



National
Operational
Guidance

Hazard

Lack of co-ordinated search plan: All searches



NFCC
National Fire
Chiefs Council

Developed and maintained by the NFCC



Contents

Hazard - Lack of co-ordinated search plan: All searches 3

Control measure - Situational awareness: Search for a missing person 3

Control measure - Effective search management 6

Control measure - Primary search: All searches 8

Control measure - Lighting: Search and rescue 10

Control measure - Thermal imaging or scanning: Search and rescue 12

Control measure - Specialist resources: Search 13

Control measure - Aerial resources: Drones for search 14

Control measure - Aerial resources: Helicopters for search and rescue 16

Control measure - Request National Resilience resources: Urban search and rescue (USAR)
 18

Control measure - National Resilience: Urban search and rescue team arrival at an incident
 19

Control measure - National Resilience: Urban search and rescue work plan 20

Control measure - National Resilience: Carry out urban search and rescue logistics
 management 21

Control measure - National Resilience: Urban search and rescue post-incident response
 22



Hazard - Lack of co-ordinated search plan: All searches

Knowledge and understanding

Hazard

Lack of co-ordinated search plan: All searches

Learning outcome

Understand all associated hazard knowledge



Control measure - Situational awareness: Search for a missing person

TRAINING SPECIFICATION

Knowledge and understanding

Control measure element

Multi-agency response and responsibilities

Learning outcome

Understand:

- The roles and responsibilities of:
 - The fire and rescue service
 - The police
 - Police search advisors (PoISA)
- The need to apply the JESIP Joint Doctrine
- The benefits of joint training and exercises



Control measure element

Learning outcome

Information gathering

Understand:

- The benefits of using information to gain situational awareness
- The types of information that may be useful when searching for a missing person
- The sources of information when searching for a missing person
- The signs of occupancy that are relevant to the context of the incident
- How to interpret the signs of occupancy
- The terminology used when searching for a missing person, including:
 - Point last seen (PLS)
 - Last known position (LKP)
 - Initial planning point (IPP)

Recording information about people found

Understand:

- The importance of gathering information about people found
- What information should be gathered
- How information should be recorded and communicated
- The need to consider data protection

Search plan co-ordination and communication

Understand:

- The benefits of co-ordinating and communicating the search plan
- The impact of survival guidance on people
- The benefits of co-ordination and communication between the incident ground and the fire control room
- The benefits of establishing a search sector and its role
- The importance of cross-checking the records of people located or rescued against the records of missing people

Practical application

Control measure element	Learning outcome
Share and exchange information gathered about missing people with emergency responders and the fire control room	<p>Demonstrate the ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share and exchange the information gathered about missing people to update emergency responders and the fire control room • Be aware that information may change or be added to throughout the incident
Implement a co-ordination process for survival guidance being given by the fire control room	<p>Demonstrate the ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-ordinate survival guidance with the fire control room • Be prepared to review the search plan based on the survival guidance being provided
Use the information gathered to develop and communicate a co-ordinated search plan	<p>Demonstrate the ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather relevant information • Develop a co-ordinated search plan • Communicate details of the search plan to relevant personnel
Consider establishing a search sector with a search sector commander	<p>Demonstrate the ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a search sector • Ensure the search sector commander appropriately manages and uses information received
Liaise and co-ordinate activity with other emergency responders, including police search advisers (PoISA)	<p>Demonstrate the ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with other emergency responders • Co-ordinate search activity with other emergency responders • Adopt the JESIP Joint Doctrine principles



Control measure element

Learning outcome

Record and appropriately share information about people found with emergency responders and relevant control rooms

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Appropriately share, exchange and record information about people found
- Adhere to data protection requirements

Cross-check records of people found against those of people still missing

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Support the cross-checking of people found against the details of people missing



Control measure - Effective search management

TRAINING SPECIFICATION

Knowledge and understanding

Control measure element

Learning outcome

Areas requiring search

Understand:

