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Virtual Workshop on the establishment of an effective Search and Rescue (SAR) organization

Topic: NATIONAL SAR PLAN AND STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

Presenter: Santjie White

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WHY A PLAN

- SYNERGY
- SAME GOALS
- ALIGNMENT OF PROCEDURES
- RISK REDUCTION
- COST EFFECTIVE
- ALLEVIATE STRESS TO SAR UNITS
- QUICK RESPONSE TIME



SAR PLAN





WHAT DOES A SAR PLAN DESCRIBE?

- SAR plans describe how SAR services will be provided, organized and supported.
- SAR Committees oversee and implement these documents.
- SAR plans should be signed by all Government agencies which can provide or support SAR services.
- These agencies should all be represented on the SAR Coordinating Committee which oversees these plans.



WHAT DOES A SAR PLAN DESCRIBE?

- A national SAR plan is a single document that pertains to the SRRs, RCCs, and RSCs and SAR-related functions for which one State is responsible.
- Principles of operational coordination must be covered in this plan, which serves as a basis for more detailed provisions in subordinate State documents such as a SAR manual or plans of operation.
- Other types of SAR cooperation, such as mutual visits and training, also may be addressed.



WHAT DOES A SAR PLAN INCLUDE?

- The national SAR plan may include:
- A description of the SRR, including the limits for any SRSs created to make the organization more efficient; –
- Description of the available facilities, personnel, and equipment; –
- Discussion of the SAR personnel training programme,
- Qualification standards, and certification procedures; –



WHAT DOES A SAR PLAN INCLUDE?

- Discussion of the roles and responsibilities of all agencies which will provide or support SAR services.
- A copy or summary of all agreements with authorities providing facilities and services not under the direct control of the SAR managers;
- A copy or summary of all agreements regarding mutual assistance with neighbouring RCCs.



WHAT DOES A SAR PLAN INCLUDE?

- A SAR plan may be supported by legislation or regulations if necessary, or may be a self-supporting memorandum of understanding (MOU) between appropriate agencies.
- Ratification of an MOU at the Ministry level recognizes the importance of SAR, while allowing for an easier revision process than higher-level agreements would allow.
- A primary duty of SAR authorities is cooperation with neighbouring States.



WHAT DOES A SAR PLAN INCLUDE?

- Once a regional SAR plan is developed, high-level commitment between States can be reached by means of written agreement or through a multilateral MOU.
- A multilateral arrangement provides for consistent, harmonious and expedient response to distress incidents. Appendix I contains guidance and a sample SAR agreement.



HIERARCHY OF SAR DOCUMENTS

- There are different levels and types of SAR documents as illustrated in figure 5-1. Global SAR plans include IMO's SAR Plan and ICAO's Regional Air Navigation Plans (RANPs).
- These global plans are a basis for implementing national and regional (bilateral or multilateral) plans, manuals, agreements and related SAR documents.
- The IMO Global SAR Plan and applicable ICAO RANP would be followed by a regional SAR plan where a regional SAR system exists.



HIERARCHY OF SAR DOCUMENTS

- Next would be the national SAR plan, and so forth down to the RCC and local levels.
- SAR manuals provide guidance on implementing the plans. International SAR manuals may be followed by regional or national manuals, and then by plans of operation for the RCCs and RSCs. Some plans have an administrative character while others have an operational focus.



STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

- Detailed Standard Operating Procedures for SAR Operations in a SRR must be prepared for the safe and effective conduct of SAR.
- Comprehensive, detailed and unambiguous Standard Operating Procedures ensure that the RCC or RSC functions properly during a search and rescue action.
- Standard Operating Procedures includes the structure of functional responsibilities including authority, delegation and lines of reporting.



STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

- Procedures whereby a search and rescue operation in the RCCs or RSC's area of responsibility should be conducted during different phases of an emergency.
- Arrangements for the servicing and re- fuelling of aircraft, vessels and vehicles employed in SAR operations.
- Arrangements for expeditious access to weather information and other operational information including NOTAM and navigational warning.
- The precise area of responsibility pertaining to the RCC or RSC.
- The responsibilities and accommodation of staff assigned search and rescue operations.
- Methods and procedures whereby information is obtained, stored and retrieved for use in a search and rescue operation.
- The training and exercising of search and rescue staff.
- The facilities available to the RCC or RSC



STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

- State precisely which agencies are responsible for activating facilities;
- Detail the methods of communication with the various agencies (communication network).
- Detail the methods of alerting mobile facilities.
- Detail the methods of co- ordination with various facilities.
- Indicate by whom, and to what extent, any of these facilities can be requested to participate in an operation; and
- All Standard Operating Procedures must aligned with the National SAR plan.



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THANK YOU