

**U.S. Department of Agriculture; Forest Service  
White Mountain National Forest  
Search and Rescue Plan**



**WMNF Search and Rescue Plan  
Search and Rescue Organization and Response  
Procedures**

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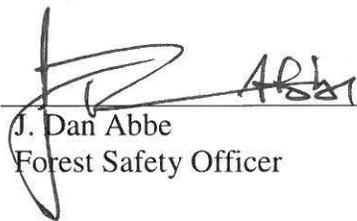
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Prepared by:  ABE Date: 1/19/2017  
J. Dan Abbe  
Forest Safety Officer

Approved by:  THOMAS G. WAGNER Date: 1/18/2017  
THOMAS G. WAGNER  
Forest Supervisor

## **Introduction:**

New Hampshire Fish & Game (NHFG) functions as the lead agency for all search and rescue (SAR) incidents within the state. The only exception to this is within the Cutler River Drainage (east side of Mt. Washington including Tuckerman and Huntington Ravines) from Dec. 1 to June 1, when this responsibility is delegated to the Forest Service ([WMNF Cutler River Drainage SAR Plan](#)). In Maine, the Maine Warden Service is the lead agency. The Forest Service serves in a support role as requested by the states.

In general, the Forest Service will respond under the principle of closest forces. If one of our employees comes upon an injured person, he/she will provide help as appropriate (within their level of training and experience). For large incidents or incidents for which we are not the closest forces or first on-scene, the Forest Service will assist, as requested within the extent we can. All of the procedures and protocols in this document are designed to expand or contract as dictated by the complexity of the incident.

The Forest Service is not organized to function as a full-fledged response team. There are many highly qualified SAR teams within NH and ME that provide regular support to NHFG and the Maine Warden Service. Our goal is to function within that framework, provide assistance to Forest visitors in need and support NHFG or the Maine Wardens.

SAR Plan Appendices will be updated as needed independent of the Plan.

### **Response Priorities**

- Protection of rescuers.
- Protection of bystanders.
- Assistance to patient/victim.
- Protection of Forest resources.
- Documentation of incident

## Response Procedures

**Closest Forces:** In general, FS staff will respond if they are the closest forces. This applies to backcountry or Wilderness patrols that come across an injured person. He/she will provide help as needed within the scope of their training, notify the Forest Dispatch (North Eastern Coordination Center (NECC) at WMNF Headquarters in Campton, NH) and the District office, and turn the incident over to NHFG or the Maine Wardens as appropriate.

### **For an incident report received from NHFG or Maine Warden Service during normal business hours:**

NHFG or Maine Warden Service will contact NECC Dispatch Center. Dispatch should obtain the following information:

**If assistance is not needed:** Location of incident, type of incident, IC contact information. Notify unit SAR coordinator.

**If assistance is needed:** All of the above plus additional information on personnel needs, special equipment needs, meeting location and time.

NECC Dispatcher will contact appropriate Line Officer and/or designated contact as well as the Unit SAR coordinator.

The Line Officer and/or designated contact will coordinate with the Unit SAR coordinator to make the decision on whether or not WMNF (appropriate District) is able to respond.

SAR coordinator will organize personnel and equipment response, as appropriate.

SAR coordinator will respond to dispatch with number of responders and ETA.

If an incident's need exceeds the capacity of one District, the District Ranger will notify dispatch center to reach out across the Forest, contacting other Unit SAR coordinators or the Forest Supervisor/Deputy Forest Supervisor for assistance.

If the SAR coordinator is unavailable the request will be managed by the appropriate line officer or their acting.

### **For an incident report received at VIS location from the public**

If an incident is reported to a VIS location from the public, VIS staff should first verify 911 has already been contacted. If not, the caller should hang up and call 911. If the report is a walk-in report of an ongoing emergency, the VIS staff should assist the person in calling 911.

If person is unwilling to call 911, document all pertinent information on incident form (attached). If possible get the caller's or person's name and contact information for any NHFG or Maine Warden follow-up.

Notify NECC Dispatch of report, any 911 activity and any gathered information. NHFG or Maine Wardens will contact the NECC Dispatch Center if FS help is needed.

NECC Dispatch Center will notify appropriate Line Officer and/or designated contact as well as the Unit SAR Coordinator.

### **Report received or discovered in a field location**

Employees in the field should call 911 if reception is available or contact the NECC Dispatch Center if they receive a report of a SAR incident or discover a SAR situation in the field.

If 911 is successful, employees should notify the NECC Dispatch Center of their situation and if they are providing assistance. Attempts should be made to contact the appropriate FS LEO as soon as reasonable.

The Employee in the field on scene will offer assistance as appropriate, within the scope of their training, while prioritizing personal safety.

### **For incidents occurring after normal business hours NHFG or Maine Warden Service should call the NECC Dispatch Center 24 hour phone number:**

SAR agency should identify themselves, the location and type of incident, resources being requested, reporting location, and a call back phone number. The NECC Dispatch will then contact the appropriate District Ranger and Unit SAR Coordinator with this information to determine the capability and level of FS response. Once determined, NECC on-call Dispatch will notify the requesting NHFG or Maine Warden Service employee with the specifics of available resources to confirm a reporting time and location.

## **Response Organization**

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

#### Forest SAR Coordinator

Serves as overall contact with NHFG and Maine Warden Service regarding the Forest role in SAR incidents

Coordinates planning efforts to improve relationship with NHFG or Maine Warden service and other cooperating organizations

Helps develop, monitor and coordinate Forest SAR policy

Works with Forest Safety Officer to ensure appropriate JHA is in place

Coordinate debrief on multi-district response, if needed

Works with Line Officer to Identify an Acting Forest SAR Coordinator whenever off Forest or on annual leave for more than 48 hours.