- The importance of effectively managing and co-ordinating a search
- How to clearly define the search area
- Sources of information that can be used as visual aids
- Understand the roles in a multi-agency response
- The benefits of landmarking recognisable features
- The benefits of establishing, or having a presence at, a central search command point
- The benefits of establishing a forward control point (FCP)



Control measure element

Learning outcome

Planning	<p>Understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sources of information for planning • How to co-ordinate an effective search plan by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allocating tasks - Briefing personnel - Using appropriate visual aids for briefing • The appropriate use of search phases
Defining the search area	<p>Understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to define and subdivide the search area • What factors may influence search operations • The importance of briefing and confirmation of understanding • The need for search teams to provide regular updates • The need to constantly review the search plan
Areas that have been searched	<p>Understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of live information sharing about progress against objectives • The need to record details of the areas searched • The need to brief search teams on the areas yet to be searched and their priority • The sources of information that should be managed • That a missing person may be avoiding being found

Practical application

Control measure element

Learning outcome

Co-ordinate the search plan based on who is being searched for, the search area, conditions and resources available	<p>Demonstrate the ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the search requirement, and the factors that may impact on search operations • Establish and co-ordinate an effective search plan • Review and adjust the search plan, based on information received, resources available and changes in the search environment
---	---



Control measure element	Learning outcome
Brief search teams on search plan, search area and casualty information	Demonstrate the ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify and communicate the area of operations to relevant people• Brief search teams of relevant information and confirm understanding
Liaise with police search advisers (PoISA) and other emergency responders	Demonstrate the ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Liaise with other emergency responders
Consider establishing, or having a presence at, a central search command point	Demonstrate the ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish and manage a central search command point if required• Attend a central search command point that has been established by the police if required
Consider establishing a forward control point (FCP)	Demonstrate the ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish a forward control point if required, at an appropriate location
Constantly review the search plan based on the progress being made	Demonstrate the ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gather information on an ongoing basis to support the review of, and updates to, the search plan• Adopt an alternative search phase if required
Identify sources of information that may assist with search planning or defining the search area	Demonstrate the ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider various sources of information• Record the information gathered
Debrief teams following search activity and record outcomes to be shared with subsequent or additional search teams	Demonstrate the ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use debriefs to gather and record the activity and outcomes from search teams• Ensure incoming search teams are provided with current updates about activity and outcomes



Control measure - Primary search: All searches

TRAINING SPECIFICATION

Knowledge and understanding

Control measure element

Learning outcome

Carrying out a primary search

Understand:

- When a primary search should be used
- The need for effective communication and clear lines of reporting for safe working when carrying out a primary search
- The need to react to information received, which may change a search plan and activities
- The impact of planned or unplanned evacuation on search functions
- How fire and rescue services can assist with a multi-agency search

Gather information from people leaving the incident

Understand:

- Why it is important to gather information about people leaving the incident
- That a cordon may be required to support gathering of information
- What information should be gathered
- Pass the information gathered to whoever is co-ordinating the search
- Assess the condition and requirements of the people leaving the incident
- Record and appropriately share assessments for the welfare of the individual



Control measure element

Learning outcome

Multi-agency search response planning

Understand:

- How to apply the JESIP Joint Doctrine for multi-agency searches
- The benefits of joint training and exercises
- What memoranda of understanding (MoUs) can be invoked

Practical application

Control measure element

Learning outcome

Liaise with other agencies to prioritise search areas

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Develop and agree on the prioritisation of search area with other agencies

Consider the impacts of evacuation on search efforts, and put in place appropriate controls

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Deploy appropriate resources to co-ordinate activities if evacuation may occur during search activity

Gather information from people leaving the incident to update search co-ordination

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Establish a cordon if required, to ensure information is gathered from people leaving the incident
- Gather and record appropriate information about the people leaving the incident
- Pass the information gathered to whoever is co-ordinating the search

