United States Coast Guard
Office of Search and Rescue

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THE INTERNATIONAL AERONAUTICAL AND MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE MANUAL

IAMSAR Manual

Presented by
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Office of Search and Rescue
DUTY TO ASSIST

This international principle conveys that:

Vessels and aircraft have a duty to provide assistance to other vessels, aircraft or persons in distress, without regard to location, nationality or circumstances.
International SAR Agencies

- International Maritime Organization (IMO)
- International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
  
  - Both are United Nations agencies
  - Both focus on SAFETY
  - Both develop global SAR plans, procedures, techniques and training for civil SAR
  - Both envision a “patchwork” of SAR Regions (SRRs) encompassing globe with rescue coordination centers responsible for assigned SRRs
International SAR Documents

ICAO Convention, Annex 12 (SAR)
IMO SAR Convention
SOLAS Convention

ICAO Regional SAR Plans &
IMO Global SAR Plan

National/Regional SAR Plans

ICAO/IMO
International Aeronautical and Maritime SAR Manual (IAMSAR)

National/Regional SAR Manuals

RCC/RSC Plans of Operation
IAMSAR Manual

PURPOSE

• New International Manual for Search and Rescue
  ▪ Designed to harmonize aeronautical and maritime SAR:
    • Organization
    • Procedures
    • Equipment
  ▪ Comprehensive manual using standardized terminology and functions to ease aeronautical and maritime SAR coordination
IAMSAR Manual

STATUS

• Approved by ICAO and IMO in May 1998
• Distribution / Availability from ICAO and IMO commenced summer 1999
• Initial Publication in English, French, Russian, Spanish by both ICAO & IMO
  ▪ ICAO version also available in Arabic and will be available in Chinese
IAMSAR Manual

DESCRIPTION

- 3-volume Manual
  - Volume 1 - *Organization and Management*
  - Volume 2 - *Mission Coordination*
  - Volume 3 - *Mobile Facilities*
- Each Volume created for specific SAR system duties
- Each Volume can be used as “stand-alone” document or in conjunction with other two volumes
VOLUME 1 - Organization and Management

- **Purpose** - Discusses global SAR system concept, establishment and improvement of national and regional SAR system, and cooperation with neighboring nations to provide effective and economical SAR services

- **Primary User** - SAR System Managers
VOLUME 2 - Mission Co-ordination

- **Purpose** - To assist personnel who plan and co-ordinate SAR operations and exercises

- **Primary User** - Rescue Co-ordination Centers (RCCs) and Rescue Sub-centers (RSCs)
VOLUME 3 - Mobile Facilities

- **Purpose** - To assist vessels and aircraft with performance of search, rescue, or on-scene co-ordinator function - and with aspects of SAR that pertain to their own emergencies

- **Primary User** - Rescue units, civil aircraft and vessels
VOLUME 1 - Organization and Management

- Chapter 1 - SAR system concept overview
- Chapter 2 - SAR system key components
- Chapter 3 - Training, qualification, certification
- Chapter 4 - SAR organization communications
- Chapter 5 - SAR system management
- Chapter 6 - Factors for improvement of SAR services
VOLUME 2 - Mission Co-ordination

- Chapter 1 - Focused view of SAR system concept
- Chapter 2 - SAR communications specifics
- Chapter 3 - 5 stages of SAR response
- Chapter 4 - Search planning and evaluation concepts
- Chapter 5 - Search techniques and operations
- Chapter 6 - Rescue planning and operations
- Chapter 7 - Emergency assistance other than SAR
- Chapter 8 - Concluding SAR operations
- Appendices - RCC Checklists, procedures, worksheets
VOLUME 3 - Mobile Facilities

• Section 1 - Overview of SAR information
• Section 2 - SAR response facilities
• Section 3 - On-scene co-ordinator (OSC) or aircraft co-ordinator (ACO) specific information
• Section 4 - SAR information for vessels, aircraft or other craft in need of assistance
• Appendices - Specific information, forms and message formats for mobile facilities engaged in SAR operations
United States Implementation

- National SAR co-ordinating committee responsible for organization of U.S. SAR services:
  - Developed new National SAR Plan which adopted the IAMSAR Manual in part as the U.S. National SAR Manual
  - Developed a National SAR Supplement which builds upon the IAMSAR Manual with U.S.-specific SAR information

- National SAR School is revising curriculum based on IAMSAR Manual and National SAR Supplement