#### SAR Liaison

Serves as liaison to NHFG or Maine Warden Service as needed and requested on multi-District, multi-shift, or high profile incidents. (The majority of incidents will not involve a liaison.)

Communicates between state agency and FS during response

Updates appropriate line officer and PAO as needed

Coordinates with Forest Supervisor and District Ranger(s) for additional FS help as requested by the incident commander and/or partner agency

NECC Dispatch Center (North Eastern Coordination Center in Campton, NH)

Serves as central contact point for NHFG and Maine Warden Service for all SAR incidents

Collects basic pertinent information on incident: location, type, contact information, and initial personnel and special equipment needs

Contacts appropriate Line Officer and Unit SAR coordinator(s) for all incidents. Contact Forest PAO as appropriate.

Contact appropriate USFS Law Enforcement Officer(s)

Unit SAR Coordinator

Consults with Line Officer on all incidents

Identifies, and communicates with Line Officer, delegated Unit SAR Coordinators to serve in their absence.

Line Officers, in limited circumstances, can delegate a SAR response to Unit SAR Coordinators. This can be done in advance with a written letter from the Line Officer to the Unit SAR Coordinator delegating SAR response authority for any incident or medical rescue where it is in the best interest of the public and the Agency without putting employees at undue risk. The FS employee responding must act only within the scope of their medical and rescue training. Briefs Line Officer of any SAR responses.

Serves as Unit contact point for notification of all incidents (In the absence of coordinator, an acting coordinator will be identified and the NECC Dispatch Center notified.)

Serves as overall coordinator for Unit response

Maintains call list of Unit responders and qualifications

Coordinates responder availability with appropriate line officer and supervisors

Activates responders as available when needed by NHFG or Maine Wardens

Ensures that JHA is in order and in place for review. Works with team leaders to ensure that tailgate safety session takes place before responding to an incident.

Ensures response capabilities are appropriate to incident

Ensures responders secure from assignments at end of shift

Attends a minimum of one annual work group meeting and/or training with NHFG and/or Maine Warden Service

Provides a minimum of one WMNF SAR Plan orientation and/or basic SAR training for District staff

Forest Supervisor/Deputy Forest Supervisor

Makes final decision on level of commitment for multi-district, multi-shift, high profile and/or off-Forest incidents

Makes final decision on level of SO commitment

Approves SO team leaders, in consultation with staff

Responsible for inter- and intra-agency policy and issue resolution, in coordination with Unit and Forest SAR coordinator

Line Officers (District Rangers)

Makes final decision on level of District commitment

Approves team leaders, in consultation with staff  
Requests assistance from other Units or Forest Supervisor/Deputy Forest Supervisor when necessary.

#### Supervisors

Assesses program needs; works with employee to assess individual capability in light of work/rest ratios, etc. and determines individual availability  
Coordinates employee availability with Unit SAR coordinator and assistant rangers.  
Works with employees to agree on parameters for determining availability in advance

#### Law Enforcement Officers

Follow procedures for contacting NECC Dispatch Center to respond to SAR incidents  
Investigate, document and file appropriate reports on incidents  
Serve as liaison, in coordination with Districts, as appropriate  
Respond as appropriate

#### FS SAR Team Leaders

Coordinate and provide on the ground leadership for response teams  
Communicate with liaison or other appropriate position  
Provides on-the-ground safety coordination, including tailgate safety meetings before responding and review of JHA with FS responders  
Coordinate tailgate debrief after incident

#### FS Responders

Respond as requested to incidents to help locate, render first aid and assist in the evacuation of people who are injured or lost with-in training capabilities  
Assists NHFG/Maine Wardens with SAR response as directed by district ranger or district SAR coordinator.  
Ensure personal fitness levels and personal safety equipment are appropriate for incident and consistent with JHA  
Accept only those assignments within individual capabilities, training, and/or certification; be honest about fatigue and capabilities at the time of an incident. Be willing to decline assignments for appropriate reasons.

## Policies

### **Safety:**

Our first and last priority is to bring every responder home safely.

Tailgate safety meetings and JHA review will be used as appropriate

Each responder will take responsibility for his/her own personal safety and for looking out for the safety of the team

We will keep our five safety agreements (1. Strategic, 2. Preparation, 3. Awareness, 4. Learning, & 5. Agreements)

**Uniforms:** Uniforms should be worn as appropriate to identify Forest Service employees. Personal safety and wearing appropriate field gear should be the first concern.

**Administration:** The employee's normal job code is the appropriate code to use for an incident. For example, if an employee has time planned in, and normally charges to NFRW, that would be an appropriate code. It is not appropriate to charge to a different code than an employee is normally planned for or charges to, unless otherwise directed.

**Personal Vehicles:** District Ranger (Line Officers) are encourage to work with their SAR Coordinators to identify employees who may respond to SARs in POVs. These individuals may be provided written approval to respond to an incident where it is in the public's and the government's best interest.

**Training:** The Forest Service will pay for training to *maintain* first aid and EMT certifications for permanent employees or to acquire basic first aid and CPR for permanent and seasonal employees, and for team SAR training as appropriate and approved by immediate supervisor. Unit SAR Coordinators are approved to attend one, or more, SAR related training(s) each year as part of their official duties with appropriate Line Officer and Supervisory approval. Unit SAR Coordinators will provide a minimum of one SAR Plan orientation and one basic SAR training opportunities for District Staff each year.