Assess the condition of people leaving the incident and consider their medical and welfare needs

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Assess and record the condition of people leaving the incident
- Share the information appropriately and in the best interests for the welfare of the individual



Control measure - Lighting: Search and rescue

TRAINING SPECIFICATION

Knowledge and understanding

Control measure element	Learning outcome
Scene lighting	Understand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The benefits of scene lighting on search operations • The types of lighting equipment available • The capabilities and limitations of lighting equipment • The benefits of using National Resilience lighting equipment and how to request it
Indicating hazards and safe routes	Understand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The benefits of using lighting to indicate hazards and safe routes • The benefits of using colour-coded lights • That a combination of colour-coded lights can be used • That the colour-coded lights for water rescue and flood response are different

Practical application

Control measure element	Learning outcome
Request adequate lighting equipment that is appropriate to the location and hazards of search and rescue operations	Demonstrate the ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the requirements for suitable lighting equipment to aid search and rescue • Effectively use lighting equipment to assist search and rescue operations



Control measure element

Learning outcome

Consider using battery-powered lighting for search and rescue operations

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Determine when it would be better to use battery-powered lighting equipment

Locate generators or vehicles at an appropriate distance from the scene of search and rescue operations

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Appropriately locate generator-powered or vehicle-mounted lighting

Anticipate the duration of search and rescue activity to ensure lighting does not fail due to battery life or generator fuel requirements

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Consider battery or fuel requirements for lighting equipment

Consider requesting National Resilience lighting equipment for large scale search and rescue activity

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Request lighting equipment from National Resilience if this would be beneficial

Consider the requirement for ATEX-compliant lighting at search and rescue operations

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Ensure lighting has the appropriate level of ATEX compliance for the atmosphere

Consider the use of colour-coded lighting to indicate the location of hazards or routes at search and rescue operations, and ensure all emergency responders are briefed on their meaning

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Appropriately use colour-coded lighting
- Ensure all emergency responders understand the colour-coding system for the lighting



Control measure - Thermal imaging or scanning: Search and rescue

TRAINING SPECIFICATION



Knowledge and understanding

Control measure element

Learning outcome

Thermal imaging or scanning: Search and rescue

Understand:

- How thermal imaging or scanning can be used to locate people during search operations
- The capabilities and limitations of thermal imaging equipment
- The types of thermal imaging equipment

Practical application

Control measure element

Learning outcome

Consider requesting appropriate thermal imaging resources when searching for people, especially in reduced visibility

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Effectively request and use thermal imaging or scanning to aid searching
- Ensure the downlink for thermal imaging equipment fitted to aerial resources will be available

Adopt a methodical system when using thermal imaging equipment to search for people

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Methodically use thermal imaging equipment if beneficial

Consider the limitations of thermal imaging equipment when searching for people

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Ensure any thermal imaging equipment is appropriate to the incident
- Understand the limitations of the thermal imaging equipment in use



Control measure - Specialist resources: Search

TRAINING SPECIFICATION

Knowledge and understanding

Control measure element

Learning outcome

Specialist resources: Search	<p>Understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main groups of specialist resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fire and rescue services - National Resilience capabilities - External resources • The main types of specialist search resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Canine search teams - Aerial resources - Audio or visual equipment • The importance of an early request for specialist search resources
------------------------------	---

Practical application

Control measure element

Learning outcome

Identify appropriate specialist search resources and the benefits of their attendance	<p>Demonstrate the ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine what search capabilities would be of most benefit to the incident
Consider requesting appropriate specialist search resources	<p>Demonstrate the ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request appropriate specialist search resources as soon as their benefit is recognised



