



Search and Rescue Training



Phase One Training

Under this global approach, Australia has taken responsibility for the coordination of SAR in the Australian Search and Rescue Region (SRR). RCC Australia in Canberra is the rescue coordination centre (RCC) responsible for the SRR.

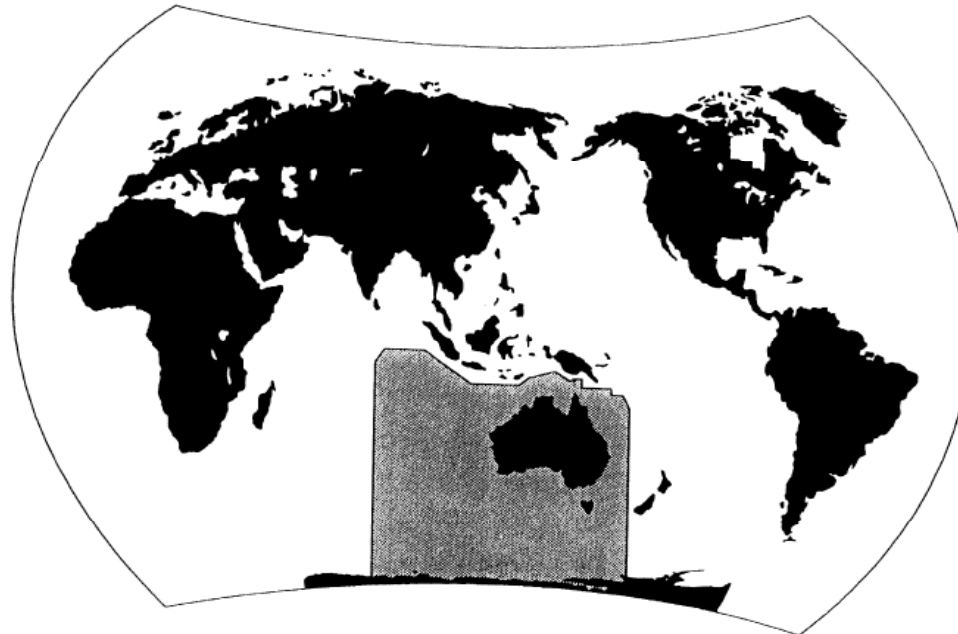




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Australia through these international arrangements has undertaken a responsibility for 11% of the world's surface.

Australian Search and Rescue Region





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The National Search and Rescue Manual sets out the responsibilities for conducting Search and Rescue Missions within the Australian Search and Rescue area. This is referred to as;

The National Search and Rescue Plan



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Search and Rescue definition:

- Search and Rescue (SAR) is broadly defined as the employment of available personnel and facilities in rendering aid to persons in distress.
- It does not include salvage or the saving of property, except where the action is indivisible from that of safeguarding life



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The SAR authority has the primary responsibility for ensuring a SAR operation can be promptly initiated and prosecuted with the efficient use of available SAR resources until;

a rescue is effected; or

the chance of success is no longer a reasonable possibility



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The attaining of initial knowledge of the existence of the actual or potential emergency situation or incident.

It includes the receiving of information by any person or agency, who in turn, subsequently notifies the SAR System.



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Receiving information

- Do not hesitate in taking appropriate action.
- In most incidents action can be taken as soon as incident is reported
- Ensure all information is recorded correctly.
- Communications should be maintained with vessel reporting incident.
- Do not change radio frequencies if practicable.
- It may be practicable to despatch a police crew to the informants location to interview him/her in detail.
- Ensure all the details are forwarded to the SARMC.



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Initial Action

- Communication Checks
- In urgent situations, immediate performance of appropriate activities from other stages.



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Evaluating a Response

- Time Factors
- Daylight Factors
- Environmental Factors
- Hypothermia



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The general purpose of a communications search is to contact or attempt to contact a vessel, narrow down a search area and to obtain more information to enable an accurate evaluation for SAR action



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Search Planning - 5 specific events

Determining the datum;

Determining the search area;

Selecting the appropriate search patterns;

Determining the desired area coverage; and

Developing an attainable search plan using the available resources



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Some of the clues that may indicate the survivors' location or situation include:

- intentions;
- last known position;
- hazards;
- condition and capabilities;
- crew behaviour;
- on scene environmental conditions; and
- results of previous searching.



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National Search and Rescue Manual Chapter 1

The SARMC is responsible for ensuring that the following duties are carried out depending on the SAR incident and local circumstances:

- a. Obtaining and evaluating all information pertaining to the incident, including emergency equipment carried by the person or craft in distress.
- b. Classifying the SAR incident into the appropriate emergency phase (Uncertainty, Alert/Urgency, or Distress).
- c. Alerting appropriate SAR assets and SAR organisations that may be of assistance during the incident.
- d. In consultation with other SAR Authorities, confirming which Authority will exercise overall coordination in accordance with Appendix 1.1.
- e. Conducting a risk assessment.



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- f. Dispatching initial SRUs if situation warrants.
- g. Conducting initial communications checks. If unsuccessful making an extended communications search to obtain additional information on the incident, personnel involved and equipment carried by the vessel, aircraft or party in distress.
- h. Calculating the search area. Preparing optimum plans and promulgating attainable plans;
- i. Obtaining past/present/forecast weather, drift information and oceanographic conditions if applicable.
- j. Providing for SAR crew briefing, dispatching of appropriate SRUs, or other assets.