



Mountain Rescuer Credentialing in the United States

A National Standard for
Individuals

Dan Hourihan

Alaska Mountain Rescue Group, MRA



WELCOME

Search and Rescue Working Group

PLEASE MEET IN
SALONS 1 & 2



NIMS Integration Center
**National Emergency
Responder
Credentialing System**



COMMUNICATIONS
Team Group

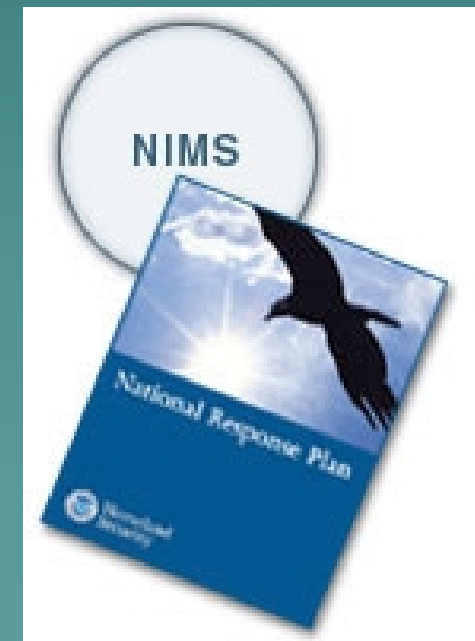
FEMA NIMS NIC SAR Credentialing Working Group

- ◆ Working Group
 - Members are selected not to represent agency or assn, but rather subject matter “expertise”
- ◆ 12 members, 10 fire /USAR/ police based.
- ◆ 5 support staff from Titan/LCS, DHS and EMAC



FEMA NIMS NIC – Titan-L3 Phases...

- ◆ Resource Typing
- ◆ SAR Credentialing
- ◆ Some overlap and revisiting
- ◆ These will be used for national and state to state deployments
- ◆ They will trickle down to county to county deployments and hence affect each team



NIMS NIC

SAR Credentialing Matrix

- ◆ Education
- ◆ Training
- ◆ Experience & Recurrency
- ◆ Physical & Medical / Mental Fitness
- ◆ Certification/ Recertification
- ◆ Licensing
- ◆ Gap Analysis-Recommendations

Positions

- ◆ Mountain or Wilderness SAR Team Manager
- ◆ Mountain or Wilderness SAR Squad Leader
- ◆ Mountain or Wilderness SAR Technician
- ◆ Mountain or Wilderness SAR Logistics Specialist
- ◆ Mountain or Wilderness SAR Medical Specialist
- ◆ SAR Helicopter Pilot
- ◆ SAR Helicopter Crew Chief
- ◆ SAR Helicopter Rescue Technician

Role of Working Group

- ◆ Identify positions from SAR Resource Typing Docs
- ◆ ID existing national regional and state standards relating to positions
- ◆ Fill in Matrix





Then



- ◆ Peer Review (MRA, NASAR, etc.)
- ◆ Final FEMA approval
- ◆ Implement. Put in NIMS Compliance calendar.

Impact to teams and AHJs



◆ Direct

- Counties and locals are moving to using NIMS and Resource Typing and SAR Credentialing to apply to their local teams so they can get liability coverage (as well as money).
- NIMS is using the process for non-disaster SAR

◆ Indirect. We can run or ignore, but we can't hide

- If SAR mandated agency (Sheriff) or National SAR Assns do not participate or help develop NIMS compliant resource typing and SAR credentialing, the county and state emergency mgrs may still take the NIMS definitions and get them in their emergency plans and at some point they will trickle down to us.

Other Impacts

- ◆ Katrina Lessons Learned & Senate Report
 - USAR to get training in Wilderness
 - Fire Service EMACs
 - Volunteer SAR certification system, NASAR?

5 & 10 years?

- ◆ Commercial MR/SAR Teams will pop up everywhere claiming compliance with MSAR or WSAR Type I, etc., but who do not have backgrounds, and other min. requirements our career and unpaid workers do.
- ◆ More paid teams due to DHS funding opportunities and “ease” of depending on full/part timers staffing shifts vs. volunteers.
- ◆ More value in MRA accreditation and NASAR certification.

5 & 10 years?

- ◆ Combination paid and unpaid teams on sheriff's offices (S.O.s.)
- ◆ Some/many S.O. s will defacto or formally give up Rescue and/ or Search to F.D.s from convenience or ease.
- ◆ Unpaid teams turn to staffing shifts for their S.O.s to be more available for missions (like Natl Guard duty or vol FDs staffing stations).
- ◆ Traditional MR & SAR teams leaving established best practices and legacy to the "new" generation of SAR Teams that are paid and not climbers or mountaineers?

Thank You!



dfhourihan@yahoo.com

www.mra.org

907-223-3780