



FUNDAMENTALS OF SEARCH AND RESCUE (FSAR)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide students with a general understanding of the search and rescue system at the national and international level. It encompasses both aeronautical and maritime search and rescue activities, the duties and roles of all participants including the Rescue Coordination Centre, the SAR Coordinator, the SAR Mission Coordinator, the On-Scene Coordinator and the Aircraft Coordinator.

INTENDED AUDIENCE

Any personnel who may be involved directly or indirectly in search and rescue activities. This includes Rescue Coordination Centre personnel, Air Traffic Control personnel, Civil Aviation personnel, Coast Guard, Navy, Emergency responders, Police, Administrators and Management.

REFERENCES

IAMSAR manual Volume I- Organization and management
IAMSAR manual Volume II- Operations
IAMSAR manual Volume III- Mobile facilities
ICAO Annex XII- Search and Rescue
The Canadian SAR system best practices
International Maritime Rescue Federation Operations

GENERAL LEARNING OUTCOME

The candidates will emerge with a basic but solid understanding of the SAR system, associated publications and regulations, basic incident prosecution and all aeronautical and maritime activities related to search and rescue. This significantly helps any future dealings with a Rescue Coordination Centre.

PREREQUISITES

Nil.

LANGUAGE

Understanding of the English language both written and spoken preferably with a minimum of ICAO Level 3 English proficiency.

DURATION AND LOCATION

Course duration is 5 training days, available in 2026-2027 at your location, online or in Canada.



CLASS SIZE

A maximum of 12 students per instructor.

INSTRUCTING PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS

All proposed instructors are Canadian SAR Mission Coordinators from a Canadian Joint Rescue Coordination Centre with a minimum of 10-year experience in SAR and JRCC, and a license as a fixed-wing/ rotary wing Pilot or Air Navigator with a minimum of 7-year experience flying in SAR operations.

SAMPLE COURSE TOPICS

The SAR system internationally
IMO, ICAO and other partners
IAMSAR manuals vols 1-3
Canada and SAR
COSPAS SARSAT and satellite detections
The Rescue Coordination Centre
The SAR Administrator, the SAR Mission Coordinator, the On-Scene Coordinator, the Aircraft Coordinator
Resources and capabilities
Air Traffic Control and aeronautical SAR
Maritime SAR
Visual and electronic search patterns
Stages of a SAR incident and actions
The search effort
Lost person behavior
Cold Exposure Survival Model
GADSS

CERTIFICATION

Students receive a certificate of attendance for the Fundamentals of search and rescue training.

COURSE FEE

All-inclusive format. Includes course preparation for specific environment, instruction delivery, graduation certificates and more. For onsite delivery it includes airfare, hotel, meals, local transportation and incidentals.

AVAILABILITY AND PREPARATION TIME

Course availability depends upon IAMSAR Solutions' ongoing commitments. A minimum of 60 days from contract signature is required prior to the start of training.