**Equipment:** Employees are expected to have their own personal gear, including boots, for responding to incidents. Some equipment may be available from District fire or backcountry caches. Employees are responsible for their own packs and safety but should work the SAR Coordinators to insure adequate and appropriate equipment for the assignment.

The following gear list is what every responder is suggested to carry or wear. While many of us may work in the woods day in and day out with less equipment or different clothing, the gear listed here is the norm for search and rescue response. It may help to remember that while working in the woods, you are responsible primarily for yourself and can turn around at any time. A rescuer must always be prepared to stay out after dark and to cope with potential weather extremes. Having standard gear is part of representing the agency and of staying safe while helping someone else.

## Equipment List for SAR Operations

All USFS employees taking part in backcountry search and rescue operations should have the following equipment and possess the ability to use it properly. They must be prepared to spend a minimum of twelve hours in the backcountry.

### **Summer:**

Sturdy footwear

Extra pair of socks

Backpack of at least 3000 c.i.

Water (minimum 2 quarts and/or a means to purify)

Lots of high-energy food (enough for the mission or a minimum of 12 hours)

Radio with fresh battery and a minimum of one spare battery will be with each responding team

Compass

Map of the area

Headlamp with fresh batteries and extra batteries

Small personal first aid kit (with gloves and cpr mask)

Pocketknife

Matches or lighter

Watch

Raingear (top & bottom)

Insulating layers for top and bottom (non-cotton)

Wool or synthetic hat

Personal medications for a 24-hour period

Notepad and pencil

GPS

Camera

(Optional)

SPOT device

Hardhat

Safety glasses

Full size first aid kit

Sunglasses

Insect repellent and/or headnet

Binoculars

Space blanket or small tarp

Gaiters

Sleeping pad

Trekking poles

Emergency whistle

Bandana

Small repair kit

Extra headlamp or small flashlight  
Sunscreen  
Gloves or mittens  
Water shoes (expect to have to ford water courses)

**Winter (below treeline):**

Insulated boots  
Backpack of at least 3500c.i.  
Water (minimum 2 quarts and/or a means to purify)  
Thermos with hot beverage

Lots of high-energy food (enough for the mission or a minimum of 24 hours)  
Radio with fresh battery and a minimum of one spare battery  
Compass  
Map of the area  
Headlamp with fresh batteries and spare batteries  
Small personal first aid kit (with latex gloves and chemical heat packs)  
Pocketknife  
Matches or lighter  
Watch  
Gore-tex top & bottom or equivalent  
Insulating layers for top and bottom (non-cotton)  
Down or pile jacket  
Gaiters  
2 wool or synthetic hats  
2 pairs gloves or mittens  
Balaclava  
Facemask  
Snowshoes  
Extra pair of socks  
Sunglasses/Goggles  
Sleeping pad  
Personal medications for a 24-hour period  
Notepad and pencil  
GPS  
Camera

(Optional)

SPOT device  
Hardhat  
Safety glasses  
Full size first aid kit  
Binoculars  
Space blanket, small tarp or bivy sack  
Trekking poles  
Emergency whistle

Bandana  
Small repair kit  
Extra headlamp or small flashlight  
Sunscreen

**For avalanche terrain add the following to the above list:**

Avalanche beacon, shovel and probe (knowledge of proper use is absolutely critical)

Note that Forest Service response is NOT expected to include winter above-treeline, except for snow rangers. There are other SAR teams with this level of expertise and experience who can respond more safely.

## **Personnel Skill Requirements**

### **FS Responder**

Ability to navigate on and off-trail

Physically fit

Knowledge of search and rescue procedures (or ability to learn)

Work well in a high stress team environment

Some level of emergency medical knowledge (Basic first aid and CPR minimum)

Certified on appropriate equipment

### **Team Leader requirements**

All of the above plus:

Leadership ability - works with others effectively and is respected by colleagues

Can deal effectively and tactfully with difficult group dynamics and situations

Comfortable working with and for NHFG, other agencies and volunteers

Has demonstrated good judgment in related situations

Able to make quick, sound decisions in a stressful situation with limited facts

High level of previous SAR experience

Medical certification at least at the Wilderness First Aid level (Higher qualifications are encouraged)

Can effectively assess team member skill levels and capabilities (and assign appropriate responsibilities)

Understands SAR procedures within the states of NH and Maine

Aware of safety concerns; able to recognize and mitigate safety concerns; and able to communicate concerns to team and/or to take appropriate action as needed

Team members and team leaders may vary by season or type of incident.

Team leaders will be selected by the District Ranger, in consultation with staff and Forest SAR Coordinator.

### **Unit SAR coordinator**

Knowledge of SAR process within NH and Maine

Good organizational skills

Good communication skills

### **Liaison**

Same as for district or SO SAR coordinator

Ability to communicate across jurisdictions and organizational levels

## **Skills checklist:**

## **Skills checklist:**

These items should be listed or considered in a skills checklist:

Team Leader qualification

EMT

Other first aid

Summer qualified

Winter qualified

Previous SAR experience

Snowmobile and/or ATV operator

Available for logistical support (specify)

