and during simulated exercises.

CERTIFICATION: "Training Course for Search and Rescue Mission Coordinator (IMO 3.14)" certificate issued upon successful completion of course

VALIDITY/RECERTIFICATION: 5 Years (1 day CPD Session with scenario based assessments with Maritime Search and Rescue Council for revalidation)

The Maritime Mass Rescue Operations Training Course is an intensive 3-day program designed to prepare participants for effectively managing large-scale rescue operations at sea.

The course begins by establishing a thorough understanding of the core principles and planning aspects essential for successful mass rescue operations. Participants will explore the importance and challenges of mass rescues, delve into the regulatory frameworks guiding these operations, and learn how to develop comprehensive rescue plans. Key topics include risk assessment, resource management, and coordination among various agencies and assets.

As the course progresses, participants will engage in practical, scenario-based simulations that replicate complex mass rescue situations, allowing them to apply their knowledge in real-time. These exercises focus on deploying rescue assets, managing large numbers of casualties, and ensuring effective communication and coordination with multiple stakeholders.

The course culminates in a debriefing session where participants will review their performance, discuss lessons learned, and receive feedback to refine their skills. By the end of the training, participants will be equipped with the expertise and confidence needed to handle maritime mass rescue operations efficiently and effectively.



Become a Maritime SAR Council Approved Training Centre (ATC)

At the Maritime Search and Rescue Council, we are committed to maintaining the highest standards in SAR training. To ensure consistency and quality, we offer a comprehensive Training Centre Accreditation process for organisations interested in delivering our maritime SAR courses. This process is designed to ensure that all courses are taught to our high standards and quality assured, while supporting your instructors with the resources and support they need to deliver the best SAR training for your students.

Start of the Approval Process

To begin the accreditation process, your organisation must express an interest in becoming an Maritime SAR Council Approved Training Centre by contacting us at council@maritimesar.org. You'll need to provide a list of the courses you wish to offer, the facilities available, and information on the instructors who will teach each course. We will then outline the ATC process costs and licensing fees for delivery of our training courses.

Instructor Standards

In order to teach our courses, instructors must hold the IMO 6.09 certification or an equivalent training/assessing qualification, demonstrating their competency as maritime instructors. They must also hold appropriate maritime and specific maritime SAR experience in order to deliver our courses.

Once we've reviewed and approved the proposed courses and instructors, the instructor will attend the specific Maritime SAR Council training course they wish to instruct on as a candidate. This familiarises them with the specific course content and structure, providing insight into the student experience.

Following the course attendance, instructors will then need to complete the Maritime SAR Council Train the Trainer program for each course they wish to instruct. This program focuses on teaching best practices, course delivery methods, and aligning instruction with our training and quality assurance standards.

Centre Inspection

Once the instructor training is complete, we will conduct an on-site inspection to ensure your training centre meets our criteria for facilities, resources, and instructional capabilities. Upon passing the inspection, your organisation will gain Maritime Search and Rescue Council Approved Training Centre Accreditation, which is valid for five years. Accredited centres will also receive Organisational Membership, allowing you to fully integrate with our network and support systems. Annual inspections will be conducted to ensure continued compliance with our high standards. This accreditation process ensures that both instructors and facilities are equipped to deliver top-quality SAR training, providing your organisation with the tools to contribute meaningfully to the advancement of the maritime search and rescue sector.



MARITIME
Search and Rescue Council

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