

# FIELD TEAM MEMBER COMPETENCIES



**Acknowledgment:**

Vertical Horizonz New Zealand, (VHNZ), have been working collaboratively with Land Search and Rescue New Zealand, (LandSAR NZ), to develop this competency and the assessment criteria against which this competency will be assessed.

VHNZ works with many national and international companies and government organisations in developing workplace competencies, assessments and training that produce competent personnel.



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## Role description

Member of a search field team, created to respond to any SAR situation requiring specialist skills in the area of search. In most cases these teams are tasked to operate in remote and changeable environments with limited support or backup.

Field personnel involved in any search are the key to its success. It is important that each person knows their specific role in the organisation and is capable of safely and efficiently undertaking tasking in a SAR environment.

The Field Team Member is required to perform the following tasks correctly to ensure that the unit objective is achieved:

- Demonstrate knowledge of SAR operations,
- Show acceptable level of fitness,
- Demonstrate acceptable level of bushcraft skills,
- Navigate using maps,
- Navigate using compass,
- Demonstrate basic navigation using GPS,
- Apply basic tracking and clue awareness skills,
- Apply search techniques as a member of a SAR team,
- Communicate in the outdoors using two-way radio,
- Operate safely around helicopters,
- Demonstrate first aid knowledge,
- Demonstrate use of knots
- Demonstrate awareness of NZSAR and LandSAR organisational structures,
- Demonstrate knowledge of LandSAR field personnel functions,
- Media awareness.

## Entry point

The Field Team Member will have gained sufficient experience and be proficient and current in all of the competencies of the

- Probationary Field Team Member

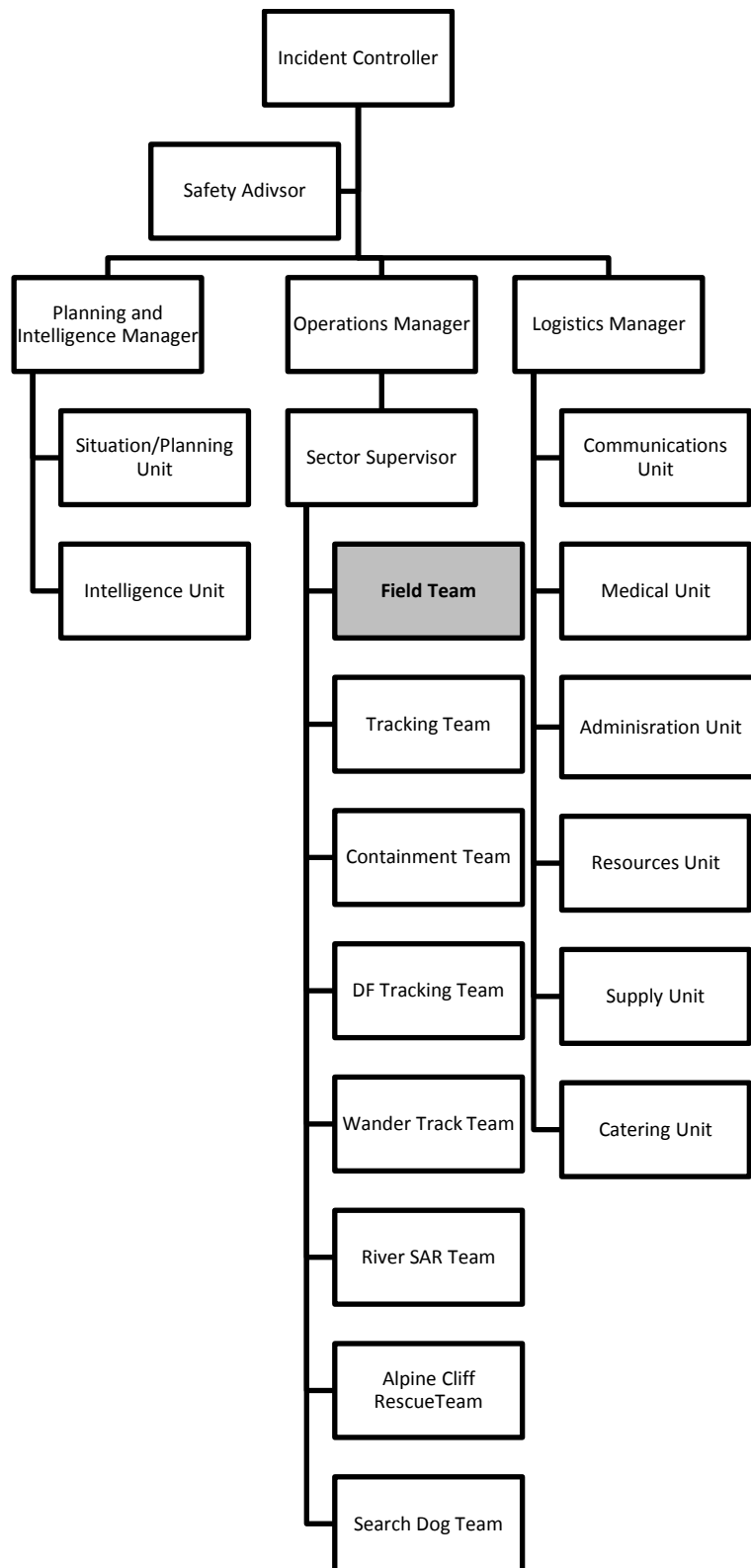
## Currency

Outcomes with red background require reassessment within an 18 month period.