ICS experience, etc

## Appendix A: Contact List

### Contact List

<b>WMNF Dispatch</b>		
24 hour Phone		(603) 536-6208
Molly Campbell: Center Manager		(Cell) 603-236-1532
<b>District SAR Coordinators</b>		
Androscoggin:		
Frank Carus		(Work) 603-466-2713 x. 219
		(Home) 207-935-3156
		(Cell) 603-662-8684
Saco:		
Brian Johnston		(Work) 603-447-5448, x. 109
		(Cell) (603) 986-5256
Pemi/ SO		
John Marunowski		(Work) 603-536-6106
		(Home) 603-536-1282
		(Cell) 603-348-3360
<b>Forest SAR Coordinator</b>		
WMNF Safety Officer; J. Dan Abbe		(Work) 603-536-6234
		(Cell) 802-318-5427
		(Home) 603-238-9362
<b>Forest Supervisor</b>		
Tom Wagner		(Work) 603-536-6201
		(Home) 603-536-2482
		(Work Cell) 603-455-1459
		(Personal Cell) 603-481-0429
<b>Deputy Forest Supervisor</b> Clare Mendelsohn		(Work) 603-536-6202
		(work cell) 603-348-2346
		(personal cell) 415-307-9650
<b>District Rangers</b>		
Androscoggin: Jennifer Barnhart		(Work) 603-466-2713, ext.210
		(Mobile) 603-455-1460

		(Cell) 540-968-3369
Saco: James Innes		(Work) 603-447-5448 x. 102
		(Cell) 603-520-2321
Pemigewasset: Brooke Brown		(Work) 603-536-6101
		(Home)
		(Cell)
<b>For Incidents at Ski Areas</b>		
Joe Gill (primary for WMNF)		(Work cell) 603-986-4444
		(Home) 603-383-4353
Tom Paquette		(Work) 802-767-4261
		(work cell) 802-989-5545
		(home) 802-767-3296
<b>WMNF Law Enforcement Officer</b>		
Andro		
Mike Carifio		(Work) 603-466-2713, ext. 1235
(FS 20)		(Cell) 414-403-8067
		(Home-restricted) 837-9378
Saco		
Mark Mageles		(Work) 603- 447-5448, ext. 129
(FS 40)		(Cell) 414-305-7901
		(Home-restricted) 207-647-9609
Pemi/ SO		
Diron Thompkins		(Work) 603-536-6141
( FS 31)		(Cell) 414-232-8356
		(Pers. Cell-restricted 603-726-0447)
Scott Howlett		(Work) 603-536-6140
(FS 30)		(Cell) 414-559-9625
		(Pers Cell-restricted) 860-227-0168
Michael Klingensmith, Patrol Captain		(Work) 802-747-6717
(FS 10)		(Cell) 414-305-7823
		(Home-restricted)

**NH Fish and Game**

Contact through NH State Police 1-800-852-3411  
Headquarters, Concord (Mon-Friday 8-4) 603-271-3361  
Region 1 Office (Coos County), Lancaster 603-788-3164  
Region 2 & 3 Office (Carroll & Grafton Counties), New Hampton 603-744-5470

**The numbers listed below are private restricted numbers**

**District 1**

Lt. Wayne Saunders Stark (Home) 603-449-2425  
(F&G 10) (Cell) 603-419-8581

Sgt. Mark Ober Franconia (Home) 603-823-0006  
(F&G 11) (Cell) 603-419-0474

**District 2**

LT Brad Morse Holderness (Cell) 603-419-0699  
(F&G 20)

Sgt. Alex Lopashanski Conway (Cell) 603-419-0127  
(F&G 21)

**District 3**

Lt. Jim Kneeland Bristol (Home) 603-744-6830  
(F&G 30) (Cell) 603-419-8598

Sgt Tom Dakai Canaan (Cell) 603-419-8595  
(F&G 31)

**Headquarters Staff**

Col Kevin Jordan (Home) 603-636-1720  
(Cell) 603-419-8585

Maj John Wimsatt (Home) 603-942-8188  
(Cell) 603-419-8594

Capt James Juneau (Cell) 603-419-8588

LT Heidi Murphy (Cell) 603-419-9802

## County Sheriff Contacts

<b>Carroll County Sheriff's Office</b>	603-539-2284
<b>Coos County (Lancaster DOT)</b>	603-788-4641
<b>Grafton County Sheriff's Office</b>	603-787-2002 ext. 0

### Maine Warden Service

Maine Warden Service, Gray, Maine  
to 5:00 p.m. (weekdays only) number. 207-657-2345 ext. 3 – This is an 8:00 a.m.

Contact through the Maine State Police 207-657-3030 (24 hour dispatch)

#### Wardens:

#2210 Lt. Kevin Adam, Greenville, ME (cell) 207-557-0401  
(Coordinator for State SAR) – He would be requested by the Sergeant or Lieutenant on duty.

#2110 Lt. Adam Gormely, Gray, ME (cell) 207-592-2099

#2131 Sgt. Kris Barboza, Lovell, ME (cell) 207-557-3469

#2132 Warden Timothy Coombs, Stoneham, ME (cell) 207-215-2078  
Covers most of the WMNF on the Maine side.

#2135 Warden Norman Lewis, Bryant Pond, ME (cell) 207-557-0795  
Covers from Gilead north.

### Critical Incident Stress Debriefing

Granite State CISD Team Leader, Mark Proulx (Emergency) 595-3792  
(Pager) 596-4321  
(Other info) 594-3658

#### WMNF Employees Trained in CISD

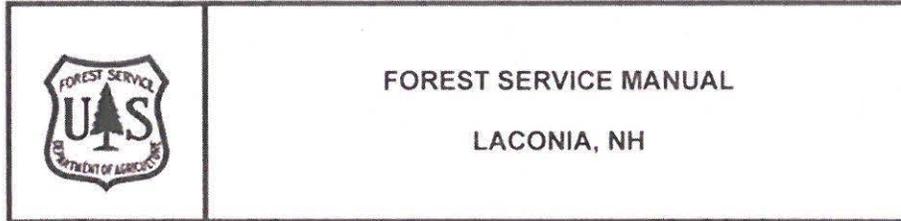
Dylan Alden	(work) 603-447-5448 ext. 107 (personal cell) 207- 423-3344
Jessie Dubuque	(work) 603-447-5448 ext. 120 (personal cell) 541-247-6213
Chris O'Brian	(personal cell) 603-726-6461

Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

1 800 458-1930

# Appendix B: MOU for SAR NHFG and WMNF

1500  
Page 1 of 2



**FSM # 1500 – EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

**CHAPTER # 1590 – DEFENSE AND EMERGENCY OPERATIONS**

Supplement No.: 1500-2001-4

Effective Date: December 1, 2000

Duration: Effective until superseded or removed

Approved: *James M. Mabe*  
Forest Supervisor

Date Approved: 11/21/00

**Posting Instructions:** Supplements are numbered consecutively by Title and calendar year. Post by document name. Remove entire document and replace with this supplement. Retain this transmittal as the first page of this document.

