



Standard Guide for Swiftwater/Flood Search and Rescue Operations¹

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^{ε1} NOTE—Figs. X1.1 – X1.4 were repositioned editorially in February 2014.

1. Scope

1.1 This guide establishes a framework within which swiftwater/flood Search and Rescue (SAR) operations shall be conducted as part of the National Incident Management System (NIMS)/ Incident Command System (ICS).

1.2 The requirements of this guide shall apply to individuals, agencies, and organizations that respond to swiftwater/flood SAR operations, including those not regulated by government mandates.

1.3 This document does not define the specific training required for personnel involved in swiftwater/flood SAR operations. Refer to local, state, federal, public, and private swiftwater rescue certification and operations courses that satisfy the existing authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) requirements.

1.4 This guide includes references more common to the United States of America, but may be adapted for use elsewhere.

1.5 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use or as defined within a (regional or geographical) response region or by the AHJ.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

F1422 Guide for Using the Incident Command System Framework in Managing Search and Rescue Operations

F1768 Guide for Using Whistle Signals During Rope Rescue Operations

F2752 Guide for Training for Level I Rope Rescue (R1) Rescuer Endorsement

2.2 Other Documents:

FEMA, National Incident Management System, December 2008³

FEMA, National Response Framework (NRF), January 2013⁴

3. Terminology

3.1 Acronyms:

3.1.1 AHJ—Authority Having Jurisdiction

3.1.2 EMS—Emergency Medical Services

3.1.3 IAP—Incident Action Plan

3.1.4 IC—Incident Command or Incident Commander

3.1.5 ICS—Incident Command System

3.1.6 NIMS—National Incident Management System

3.1.7 PFD—Personal Flotation Device

3.1.8 PPE—Personal Protective Equipment

3.1.9 PWC—Personal Water Craft (e.g., jet ski, water bike)

3.1.10 PTB—Position Task Book

3.1.11 SAR—Search and Rescue

3.1.12 SWFT—Swiftwater/Flood Technician

3.1.13 TFL—Task Force Leader

3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *authority having jurisdiction*—an organization, office, or individual responsible for enforcing the requirements of a code or standard, or for approving equipment, materials, installation, or a procedure.

3.2.2 *boat-assisted*—swiftwater/flood SAR operations aided by a boat, in which the boat is operated on a tether.

3.2.3 *boat-based*—swiftwater/flood SAR operations conducted from a boat only.

3.2.4 *flood*—a great flowing or overflowing of water, especially over land not usually submerged.⁵

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F32 on Search and Rescue and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F32.02 on Management and Operations.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/nims/NIMS_core.pdf

⁴ <http://www.fema.gov/national-response-framework>

⁵ <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/flood?s=> Accessed February 7, 2013