Outcomes with white background require reassessment within a 36 month period.

Outcomes with grey background require initial assessment but no subsequent reassessments.

# CIMS structure



## COMPETENCIES

### 66.0 Demonstrate knowledge of SAR operations.

**Outcome:** Must be able to demonstrate a thorough knowledge of SAR operations.

66.1 Has a good understanding of operational SAR CIMS structure, hierarchy and levels of operation.

66.2 Has a good understanding of the roles of the Incident Controller, Operations Manager, Planning and Intelligence Manager, Logistics Manager and Team Leader.

66.3 Has a good understanding of commonly used SAR and CIMS terms.

### 5.0 Fitness

**Outcome:** Must be able to demonstrate a level of fitness suitable to the task and environment in which that individual is expected to operate.

5.1 Walk a specified distance, carrying a specified load in a predetermined time:

Range: May include but not limited to:

- 24 hour pack, walk a nine (9) kilometre route within three (3) hours. This route must include a hill climb of 200 vertical metres within a lineal distance of one (1) kilometre and one (1) hour, or
- 3km walk carrying a specified load to be completed in 30 min, or
- As specified by their group.

## 4.0 Bushcraft

**Outcome:** Identify and mitigate common wilderness hazards.

4.1 Identify hazards that relate to local conditions. A minimum of six (6) must be identified.

Range: May include but are not limited to – weather, terrain, river crossings, insects, hunters, poisons, traps, personal.

4.2 Describe actions taken to eliminate or minimise hazards.

**Outcome:** Demonstrate knowledge of river crossing safety.

4.3 Describe when to cross and when not to cross a waterway and demonstrate knowledge of river crossing principles.

4.4 Demonstrate knowledge of river characteristics, dynamics and hazards (including health problems).

4.5 Identify hazards, characteristics, dynamics, and crossing points for a river.

4.6 Identify an appropriate place to cross a river and justify for solo, mutual support, swimming and pack floating methods.

4.7 Demonstrate and explain the techniques used and likely hazards when using a stream or river as a route for travel into and out of bush areas.

**Outcome:** Understand basic wilderness survival techniques.

4.8 Demonstrate knowledge of basic survival kit requirements.

4.9 Demonstrate establishing a personal emergency shelter using locally sourced and/or carried materials.

4.10 Demonstrate building and maintaining a fire using locally sourced and/or carried materials.

4.11 Explain minimum survival requirements.

Range: May include but is not limited to – Conservation of energy/food/water, building adequate shelter, building fire.

4.12 Describe three (3) methods of emergency communication

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## 2.0 Navigate using maps

**Outcome:** Read and interpret New Zealand Topo 50 maps.

2.1 Identify features and functions on the map.

Range: May include but is not limited to – Key, scale, contours, grid lines, symbols, shading, river direction, tracks, buildings.

2.2 Demonstrate knowledge of care and maintenance of maps.

2.3 Identify and report a location using a map.

Range: Orientate map to ground using features, orientate map to ground using a compass.

2.4 Use the map to describe a route.

Range: May include but is not limited to – Hills, degree of slope, valleys, spurs, cliffs, rivers, swamps, slips, creeks, bridges, tracks, caves.

2.5 Demonstrate navigation using natural and cultural features to a selected position. Route should be on and off-track, at least 3 km long and should pass through pre-determined check points identified by the Candidate.

2.6 Estimate route distance and time using a map.



### **3.0 Navigate using a compass**

**Outcome:** Navigate using a compass.

3.1 Identify the parts of an adjustable-dial compass and explain the factors which may affect its accuracy. Compass type – Silva or similar.

Range: May include but is not limited to – magnetic fields, physical damage, parts of the compass.

3.2 Explain the difference between grid and magnetic bearings and set the compass to each.

3.3 Demonstrate the use of bearings to define direction of travel.

Range – Bearing to a feature and the back bearing from a feature.

3.4 Identify a position on a map using a resection.

3.5 Identify basic bearings without a compass.

3.6 Demonstrate navigation to a selected position, on and off track, using a compass.

3.7 Demonstrate navigation around objects in a bush environment using a compass.

### **128.0 Navigation using GPS**

**Outcome:** Must be able to navigate using the Global Positioning System (GPS).

128.1 GPS is set for operational use.

Range: May include but is not limited to – correct datum, clearing track log, and turning track log on.

