

Extracts from the following documents, indicated in red.

NATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE PLAN OF THE UNITED STATES 2022

SAR SERVICES SUPPORTED BY THIS PLAN

13. This Plan includes the following types of SAR services:

- a. Maritime (involving the search for and rescue of persons in distress from a water environment);
- b. Aeronautical (involving the search for aircraft overdue, missing, or in distress and SAR assistance in the vicinity of airports);
- c. Land (including SAR operations associated with environments such as remote areas, swift water, caves, and mountains, etc.);
- d. Collapsed structure/US&R (including military support to US&R);
- e. Utilization of specialized personnel, resources, and equipment to identify affected areas, ascertain conditions on scene, and search for persons in distress;
- f. Provision of initial assistance at or near the scene of a distress situation (e.g., initial medical assistance or advice, medical evacuation, provision of needed shelter, food, or clothing to survivors, emotional support, and humanitarian services);
- g. Delivery of survivors to a place of safety (where the survivor's safety of life is no longer threatened, basic human needs (e.g., food, shelter, and medical needs) can be met, and transportation arrangements can be made for the survivor's next or final destination);
- h. Saving of property when accomplished in conjunction with the conduct of SAR operations;
- i. MROs.
- j. Catastrophic Incident SAR (CISAR) in support of the NRF's Emergency Support Function (ESF) #9, Search and Rescue (including follow-on life-sustaining support to survivors in the disaster area);
- k. Recovery of human remains when accomplished in conjunction with the conduct of SAR operations (with minimal risk to SAR responders); and
- l. Search for and rescue of personnel of a spacecraft.

14. This Plan does not cover:

- a. Air ambulance services that did not result from the conduct of a SAR operation;

2 For example, as a party to the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and Return of objects Launched into Outer Space (Rescue and Return Agreement), the United States is obliged to immediately take all possible steps to rescue and render all necessary assistance to personnel of a spacecraft who, owing to accident, distress, emergency, or unintended landing, land within U.S. jurisdiction or on the high sea.

THE U.S. COAST GUARD ADDENDUM TO THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE SUPPLEMENT (NSS) TO THE INTERNATIONAL AERONAUTICAL AND MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE MANUAL (IAMSAR) COMDTINST M16130.2F

Section 6.2

Submersibles

Most SAR cases involving submersibles have occurred on the surface. The Coast Guard or local resources handle these. Rescues of persons trapped in sunken vessels will normally require assistance from outside resources.

Submersibles have good safety records, but the few underwater accidents have demonstrated the difficulty of rescue and the potential for high public interest. The number of submersibles overall, and especially for recreational and passenger-for-hire use, is increasing. This increases the probability of rescue incidents.

6.2.1 Coast Guard Resources

The Coast Guard has no special equipment to assist submerged vessels or persons trapped in underwater habitats. Suitable outside equipment and assistance must be requested.

6.2.2 U.S. Navy Support

The U.S. Navy is the primary source of expertise and resources for complex underwater SAR incidents. The Navy's point of contact is the Navy Command Center Duty Captain at the Pentagon (703) 695-0231. This Navy command center can provide fleet resources, specialized experimental equipment and civilian undersea salvage specialists. When the Navy responds, it normally assumes SAR Mission Coordinator and the Coast Guard takes on a support role.

Until then the Coast Guard must respond with its own or other available resources.

6.2.3 Use of Divers

Reference (II) states that a Commanding Officer may use military divers, commercial divers or similarly highly trained diving resources, such as local police divers. If a Commanding Officer (CO) is faced with a life-threatening situation and none of the military, commercial, or other highly trained diving resources is reasonably available, the CO may consider using personnel with recreational diver qualifications who volunteer their services. Reference (II)

states clearly that this discretion should be exercised most carefully after seriously considering the training, qualification, medical, physical, and psychological condition of the volunteer, the condition of the diver's equipment, and the hazards of the dive.

6.2.4 Mutual Assistance Plans

Submersible operators have no mutual assistance plans at this time. However, plans are being developed which may consider creation of a mutual assistance program for research/construction deep submersible owners and operators. NOAA and members of the deep diving submersible community are facilitating this effort.

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COMDTINST M16130.2F

6.2.5 Safety Requirements for Passenger-Carrying Submersibles

6.2.5.1 The regulations governing passenger-carrying submersibles can be found at Title 46, Code of

Federal Regulations, subchapter T (46 CFR parts 175-187). Under 46 CFR 175.110 (a)(4), the requirements of subchapter T are applicable when the submersible is carrying at least one passenger for hire. Since those regulations are primarily intended to cover surface vessels, many of the requirements cannot be applied to or may otherwise be inappropriate for submersibles. Guidance for Certification of Passenger Carrying Submersibles, NVIC No. 5-93 provides general guidance relative to the inspection and certification requirements for submersibles, and includes:

- (a) Design and stability requirements;
- (b) Lifesaving equipment;
- (c) Fire protection equipment;

(d) Submersible operations; and

(e) Manning and licensing.

Additionally, submersibles may be subject to local operating restrictions imposed by the Captain of the Port (COTP) relative to navigation safety, port safety and security, and vessel traffic considerations.

6.2.6 Voluntary Reporting System for Submersibles

The Coast Guard operates a voluntary reporting system for civilian submersible operations for salvage, research, construction, etc. Submersible operators should be encouraged to provide the nearest Coast Guard District with details of their planned submersible operation.