Control measure - Aerial resources: Drones for search

TRAINING SPECIFICATION



Knowledge and understanding

Control measure element

Learning outcome

Aerial resources: Drones for search	<p>Understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The features and benefits of using drones • The JESIP guidance on using drones at multi-agency incidents • The sources for the supply of drones • The need to brief and communicate with the drone operator • How to best use the information gained from the use of drones • The limitations of drones, such as the impact of weather conditions and flight times
Civil Aviation Authority compliance	<p>Understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent of the exemptions extended to emergency services • The need for post-incident reporting to the Civil Aviation Authority

Practical application

Control measure element

Learning outcome

Consider requesting drone resources to assist with a search incident	<p>Demonstrate the ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request drone resources if they may be beneficial to the search
Use the information gathered through the use of drones when planning and to improve understanding of the situation for operational and fire control personnel	<p>Demonstrate the ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriately use the information gathered by using drone resources
Consider providing communication equipment to the drone operator	<p>Demonstrate the ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure communication with the drone operator is supported



Control measure element

Learning outcome

Brief the drone operator of the required task and objectives, and details of hazards identified

Demonstrate the ability to:
• Provide the drone operator with sufficient information for safe and effective deployment of the drone

Log details of when drones are used under the Civil Aviation Authority emergency services exemption

Demonstrate the ability to:
• Ensure there is compliance with the reporting requirements of the Civil Aviation Authority

Ensure personnel are available, ready and in the correct location to respond to information gathered by the drone

Demonstrate the ability to:
• Ensure the information gathered is supported by having personnel correctly deployed



Control measure - Aerial resources: Helicopters for search and rescue

TRAINING SPECIFICATION

Knowledge and understanding

Control measure element

Learning outcome

Aerial resources: Helicopters for search and rescue

Understand:
• The features and benefits of using helicopters
• The sources for the supply of helicopters, and their capabilities
• The need to brief and communicate with the helicopter pilot or aircrew
• How to best use the information gained from the use of drones



Control measure element

Learning outcome

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Search and rescue helicopters | Understand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How helicopters are mobilised by the Coastguard's Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre (ARCC) |
| Police helicopters | Understand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the police air support units mobilise helicopters |

Practical application

Control measure element

Learning outcome

- | | |
|--|--|
| Consider requesting helicopter resources to assist with a search or rescue incident | Demonstrate the ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request helicopter resources if they may be beneficial to the search or rescue |
| Ensure personnel understand the hazards of working in the vicinity of helicopters, especially if they need to land | Demonstrate the ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure personnel understand the potential impact of helicopter assistance on the incident ground |
| Use the information gathered through the use of helicopters when planning and to improve understanding of the situation for operational and fire control personnel | Demonstrate the ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriately use the information gathered by using helicopter resources |
| Establish and maintain communications with the helicopter pilot or aircrew | Demonstrate the ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure communication with the helicopter is supported |
| Brief the helicopter pilot or aircrew of the required task and objectives, and details of hazards identified | Demonstrate the ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide the pilot or aircrew with sufficient information for safe and effective deployment of the helicopter |



Control measure element

Learning outcome

Ensure personnel are available, ready and in the correct location to respond to information gathered by the helicopter

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Ensure the information gathered is supported by having personnel correctly deployed



Control measure - Request National Resilience resources: Urban search and rescue (USAR)

TRAINING SPECIFICATION

Knowledge and understanding

Control measure element

Learning outcome

USAR response model

Understand:

- The structure of the USAR response model
- How an affected fire and rescue service should request assistance

USAR awareness

Understand:

- The National Co-ordination Advisory Framework (NCAF)
- How to access specialist National Resilience capabilities
- The activities expected to be undertaken prior to the arrival of the USAR response, including establishing the initial location for a:
 - Rendezvous point (RVP)
 - Strategic holding area (SHA)
 - Multi-agency strategic holding area (MASHA)
- The primary focus and capabilities of USAR responders
- The equipment used by USAR responders



Control measure element

Learning outcome

Information required by NRFC for a group or double group response (response options 4 or 5)

Understand:

