



Standard Guide for Minimum Training of Dispatchers and Telecommunicators of SAR Incidents¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F2662; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This guide establishes the minimum training standard as it relates to general and specific knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSA), for existing dispatchers (who have met the requirements of Practice F1258), 911 (emergency) operators, and telecommunicators to be trained for the processing and dispatch of potential and actual search and rescue incidents.

1.2 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

F1258 Practice for Emergency Medical Dispatch

2.2 *Other Documents:*³

Triage and Dispatch for SAR Managers and Telecommunications

U.S. National SAR Plan

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.1.1 *agency, n*—an SAR or emergency response entity such as an SAR team, military unit, or emergency management, police, or fire service with SAR responsibilities.

3.1.2 *automatic aid, n*—aid given by another agency, automatically upon dispatch, when written into dispatch guidelines or protocols. Automatic aid is generated by your Communications Center by simultaneously requesting or notifying the

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F32 on Search and Rescue and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F32.02 on Management and Operations.

Current edition approved March 1, 2014. Published April 2014. Originally approved in 2008. Last previous edition approved in 2008 as F2662 – 08. DOI: 10.1520/F2662-08R14.

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ Available from Kovacs, Tim and Mountain Rescue Association, http://www.mra.org/training/Dispatch_SAR_MRA_05.pdf

outside resource upon initial dispatch of incidents. Automatic aid should be arranged for search and rescue incidents and programmed into your CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) system.

3.1.3 *“emergency” and/or “lights and siren” response, n*—an Emergency and/or Lights and Siren response is where an appropriately trained person operates and responds in a vehicle equipped with emergency lights and siren in order to enable a more timely response to a scene or other location.

3.1.4 *follow-up report and information, n*—critical or valuable supplemental information gathered and reported to responders after initial dispatch.

3.1.5 *mutual aid, n*—aid given by another agency, case by case, when requested by a member of a responding agency.

3.1.6 *SRD, Search and Rescue Dispatcher, n*—a dispatcher who processes calls for potential and actual search and rescue incidents (See Triage and Dispatch for SAR Managers and Telecommunications).

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This guide establishes the minimum training standard as it relates to general and specific knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSA), for existing dispatchers, 911 operators and telecommunicators to be trained in the processing and dispatching of potential and actual search and rescue incidents. A person trained to this guide is a Level I (basic) SAR Dispatcher.

4.2 Every person who is identified as an SAR Dispatcher shall have met the requirements of this guide.

4.3 This guide is to be used by individuals and agencies having jurisdiction who wish to identify the minimum training standards for Level I SAR dispatcher.

4.4 This guide is only the first level of training for Search and Rescue Dispatcher (SRD) personnel, and as such, only establishes the minimum knowledge, skills, and abilities required for a person to perform SAR Dispatch.

4.5 Nothing in this guide precludes a user of this guide from adding additional requirements for its own members.

4.6 This guide by itself is not a training document. It is only an outline of the topics required for training or evaluating a Level I SRD, but it can be used to develop a training document or program.