<b>New Document(s):</b>	1500, Chapter 1590	2 Pages
<b>Superseded Document(s):</b> (Last supplement was FSM 1500-2001-3 to Chapter 1590)	1500, Chapter 90 (White Mountain National Forest Supp. No. 4)	2 Pages

**Digest:**

1599	Reformats pages and makes minor changes concerning Search and Rescue.
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**FSM # 1500 – EXTERNAL RELATIONS  
CHAPTER # 1590 – DEFENSE AND EMERGENCY OPERATIONS**

**1599 – Search and Rescue**

The Forest Service will be the lead agency from December 1 to June 1 in all search and rescue operations in the Cutler River Drainage. On other National Forest land in New Hampshire, the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department is the lead agency in accord with its official State responsibility for all search and rescue operations with the exception of downed aircraft.

On National Forest land in Maine, the Maine Fish and Game Department is the lead agency in all search and rescue operations with the exception of downed aircraft.

In search and rescue operations involving downed aircraft, the New Hampshire or Maine Aeronautics Commission has the lead role.

89-WM-Rec-92-008

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

White Mountain National Forest  
719 Main Street - PO Box 633  
Laconia, NH 03247  
CALL 603-523-3721 / TDD 603-523-8722

Reply to: 1530

Date: June 16, 1992

Donald A. Normandeau, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
New Hampshire Fish & Game Department  
2 Hazon Drive  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Enclosed please find two copies of our jointly written Memorandum of Understanding. It provides a clear foundation for our continued public service. We look forward to continuing the tradition of working together with your agency and the many volunteers involved in search and rescue operations.

Please retain one copy of the agreement for your use and return a signed copy for our records.

Sincerely,

RICK D. CABLES  
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

cc: Districts

P 121 357 693

RECEIVED FOREST SERVICE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

Donald A. Normandeau  
2 Hazon Drive  
Concord, NH 03301

10/11  
100  
224  
6/17/92

CT 101-Rec. 9) 08

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between  
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT  
and  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE  
WHITE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST

*This memorandum of understanding concerning search and rescue operations on the White Mountain National Forest is made and entered into between the White Mountain National Forest, hereinafter referred to as the Forest Service, and the Fish and Game Department, hereinafter referred to as the State, agencies with mutual concern for the welfare of the public.*

**WITNESSETH THAT:**

**WHEREAS,** The Forest Service has certain responsibilities for the safety, health, and protection of visitors relative to the National Forest System and to provide assistance in search and rescue; and

**WHEREAS,** The State has the authority and responsibility for providing search and rescue services for the public; and

**WHEREAS,** The White Mountain National Forest is partially located in the State of New Hampshire for which the State has the authority and responsibility for search and rescue; and

**THEREFORE,** The parties hereby mutually agree that it is desirable to cooperate in better utilizing the resources of both agencies while providing for more adequate search and rescue services.

The State agrees to continue providing search and rescue services on lands within or part of any unit of the National Forest within its area of jurisdiction and the normal scope of its duties and capabilities without reimbursement by the Forest Service.

The Forest Service agrees to act as lead for the State in all winter search and rescue operations in the Cutler River Drainage between January 1 to May 31 at no cost to the State.

The Forest Service and the State agree, within availability of funds and established regulations and policies:

1. To notify and keep informed the appropriate Ranger District Office as soon as practical when a search and rescue operation is initiated. The telephone numbers are:

Ammonoosuc Ranger District	(603) 869-2626
Androscoggin Ranger District	(603) 466-2713
Evans Notch Ranger District	(207) 824-2134
Pemigewasset Ranger District	(603) 536-1310
Saco Ranger District	(603) 447-5448

2. To provide support, cooperation and assistance to the State in maintaining a continuing search and rescue program.
3. To furnish at no cost, upon request of the State, available Forest Service personnel and equipment to assist in search and rescue operations.
4. To limit use of motorized equipment except for certain situations. The State is authorized to use motorized equipment outside of designated Wildernesses. The State agrees to limit the use of motorized equipment within Wildernesses to life threatening situations and removal of deceased persons. Further the State agrees to consult with the responsible District Ranger prior to the use of motorized equipment in Wilderness. When prior consultation is not possible, notification will occur as soon as practical. This is in recognition of the intent of Congress and the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the subsequent establishment of the Wildernesses on the White Mountain National Forest. Those areas in New Hampshire are: Pemigewasset Wilderness, Sandwich Range Wilderness, Presidential Range/Dry River Wilderness and Great Gulf Wilderness.
5. To meet once a year to review this agreement and previous year's operation and plan joint future activities.

