Santa Fe Search and Rescue Group

Basic Competency Checklist

Completion Required for Acceptance onto Call-out Roster

(Version 09/19)

Member: _____ **Mentor: _____**

Competency	Initial	Date
Communications		
1.		
➢ Candidate can identify the common state frequencies used for missions (NMSAR 1,2, & 3), as well as the Group frequency used for inter-team communications (SFSAR).		
➢ Demonstrates proper Key-Wait-Talk technique		
➢ Can concisely provide a health and welfare report and position report		
➢ Demonstrates practice of thinking through what will be said before beginning the transmission		
➢ Candidate demonstrates clarity, good enunciation, and proper speed of transmission		
➢ Demonstrates awareness of open channel and sensitive information		
➢ Demonstrates awareness of conducting communications and having communications overheard in the vicinity of the subject and/or family members		
➢ ***Mentor shall follow up with candidate once team radio is assigned to ensure familiarity with radio controls and features, as well as a working knowledge of the frequencies programmed into the unit. Ensure Comms team has provided a list of those frequencies to the mentee***		
2.		
➢ Be able to project mirror beam AT LEAST 90 degrees off axis from the sun		
3.		
➢ Working knowledge of Sign-in Form 211 fields and how to record in/out times (round to nearest quarter hour)		
➢ Demonstrate knowledge of what information to expect for mission briefing and what to ask for if not provided (subject		

name, age, physical description, known medical issues, clothing, LKP/PLS, food/water, task assignment, datum, death code, health and welfare checks, primary & backup frequencies, weather, safety hazards)		
Navigation		
1. Topo maps		
➢ Ensure candidate can identify major and minor roads, trails, ridgelines, drainages, streams, cliffs, power lines, saddles		
➢ Identify the datum of a particular topo map		
➢ Identify the declination of a particular topo map		
➢ Identify the scale, distances, and contour interval of a particular topo map		
➢ Have the candidate plot at least 3 Lat/Long and 3 UTM coordinates to identifiable locations (Mentor advance prep req'd)		
➢ Have candidate plot a bearing from at least 3 of the plotted coordinates, and identify a major feature along the line of bearing (Mentor advance prep req'd)		
2. GPS		
➢ Have candidate demonstrate the setting of datum. Ensure candidate understands datum first, coordinates second. Ask candidate what error would occur if datum switched after coordinates entered		
➢ Have candidate demonstrate how to set coordinates units for Degrees/Minutes/Seconds, Decimal Degrees, and Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM)		
➢ Have candidate demonstrate how to identify a search mission area based on Call-out information and download maps for that area (as required for iPhone/Android GPS applications)		
➢ Have candidate enter at least four sets of coordinates, one in Decimal Degrees, to known locations. (Mentor advance prep req'd). Ensure candidate asks for datum before entering (or use as learning point when entered coordinates do not align with known locations)		
➢ Have candidate demonstrate the ability to determine distances		
➢ Have candidate demonstrate use of GoTo/Guide Me function, as well as how to initiate a Record Track (iPhone/Android applications), and the ability to follow a track back to a waypoint or point of origin		
➢ Have candidate demonstrate power management techniques for extended use of iPhone/Android-based GPS		
3. Map/Compass		
➢ Have candidate demonstrate the process of plotting bearings on a map, converting magnetic to true, and the concept of triangulation		
➢ Have candidate explain how to determine terrain slope, and considerations of this concept in the field		
4. Field Check		
Take candidate into the field. Have candidate demonstrate GPS skills by setting datum, entering waypoints provided by the mentor, using the GoTo/Guide Me function, and recording track. Teach candidate how to select a noticeable feature along their intended line of travel as a reference point rather than continually looking at GPS unit as to whether on course or not. Have candidate bushwhack to a waypoint, using map		

