## Position Qualification for Mass Search and Rescue Operations

**Search and Rescue**

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### SWIFTWATER/FLOOD SEARCH AND RESCUE TECHNICIAN - ANIMAL RESCUE SPECIALIST

<table>
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<tr>
<th>RESOURCE CATEGORY</th>
<th>Search and Rescue</th>
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<td>RESOURCE KIND</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
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#### OVERALL FUNCTION

1. This position can be ordered as a single resource or in conjunction with a NIMS typed team (Swiftwater/Flood Search and Rescue Team).
2. Discuss logistics for deploying this position, such as security, lodging, transportation, and meals, prior to deployment.
3. This position typically works 12 hours per shift, is self-sustainable for 72 hours, and is deployable for up to 14 days.

Each type of resource builds on the qualifications of the type below it. For example, Type 1 qualifications include the qualifications in Type 2, plus an increase in capability. Type 1 is the highest qualification level.

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| DESCRIPTION | The Swiftwater/Flood Search and Rescue (SAR) Technician - Animal Rescue Specialist:  
1. Provides animal rescue and basic medical care to small animals  
2. Performs search, rescue, and recovery in:  
a. Water environments including stillwater, stillwater/flood, swiftwater, swiftwater/flood  
b. Shore, water, and boat-based rescue  
c. Situations involving human and animal rescue  
3. Provides medical care to include Basic Life Support (BLS)  
4. Reports to a Swiftwater/Flood SAR Team Leader, if applicable  
5. Operates within the Incident Command System (ICS), in a specialized position within the Swiftwater/Flood SAR Team  
6. Provides:  
a. Safety of self and team members  
b. Medical care of self, team members, and subjects  
7. Coordinates with ground vehicles, watercraft, and aircraft for support, transportation, and evacuation  
8. Operates in environments with and without infrastructure, including those affected by disasters and terrorism; with compromised access to roadways, utilities, and transportation; and with limited availability of shelter, food, and water | Not Specified |

| EDUCATION | Not Specified |
| TRAINING | Completion of all training for the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Type 1 Swiftwater/Flood SAR Technician, PLUS:  
1. Animal rescue course consistent with discipline and deployment environment  
2. Animal rescue behavior course consistent with discipline and deployment environment  
3. Animal first aid | Identified equivalent trainings should meet or exceed course learning objectives. |
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<tr>
<td>EXPERIENCE</td>
<td>Completion of Swiftwater/Flood SAR Technician - Animal Rescue Specialist Position Task Books (PTB), or equivalent Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) documentation</td>
<td>The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1006: Standard for Technical Rescuer Professional Qualifications, and NFPA 1670: Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Search and Rescue Incidents address additional Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYSICAL/MEDICAL FITNESS</td>
<td>1. Performs duties under arduous circumstances characterized by working consecutive 12-hour days under physical and emotional stress for sustained periods of time 2. Meets minimum physical fitness and swimming standards, in accordance with the AHJ’s Job Related Physical Ability Test (JRPAT) 3. Maintains AHJ-determined physical fitness standards suitable for the environment and typing; NFPA 1582 Standard on Comprehensive Occupational Medical Program for Fire Departments meets or exceeds this physical fitness standard 4. Maintains immunizations in accordance with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended adult immunization schedule for the United States of America</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CURRENCY</td>
<td>1. Annual refresher of related SAR skills and abilities in water environments 2. Functions in this position during an operational incident, planned event, participation in exercise, drill, or simulation once every three years or as the AHJ determines 3. Background checks as applicable law permits or requires</td>
<td>Provider must carry out and use any background checks as applicable law specifies. This may include a background check completed within past 12 months; sex-offender registry check; and a local, state, and a local, state, and national criminal history.</td>
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<td>PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS</td>
<td>AHJ-required BLS-level medical care certification or recertification</td>
<td>The AHJ determines the emergency medical certifications the technician needs to meet the minimum criteria, which can include first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and BLS.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
NOTES
Nationally typed resources represent the minimum criteria for the associated category.

REFERENCES
1. FEMA, NIMS 508: Swiftwater/Flood Search and Rescue Team
2. FEMA, NIMS 509: Swiftwater/Flood Search and Rescue Technician
3. FEMA, NIMS 509: Swiftwater/Flood Search and Rescue Team Leader
4. FEMA, NIMS 509: Emergency Medical Technician