128.2 Fourteen (14) figure grid references are converted to six (6) figure grid references.

128.3 Log and name waypoints and navigate to specific waypoint.

128.4 Log and report all significant references.

## **127.0 Basic tracking and clue awareness**

**Outcome:** Must be able to apply basic track and clue observation skills and basic tracking skills.

127.1 Can describe the basic track and clue observation skills.

Range: may include but not limited to – shape, shine, colour, movement

127.2 Can describe how to identify record and preserve clues and clue sites.

Range: may include but not limited to – top and bottom sign, relevance, preservation.

127.3 Explains how to determine direction of travel.

## **126.0 Apply search techniques**

**Outcome:** Must be able to apply search techniques as a member of a SAR team.

126.1 Demonstrate knowledge of search methods.

Range: may include but not limited to – Purposeful wandering, sound line, sound light line, sound sweep, sound light sweep, grid or contact search.

126.2 Explain factors which determine spacing between members of a search team and how spacing affects detection of visual and audio clues.

126.3 Apply search methods as a member of a search and rescue team.

Range – purposeful wandering, sound line, sound light line, sound sweep, sound light sweep, grid or contact search.

126.4 Describe the role and activities of a member of a containment team.

## **129.0 Communicate using radio**

**Outcome:** Must be able to communicate in the outdoors using two-way radio.

129.1 Daily maintenance and recharging procedures are completed to operational requirements.

129.2 Radio is set up and used to obtain best coverage and reception.

129.3 Channel or frequency is selected according to the requirements and urgency of the message, and the communications plan.

129.4 Messages are sent and received using radio protocol as required by the organisation and/or radio licensee.

129.5 Messages are communicated and/or relayed under difficult conditions with the required detail, and communication is acknowledged.

Range: may include but not limited to - difficult conditions, poor radio reception or difficult environmental conditions (eg noise, rain, snow, or wind), may include '10' codes, phonetic alphabet, evidence of two difficult conditions is required.

## **7.0 Use General Purpose Knots**

**Outcome:** Use general purpose knots.

7.1 Explain types, characteristics and uses of at least two (2) general purpose ropes/lines used in the wilderness.

7.2 Demonstrate tying of general purpose knots used in the outdoors.

Range: Must include – clove hitch, round turn and two half hitches plus one other.

## 130.0 Helicopter safety

**Outcome:** Must be able to operate safely around helicopters.

130.1 Describes the hazards associated with working around rotary wing aircraft.

Range: may include but not limited to - Aircraft components, manoeuvring, prohibited approach zones.

130.2 Demonstrate safe procedures for loading and unloading personnel.

Range: may include but not limited to - Safe approach, entry, and exit including the loading and unloading of equipment.

130.3 Describe the likely hazards and their control measures around a landing site.

Range: may include but not limited to – Vehicles, operating clearances, dust, unsecured items including clothing, poor visibility, uneven terrain.

130.4 Explain how to brace for impact and escape from an aircraft in an emergency.

130.5 Explain the use of emergency equipment like emergency beacons, fuel shut off and battery isolation.

## 58.0 Knowledge of First Aid

**Outcome:** Must demonstrate knowledge of First Aid.

Must hold a current workplace First Aid certificate as per LandSAR patient care standards.

Range: First Aid training is accredited in an outdoor context.

## 131.0 Organisational structures.

**Outcome:** Must be able to demonstrate an awareness of NZSAR and LandSAR organisational structures.

131.1 Can explain the search and rescue sector and the link to other agencies.

131.2 Can explain the role of the following coordinating agencies: NZ Police and Rescue Coordination Centre.

131.3 Can describe the LandSAR structure.

131.4 Demonstrates awareness of support agencies and their responsibilities.

Range: may include but not limited to:

- AREC
- Civil Defence
- Coastguard
- Department of Conservation
- Defence Forces
- Surf Lifesaving
- local ambulance services
- local rescue services
- medical support agencies

131.5 Awareness of CIMS includes:

- Basic structure
- Incident Control

131.6 Explain the roles and responsibilities of LandSAR personnel:

- Team Member
- Team Leader

## 11.0 Media awareness

**Outcome:** Must be able to demonstrate an understanding of how to deal with media.

11.1 Understands the possible impact of liaison with the media at a SAR Operation.

Range: May include but is not limited to –Bad press for SAR personnel & other agencies, distress for families.

11.2 Refer any liaison with the media to the IC or Public Information Manager (PIM), except for matters relating solely to the organisation providing the SAR communications

Range: May include but is not limited to –Discussion on past operational matters is not entered into with the media.