- The information that will be required by the NRFC if USAR assistance is required
- Whether additional specialist resources may be required

Practical application

Control measure element

Learning outcome

Establish the quantity and types of resources being provided and identify suitable locations for them

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Follow the USAR response model when requesting National Resilience USAR resources
- Brief personnel on what National Resilience USAR resources have been requested
- If required, establish the initial location for a:
 - Rendezvous point (RVP)
 - Strategic holding area (SHA)
 - Multi-agency strategic holding area (MASHA)

Establish the estimated time of arrival for the National Resilience resources

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Use the estimated time of arrival provided by the NRFC to determine what level of initial operational response is required

Consider requesting the attendance of other specialist resources

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Identify and request additional specialist resources if required



Control measure - National Resilience: Urban search and rescue team arrival at an incident

TRAINING SPECIFICATION

Knowledge and understanding

Control measure element

National Resilience: Urban search and rescue team arrival at incident

Learning outcome

Training materials for specialist National Resilience responders are provided on the [National Resilience website](#)

Practical application

Control measure element

Report to the rendezvous point, strategic holding area or multi-agency strategic holding area and book in

Learning outcome

Training materials for specialist National Resilience responders are provided on the [National Resilience website](#)

Receive the initial plan of action, and agree on a USAR tactical work plan with the incident commander before deploying

Training materials for specialist National Resilience responders are provided on the [National Resilience website](#)

Support the management of the incident by implementing a USAR co-ordination cell (UCC) if required

Training materials for specialist National Resilience responders are provided on the [National Resilience website](#)



Control measure - National Resilience: Urban search and rescue work plan

TRAINING SPECIFICATION

Knowledge and understanding



Control measure element

Learning outcome

National Resilience: Urban search and rescue work plan

Training materials for specialist National Resilience responders are provided on the [National Resilience website](#)

Practical application

Control measure element

Learning outcome

Provide a USAR TacAd to liaise with the incident commander to develop a USAR work plan, unless or until a USAR co-ordination cell is implemented

Training materials for specialist National Resilience responders are provided on the [National Resilience website](#)

Advise the incident commander when each of the objectives of the USAR work plan has been carried out

Training materials for specialist National Resilience responders are provided on the [National Resilience website](#)



Control measure - National Resilience: Carry out urban search and rescue logistics management

TRAINING SPECIFICATION

Knowledge and understanding

Control measure element

Learning outcome

National Resilience: Carry out urban search and rescue logistics management

Training materials for specialist National Resilience responders are provided on the [National Resilience website](#)

Practical application



Control measure element

Learning outcome

Establish and manage the USAR main logistics area

Training materials for specialist National Resilience responders are provided on the [National Resilience website](#)

Manage and co-ordinate the USAR equipment being deployed to and retrieved from the scene of operations

Training materials for specialist National Resilience responders are provided on the [National Resilience website](#)

Clean and check USAR equipment

Training materials for specialist National Resilience responders are provided on the [National Resilience website](#)

Update USAR equipment inventories

Training materials for specialist National Resilience responders are provided on the [National Resilience website](#)



Control measure - National Resilience: Urban search and rescue post-incident response

TRAINING SPECIFICATION

Knowledge and understanding

Control measure element

Learning outcome

National Resilience: Urban search and rescue post-incident response

Training materials for specialist National Resilience responders are provided on the [National Resilience website](#)

Practical application



Control measure element

Learning outcome

Carry out a full inventory check of all USAR units

Training materials for specialist National Resilience responders are provided on the [National Resilience website](#)

Restock USAR units for redeployment

Training materials for specialist National Resilience responders are provided on the [National Resilience website](#)

Release National Resilience equipment to the police for investigation purposes if required

Training materials for specialist National Resilience responders are provided on the [National Resilience website](#)

Provide evidence and statements to the police for investigations if required

Training materials for specialist National Resilience responders are provided on the [National Resilience website](#)