overlay features to determine best route (direct to, follow contour to avoid drainage, avoid steep slope, etc.). Have candidate demonstrate map/compass skills by performing a triangulation using a) both bearings >90 degrees apart, and b) both bearings <90 degrees apart. Note if candidate properly applied declination to convert mag to true		
Search Techniques		
➢ Have candidate discuss the various search methods and the basic principles of each (Hasty, Route, Loose and Tight Grid)		
➢ Have candidate discuss how to determine line search separation, and when to adjust separation during search		
➢ Have candidate explain the principle of the Searcher's Cube		
➢ Have candidate discuss the relevancy, handling, and reporting of clues		
➢ Candidate demonstrates understanding of the process of pivoting during a line search		
➢ Have candidate discuss the proper procedures for a death scene		
➢ Candidate displays understanding of how to conduct a sound sweep (name/ whistle/name, no movement and radios turned down, everyone facing different direction. If hear something, can call again with everyone facing direction from where sound was heard)		
➢ Candidate demonstrates understanding of containment and the importance of alertness en route to Incident Base or assignment area		
➢ Introduce candidate to tracking elements such as track traps, disturbed environmentals, dislodged rocks from foot traffic, noticing disturbances made by you and your teammates while moving through an area and looking for similar signs made by others, etc.		
Safety/Fitness		
➢ Review principles of layering and ventilation with candidate and discuss considerations for personal gear		
➢ Review importance of food, hydration, and electrolyte replacement for a typical op period and how to plan such for missions		
➢ Candidate attends Winter Skills presentation (SFSAR)		
➢ Have candidate discuss recognition of hypo/hyperthermia in themselves and what to do about it		
➢ Discuss fitness levels and routines to help maintain mission ready status.		
➢ Discuss limitations and the importance of being honest with yourself, acknowledging them, and speaking up during missions		
➢ Helo safety – Discuss how and when to approach a helicopter. Discuss the hazards and PPE associated with a high-hover helo hoisting operation, and how to prepare the Landing/Hoisting Zone		
➢ Discuss considerations for handling a subject's firearm		
➢ Discuss survival considerations and associated personal equipment		
➢ Field Check – Take candidate on a 6-9 mile hike at or above 10,000 ft with a full search pack and assess overall fitness level. If candidate has difficulty, jointly develop a training plan to improve candidates stamina		

➢ Depending on time of year, determine candidates experience with snowshoes and take them out to practice with a full search pack. Have candidate practice getting up from fall using crossed trekking poles technique		
Litter/SKED		
➢ Candidate demonstrates proper packaging technique utilizing contents of team litter kit bag		
➢ Candidate demonstrates how to assemble litter and wheel for both team litters		
➢ Candidate demonstrates how to deploy SKED		
➢ Candidate demonstrates working knowledge of litter/SKED team positions and roles		
➢ Candidate demonstrates working knowledge of litter/SKED commands		
Knots		
➢ Introduce candidate to Animatedknots.com as a learning/reference tool		
➢ Candidate demonstrates ability to correctly complete all knots. Knots shall be properly dressed and have appropriate tail lengths. Knots shall be completed using appropriate size rope (i.e. generally 11mm rope)		
➢ Knots: Water Knot — Alpine Butterfly Figure Eight — Overhand Figure Eight Bend — Half Hitch Figure Eight on a Bight — Prusik Hitch Figure Eight Follow Through Loop — Clove Hitch		
➢ Candidate demonstrates a working knowledge of how knots impact rope strength		
First Aid		
➢ Candidate demonstrates the ability to approach and engage with the subject in a calm and compassionate manner		
➢ Candidate understands the need to obtain consent before examining the subject		
➢ Candidate demonstrates how to perform an Initial Assessment and then provide a concise verbal report to Incident Base		
➢ Candidate demonstrates a working knowledge of the following conditions, to include their prevention, and an understanding of the factors that suggest urgent intervention is needed: Altitude Illness — Dehydration Hypothermia — Wound Care Frostbite — Splinting Heat Illness — Hemorrhage		
➢ Candidate demonstrates proper use and care of VacuSplint		
➢ Refer to NM DPS Field Certification Guide, Section 3		
Mission Specifics		
➢ Candidate is able to describe how missions are initiated, resources are requested, the incident command staff, establishment of ground teams, task assignments, approach to subject, subject extraction options, task completion and debrief		
➢ Candidate demonstrates knowledge of roles and responsibilities for Team Lead, Communications, Navigation, First Aid, and a general team member		

➢ Candidate understands the OneCallNow call-out process		
➢ Candidate demonstrates that they have a suitable size pack that contains all equipment and supplies as called out in the NM DPS Field Certification Study Guide and SFSARG SOP-1. Mentor shall ensure candidate has fulfilled ICS 100 and 200 requirements, and has the requisite personal gear to pass the field certification test. Encourage the candidate to take full advantage of SAR discounts available to the team while outfitting		
We Do This So Others May Live!		