*Rick D. Cables*  
RICK D. CABLES  
Supervisor  
White Mountain National Forest

DONALD A. NORMANDEAU  
Executive Director  
Fish & Game Department

Date *June 16, 1992*

Date

## Appendix C: Basic SAR JHA

U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service  <b>JOB HAZARD ANALYSIS (JHA)</b> References-FSH 6709.11 and -12 <i>(Instructions on Reverse)</i>	1. WORK PROJECT/ACTIVITY		2. LOCATION	3. UNIT
	Search and Rescue Volunteers		White Mountain National Forest	Androscoggin RD
	4. NAME OF ANALYST		5. JOB TITLE	6. DATE PREPARED
	Jeff Lane		Snow Ranger/Forestry Tech	04/21/2015
7. TASKS/PROCEDURES	8. HAZARDS	9. ABATEMENT ACTIONS Engineering Controls * Substitution * Administrative Controls * PPE		
General preparedness and SAR operations	Being unprepared for duties	Check-in/Check-out procedures – at the start of each mission, check in at the designated location (e.g. the Pinkham Front Desk). Check out before leaving.		
	Exposure to extreme cold and winds	Volunteers must be prepared for a variety of circumstances. This includes being well rested, mentally alert, and physically fit. Be sure to carry appropriate equipment for the mission. The exact equipment needed will vary, but at minimum volunteers should report with an adequately-sized pack, cold weather clothing and boots, ice axe and crampons, and avalanche rescue gear. Equipment must be suitable for use in New England winter mountain environments which typically includes strong winds, extreme cold, and wet or snowy conditions. Boots must also be suitable for climbing on steep snow and ice. Carry bivouac gear including extra food and water.		
	Slippery and/or variable surfaces including steep terrain	Be aware of the possibility for frostbite on exposed skin. Use the buddy system to check for hypothermia and frostbite, particularly on parts of the face. Stay well hydrated and fed. Do not travel in weather conditions that are too hazardous for you or the weakest member of your team. If frostbite is suspected, take shelter or descend as soon as possible.		
	Lack of communication	Maintain communications capability. Each team should carry at least one radio and extra battery. Cell phones are useful but may not work on Mt. Washington. SPOT devices are also useful but are limited as a one-way communication device only. Know the weather forecast for the operational period. Anticipate problems with disorientation such as wind effects, darkness, and whiteouts. Carry a headlamp with extra batteries. Carry a map and		
	Low visibility – Getting lost			

	<p>Fatigue and dehydration</p> <p>Sunburn, windburn, or snow blindness</p>	<p>compass and be proficient with their use. A GPS unit is a helpful tool to compliment the map and compass.</p> <p>Eat and drink frequently. Carry extra food and water. During long rescues or other operations, back out before becoming exhausted or fatigued.</p> <p>Wear sunglasses or goggles that have UV protection on bright days. Use sunscreen, lip balm, or Dermatone to protect skin from sun and wind burn.</p>
<p>Traveling in winter mountaineering terrain for search and rescue</p>	<p>All associated hazards as listed above</p> <p>Falling in steep terrain</p> <p>Falling ice, rock, or other objects</p>	<p>Be aware of changing conditions and consequences of a fall when in steep terrain. Adjust travel techniques according to changes in conditions. Use crampons and an ice axe when the surface conditions and terrain warrant their use. This will change from user to user. Use roped travel techniques appropriate for the terrain when necessary. Consider alternative travel routes that may be safer. Do not travel in terrain you are not comfortable with, no matter how emergent the circumstances.</p> <p>Be aware of icefall hazards. Wear a climbing helmet when under or on ice. Minimize exposure time under ice and climb ice under other parties only if necessary. If possible use natural barriers as protection when standing below ice.</p>
<p>Traveling in avalanche terrain for search and rescue</p>	<p>All associated hazards as listed above</p> <p>Avalanches</p>	<p>Consider the consequences of triggering an avalanche, both to you and to those in the avalanche path. Use greater caution when terrain traps are present. Avoid traveling in potentially unstable avalanche terrain with others in the avalanche path. Anticipate avalanche runout distances and provide a generous margin of safety with regards to others in the possible runout path.</p> <p>Use appropriate PPE for travel in avalanche terrain. Required PPE includes an avalanche transceiver, probe, and shovel. Recommended PPE includes an airbag pack, Avalung, or helmet.</p> <p>Traumatic injuries are common in avalanches even without burial. Be thoughtful and conservative with decision making. Never allow safety equipment to influence decision making. Constantly reassess position and snow conditions and take spatial variability into account. Be ready to change plans or route as new information becomes available.</p>
<p>Working with SAR patients</p>	<p>All associated hazards as listed above</p>	<p>Assess scene safety for hazards before entering or traveling to or searching for victims.</p>

	<p>Exposure to blood-borne pathogens</p> <p>Injuries related to moving patients</p> <p>Immediate acute or long term chronic injuries that effect soft tissues of the body</p> <p>Emotional trauma related to post-incident stress</p>	<p>Always use appropriate PPE and Body Substance Isolation equipment when working a patient. Assume all patients have blood-borne pathogens. Seek medical attention if exposed to any body fluids and report to Snow Rangers. See Blood-borne Pathogen JHA for more detail (available on request).</p> <p>Use proper lifting techniques when moving patients. Use as many people to lift, move, or carry a patient as safely possible. Incorporate mechanical aids into transport method whenever safely possible.</p> <p>Make multiple trips for heavy loads rather than carrying too much at one time. Be diligent about restocking supplies to avoid the need for massive loads to be moved at one time. Pack equipment in a way that is comfortable to carry and properly distribute the weight. Assess trail conditions before carrying heavy or awkward loads.</p> <p>Be aware of and consider the best position to avoid:  Cumulative Trauma Disorders (CTDs)  Repetitive Stress or Repetitive Strain Injuries (RSIs)  Repetitive Motion Injuries (RMIs)  Overuse syndrome</p> <p>Warm up parts of the body that will be most used in a job. Get help with heavy objects or use tools to reduce the load. Avoid awkward or static positions, static loads and sustained exertion, repetition, contact stress, extreme temperatures, and vibration. Consider job rotation, more staffing, more rest breaks, slower work pace, and altering work methods.</p> <p>Debrief incidents. Seek counseling post-incident. Implement the Crisis Intervention System (CISD) after traumatic situations so those interested can use it and not have to ask for it to be initiated.</p>
<p>Search and Rescue (technical)</p>	<p>All associated hazards as listed above</p> <p>Anchor failure</p> <p>Falling objects</p>	<p>Build strong anchor systems to account for worst case scenarios. Thoroughly assess rock, ice, or snow that you are using for your anchor system. Assess technical equipment on a regular basis for defects and damage. Retire equipment as determined by use or manufacturer's recommendations. Do not operate in situations in which you are not fully comfortable.</p>

