

University of Illinois Fire Service Institute

Course Syllabus

Course Title: Wilderness Search and Rescue Awareness

Course Duration: 12 hours

Program: Special Operations Training Program

Course Prerequisites: None

Course Description:

This course is designed to train first responders whose responsibilities include searching for lost persons in urban and austere land environments. The Awareness course is an introduction to the wilderness search and rescue process. Topics include recognition of weather and environmental concerns, appropriate clothing, gear and PPE, and mitigation of incident hazards. It also includes basic searching techniques and procedures including navigation.

This course meets the requirements listed in NFPA 1006 Chapter 11 Wilderness Search and Rescue. This course focuses on teaching skills to responders searching for missing persons in land environments that do not require swift water or technical rescue skills.

Course Requirements:

Pre-Course Work: None

Course Work:

- Attend and participate in 100% of the course

Post-Course Work: None

Course Policies:

Safety Policy: Students shall understand and follow all instructions pertaining to operational safety, as stated by instructors or as written in course materials. Instructors and students shall be mindful of safety at all times. Conduct judged to be unsafe shall be grounds for dismissal from the course.

Academic Integrity Policy: IFSI has the responsibility for maintaining academic integrity so as to protect the quality of the education provided through its courses, and to protect those who depend upon our integrity. It is the responsibility of the student to refrain from infractions of academic integrity, from conduct that may lead to suspicion of such infractions, and from conduct that aids others in such infractions. Any violation of the code of conduct is grounds for immediate dismissal from the course.

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American Disabilities Act: As guaranteed in the Vocational Rehabilitation Act and in the American Disabilities Act, if any student needs special accommodations they are to notify their instructor and provide documentation as soon as possible so arrangements can be made to provide for the student's needs. If arrangements cannot be made at the class site, the student will test at an alternative time and place where the special accommodations can be made.

Course Content:

Module: 1

Title: Introduction

Terminal Learning Objective:

1. At the conclusion of this module, the student will describe the knowledge and skills necessary to serve as a member of a wilderness search and rescue team.

Module: 2

Title: Clothing, PPE, Gear, and Hazards

Terminal Learning Objective:

2. At the conclusion of this module, the student will obtain the clothing, PPE, gear, and information regarding hazards associated with a wilderness search and rescue incident.

Module: 3

Title: Search Procedures and Tactics

Terminal Learning Objective:

3. At the conclusion of this module, the student will prescribe wilderness search and rescue search procedures and tactics.

Module: 4

Title: Navigation

Terminal Learning Objective:

4. At the conclusion of this module, the student will demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate during a wilderness search and rescue incident.

Reference List:

Fundamentals of Search and Rescue, Second Edition, Jones & Bartlett Learning, LLC, 2019. Available through The National Association for Search And Rescue, www.nasar.org.

Land Search and Rescue Addendum to the National Search and Rescue Supplement to the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual Version 1.0, dbS Productions, LLC, 2012

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Lost Person Behavior by Robert J. Koester, dbS Productions LLC, 2008

NFPA 1006, Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications, Edition 2021

Recommended Reading List:

The following readings are not required before, during, or after the course.

These books are considered the basic texts for Search and Rescue along with the books listed above. They provide definitive information on how to search for different subject types in different environments.

Lost Person Behavior by Robert J. Koester, dbS Productions LLC, 2008

“The purpose of this book is simple: To help searchers look in the right place to find lost subjects faster.”

Different types of missing people (e.g. hunters, dementia subjects, autistic children, etc.) act differently when they are lost. This book describes characteristics of dozens of subject types along with statistics on how they move through the environment. It also describes how to organize a search for the first three hours. This is all critical information for a search planner to have and aids the searcher in the field on where to look for the missing person.

Urban Search: Managing Missing Person Searches in the Urban Environment by Christopher S. Young and John Wehbring, dbS Productions, 2007

“Both the police and the professional search teams have the best interests of the missing person at heart. Their efforts can be enhanced if they are able to call on search techniques especially designed for the urban environment.”

An urban environment is one that has a significant number of people and structures along with roads and easy means of travel. Searching for a missing person in this type of environment is very different from searching for someone in the woods. Different techniques or modifications of techniques are required. This is the definitive book outlining the best approach to managing and conducting an urban search.

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Course Schedule

DAY ONE

<u>Event</u>	<u>Duration</u>
Module 1 - Introduction	1 hour 30 minutes
Module 2 – Clothing, PPE, Gear and Hazards	2 hours
Lunch	
Module 3 – Search Procedures & Tactics	3 hours
Module 4 - Navigation	1 hour 30 minutes
Drill – Navigation Circle	1 hour

DAY TWO

<u>Event</u>	<u>Duration</u>
Search Exercise	3 hours
