

WAC REQUIREMENTS FOR SAR PERSONNEL – Summarized on pages 2-3

WAC 118-04-120 Classes and qualifications of search and rescue emergency workers. There are three classes of search and rescue emergency workers: **NOVICE**, **SUPPORT personnel**, and **FIELD personnel**. The basic qualifications listed below define each of the three classes. Local requirements may include more extensive and detailed qualifications to meet local needs. Authorized officials also may require search and rescue emergency workers to demonstrate proficiency in the skills required to carry out their assignments.

Emergency workers who are not qualified for specific search and rescue duties shall not be assigned to such duties unless specifically directed by an authorized official and then only when under the direct supervision and control of personnel who are qualified for that specific assignment.

(1) The following are basic qualifications for **NOVICE** search and rescue emergency workers **without specific duties including those personnel in a training status.** Novice personnel shall:

(a) Be physically and mentally fit for the position assigned.

(b) Possess sufficient knowledge of search and rescue skills and techniques to fulfill their emergency assignment.

(2) The following are basic qualifications for **SUPPORT** search and rescue emergency workers. Support-qualified personnel shall:

(a) Be physically and mentally fit for the position assigned.

(b) Possess knowledge of the skills required of field search and rescue emergency workers but are not required to have the field tested experience nor the physical capabilities of field-qualified personnel.

(c) Possess knowledge in first aid for the control of bleeding, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, bone immobilization, protection from the elements, and protection from exposure to blood borne pathogens.

(d) Possess basic knowledge of helicopter operations. Successful completion of a helicopter operations basic course approved by the emergency management division satisfies this requirement.

(e) If duties require involvement in helicopter operations, possess demonstrated knowledge and proficiency in helicopter operations. Successful completion of a

helicopter operations intermediate and, as applicable, advanced course, approved by the emergency management division satisfies this requirement.

(3) The following are basic qualifications for **FIELD** search and rescue emergency workers. Field-qualified personnel shall: (Note: **Items in BOLD are in addition to requirements for Support personnel.**)

(a) Be physically and mentally fit for the position assigned.

(b) Possess **knowledge of and demonstrated proficiency in survival techniques and outdoor living.**

(c) Possess knowledge in first aid for the control of bleeding, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, bone immobilization, protection from the elements, and protection from exposure to blood borne pathogens.

(d) Possess **knowledge in wilderness navigation including map, compass, and other navigation methods as appropriate.**

(e) Possess basic knowledge of helicopter operations. Successful completion of a helicopter operations basic course approved by the emergency management division will satisfy this requirement.

(f) Possess **knowledge of search and rescue techniques.**

(g) Possess **knowledge of crime scene recognition, evidence recognition, human remains recognition** and the **provisions of RCW 68.50.010, 68.50.020, and 68.50.050.**

(h) If duties require involvement in helicopter operations, possess demonstrated knowledge and proficiency in helicopter operations. Successful completion of a helicopter operations intermediate, and, as applicable, advanced course approved by the emergency management division, satisfies this requirement.

SUMMARY – (items in BOLD are requirements in addition to those from prior category)

NOVICE: Those in training, or those without specific duties.

- Physically and mentally fit for the position assigned.
- Knowledge of SAR skills and techniques to fulfill their emergency assignment.

SUPPORT:

- Physically and mentally fit for the position assigned.

- **Knowledge of the skills required of field SAR workers but not required to be field tested or have the physical capabilities of field-qualified personnel.**
- **Basic First Aid and CPR (with SAR orientation re: dealing with the “elements”), and training in exposure to blood borne pathogens.**
- **Basic knowledge of helicopter operations. Demonstrated knowledge and proficiency necessary if duties require involvement.**

FIELD:

- Physically and mentally fit for the position assigned.
- **Knowledge of and demonstrated proficiency in survival techniques and outdoor living.**
- Basic First Aid and CPR (with SAR orientation re: dealing with the “elements”), and training in exposure to blood borne pathogens.
- **Knowledge in wilderness navigation including map, compass, and other navigation methods.**
- Basic knowledge of helicopter operations. Demonstrated knowledge and proficiency necessary if duties require involvement.
- **Knowledge of search and rescue techniques.**