	<p>Crevasses and undermining – hypothermia, drowning, or trauma caused by descending into holes in snowpack</p>	<p>Assess conditions prior to and during a technical rescue. Consider the threat of avalanches and falling rock, ice, people, or other objects from above. Consider the best position for you and your patient. Wear a climbing helmet and harness. Weigh the pros and cons of attaching yourself to the anchor. Use lookouts with communication to monitor for hazards such as skiers and climbers above or falling ice.</p> <p>Assess overall hazards associated with undermined snow, temperature, water volume, and other scene safety issues with this type of rescue. First attempt rescue without sending anyone subsurface. Consider dispatching outside resources (e.g. dive teams). Have backup systems in place and an escape plan established. Assure all rescue team members involved know these plans.</p>
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10. LINE OFFICER SIGNATURE	11. TITLE	12. DATE
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**JHA Instructions (References-FSH 6709.11 and .12)**

The JHA shall identify the location of the work project or activity, the name of employee(s) writing the JHA, the date(s) of development, and the name of the appropriate line officer approving it. The supervisor acknowledges that employees have read and understand the contents, have received the required training, and are qualified to perform the work project or activity.

**Blocks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6:** Self-explanatory.

**Block 7:** Identify all tasks and procedures associated with the work project or activity that have potential to cause injury or illness to personnel and damage to property or material. Include emergency evacuation procedures (EEP).

**Block 8:** Identify all known or suspect hazards associated with each respective task/procedure listed in Block 7. For example:

- a. Research past accidents/incidents
- b. Research the Health and Safety Code, FSH 6709.11 or other appropriate literature.
- c. Discuss the work project/activity with participants
- d. Observe the work project/activity
- e. A combination of the above

**Block 9:** Identify appropriate actions to reduce or eliminate the hazards identified in Block 8. Abatement measures listed below are in the order of the preferred abatement method:

- a. Engineering Controls (the most desirable method of abatement).  
For example, ergonomically designed tools, equipment, and furniture.
- b. Substitution. For example, switching to high flash point, non-toxic solvents.
- c. Administrative Controls. For example, limiting exposure by reducing the work Schedule; establishing appropriate procedures and practices.
- d. PPE (least desirable method of abatement). For example, using hearing protection when working with or close to portable machines (chain saws, rock drills portable water pumps)
- e. A combination of the above.

**Block 10:** The JHA must be reviewed and approved by a line officer. Attach a copy of the JHA as justification for purchase orders when procuring PPE.

**Blocks 11 and 12:** Self-explanatory.

**Emergency Evacuation Instructions (Reference FSH 6709.11)**

Work supervisors and crew members are responsible for developing and discussing field emergency evacuation procedures (EEP) and alternatives in the event a person(s) becomes seriously ill or injured at the worksite.

Be prepared to provide the following information:

- a. Nature of the accident or injury (*avoid using victim's name*).
- b. Type of assistance needed, if any (*ground, air, or water evacuation*)
- c. Location of accident or injury, best access route into the worksite (*road name/number*), identifiable ground/air landmarks.
- d. Radio frequency(s).
- e. Contact person.
- f. Local hazards to ground vehicles or aviation.
- g. Weather conditions (*wind speed & direction, visibility, temp*).
- h. Topography.
- i. Number of person(s) to be transported
- j. Estimated weight of passengers for air/water evacuation.

The items listed above serve only as guidelines for the development of emergency evacuation procedures.

**JHA and Emergency Evacuation Procedures Acknowledgment**

We, the undersigned work leader and crew members, acknowledge participation in the development of this JHA (*as applicable*) and accompanying emergency evacuation procedures. We have thoroughly discussed and understand the provisions of each of these documents:

SIGNATURE	DATE	SIGNATURE	DATE
_____		_____	
Work Leader			
_____		_____	
_____		_____	
_____		_____	
_____		_____	
_____		_____	
_____		_____	

Work Leader

# Appendix D: USFS Wilderness SAR policy

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Washington  
Office

14th & Independence SW  
P.O. Box 96090  
Washington, DC 20090

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Reply to: 2320

Date: August 12, 1994

Subject: Wilderness Search and Rescue

To: Regional Foresters

The recent Pecos Wilderness rescue and enclosed review report presents a good opportunity to review our current wilderness policy and practices. We need to assure that we are meeting the intent of the Wilderness Act and serving the public to the best of our ability.

The Wilderness Act states that wilderness is a place where the imprint of man's work is substantially unnoticeable, has outstanding opportunities for solitude and there shall be no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, or other forms of mechanical transport and no landing of aircraft.

The Wilderness Act also makes clear that we need to take measures in emergencies to protect the health and safety, of persons within wilderness. Our policy states that emergencies are situations that involve inescapable urgency and temporary need for speed beyond that available by primitive means. Categories include health and safety, law enforcement involving serious crime or fugitive pursuit, removal of deceased persons, aircraft accident investigations, and fire suppression. Forest Supervisors are authorized to approve the use of motorized equipment or mechanical transport in the previous situations.

I am comfortable with the current policies but would add some thought on delegation and practices that we use in emergency situations:

A philosophy must prevail that we will always err on the side of safety for the victim and the rescuers.

The decision to use motorized equipment should be made by the skilled person closest to the emergency (much like out fire assignment delegations). This person might not be the Forest Supervisor and may be with another cooperating agency.

Our search and rescue practices must reflect a knowledge of the Wilderness Act, current wilderness policies, and a knowledge of search and rescue risks and procedures. Our practices must also demonstrate our combined ability to react quickly and skillfully in a coordinated manner with all responsible agencies.

To achieve this end, I would ask that you take steps to enhance interagency knowledge, cooperation, and ability to respond quickly and effectively. I want you to delegate the decision on the use of motors for search and rescue (after appropriate training and approval) to the person most able to effect the needed search and rescue. And last, I would like you to monitor each situation within the framework of our wilderness policy to assure that we do not overreact where unwarranted.

The health, safety, and welfare of our wilderness visitors is paramount. To not react with sensitivity and utmost urgency is a threat to wilderness as we know it today.

/s/ Jack Ward Thomas

JACK WARD THOMAS  
Chief

FS: NFS: RH&WR: JCTwiss: sbs: 08/11/94

Rewrite per Chief: FS; NFS; RH&WR: JCTwiss: yg: 8/12/94



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

White Mountain  
National  
Forest

719 Main Street  
P.O. Box 638  
Laconia, NH 03247

Reply to: 1590

Date: September 5, 1984

Major Mason Butterfield  
Law Enforcement Division,  
New Hampshire Fish & Game Department  
34 Bridge Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Mason:

The National Wilderness Act prohibits the use of motorized equipment in designated Wilderness Areas except for a few exceptions spelled out in the Act. Motorized Equipment and mechanical transport may be allowed when an emergency condition exists which involves the health and safety of human beings. This may also include the removal of deceased persons from the Wilderness. Forest Service policy requires the approval of the Forest Supervisor before such use is initiated.

As New Hampshire Fish and Game Department has the primary responsibility for search and rescue in the State, I authorize you to use motorized equipment when an emergency involving human health and safety occurs. I ask that your Department notify the District Ranger who administers the Wilderness Area before the search or rescue mission begins. If contact cannot be made prior to entering the Wilderness, please notify the Ranger as soon as they can be reached.

The Rangers to contact are:

Wilderness	District Ranger	Office phone	Home phone
Great Gulf	Gary Carr	466-2713	466-2925
Presidential Dry River	Rita Thompson	447-5448	447-2839
Sandwich Range	Rita Thompson	447-5448	447-2839
Pemigewasset	Steve Chandler	536-1310	536-4175

*Michael B. Hathaway*

MICHAEL B. HATHAWAY  
Forest Supervisor



# Search and Rescue Incident Report Form

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Subject \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Male/Female \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Description of Subject: Ht \_\_\_\_\_ Wt \_\_\_\_\_ Hair \_\_\_\_\_ Eyes \_\_\_\_\_ Other Info \_\_\_\_\_

## Subject's Equipment

Outerwear Top \_\_\_\_\_ Headlamp/light \_\_\_\_\_

Outerwear Bottom \_\_\_\_\_ Map/Compass \_\_\_\_\_

Clothing Top \_\_\_\_\_ Guidebook \_\_\_\_\_

Clothing Bottom \_\_\_\_\_ Food/Water \_\_\_\_\_

Long Underwear \_\_\_\_\_ Stove \_\_\_\_\_

Parka \_\_\_\_\_ Tent/Bivi \_\_\_\_\_

Hat/Gloves \_\_\_\_\_ Sleeping Bag \_\_\_\_\_

Footwear \_\_\_\_\_ Ice axe/Crampons \_\_\_\_\_

Pack \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Leader's Name \_\_\_\_\_ # in party at scene \_\_\_\_\_

Location of incident \_\_\_\_\_

## Description of incident or accident

Weather at scene \_\_\_\_\_

Familiarity with area \_\_\_\_\_

Experience \_\_\_\_\_

Planned Itinerary \_\_\_\_\_

Last Seen By \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM

Motor vehicle description and location \_\_\_\_\_

Person reporting incident \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Report by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM





## Patient information

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

Chief Complaint (PQRST)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Medications \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Past Medical Conditions

\_\_\_\_\_

MOI or Hx of Illness

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Last 24 hr Food/Water \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Events

\_\_\_\_\_

Care Given

Vital Signs

Time	LOC	PR	RR	BP	Skin	Pupils	Temp

Call Record

Additional Pertinent Information

- Time \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_
- Forest Service \_\_\_\_\_
- Fish & Game \_\_\_\_\_
- State Police \_\_\_\_\_
- AMC \_\_\_\_\_
- State Park \_\_\_\_\_
- Observatory \_\_\_\_\_
- AVSAR \_\_\_\_\_
- SOLO \_\_\_\_\_
- Ambulance \_\_\_\_\_
- Hospital \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Information  
 (# of People / hours)

- USFS F&G \_\_\_\_\_
- AMC \_\_\_\_\_
- MWVSP \_\_\_\_\_
- AVSAR \_\_\_\_\_
- MRS \_\_\_\_\_
- SOLO \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_





