

# University of Illinois Fire Service Institute

## Course Syllabus

**Course Title:** Wilderness Search and Rescue Operations and Technician Blended

**Course Duration:** 50 hours

**Program:** Special Operations Training Program

**Course Prerequisites:** Wilderness Search and Rescue Awareness

### Course Description:

The course is designed to train first responders whose responsibilities include searching for missing persons in urban and austere land environments. The Awareness class covered recognition of weather and environmental concerns, appropriate clothing, PPE, and equipment, mitigation of incident hazards, search procedures and tactics, and an introduction to navigation skills.

This class continues with more instruction for the “boots-on-the-ground” first responder in search techniques, tracking, land navigation skills, wilderness skills, and patient packaging. It finishes with a focus on search management skills including lost person behavior, interview techniques, developing preplans, search plans and incident action plans, and managing search resources.

Upon completion of this course, the participant will understand all aspects of missing person search and rescue and be prepared to locate and rescue missing persons. They will be valued members of a SAR team.

The course meets the requirements listed in NFPA 1006 Chapter 11 Wilderness Search and Rescue. The 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: Successful completion of Wilderness Search and Rescue Awareness

Course Work:

- Attend and participate in 100% of the course
- Completion of the final exam with a score of at least 70%
- Completion and pass all practical skill tests administered

Post-Course Work: None

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## 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.

**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: Basic Skills and Navigation

### Terminal Learning Objective:

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

Module: 2

Title: Wilderness Skills

### Terminal Learning Objective:

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

Module: 3

Title: Lost Person Behavior

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## Terminal Learning Objective:

3. At the conclusion of this module, the student will interpret how the book, *Lost Person Behavior*, is used to plan, and conduct a missing person search and how to perform Reflex Tasking.

Module: 4

Title: Tracking

## Terminal Learning Objective:

4. At the conclusion of this module, the student will analyze how the skill of tracking is employed during a wilderness search and rescue incident.

Module: 5

Title: Interview Process

## Terminal Learning Objective:

5. At the conclusion of this module, the student will attain the knowledge and skills necessary to interview persons associated with a wilderness search and rescue incident.

Module: 6

Title: Preplan

## Terminal Learning Objective:

6. At the conclusion of this module, the student will implement the knowledge and skills necessary to create a WSAR preplan.

Module: 7

Title: SAR Resources

## Terminal Learning Objective:

7. At the conclusion of this module, the student will estimate the resources that may be needed at a wilderness search and rescue incident.

Module: 8

Title: Incident Action Plan

## Terminal Learning Objective:

8. At the conclusion of this module, the student will establish how to create and implement an Incident Action Plan for a wilderness search and rescue incident.

Module: 9

Title: Managing a WSAR Incident

## Terminal Learning Objective:

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9. At the conclusion of this module, the student will conceptualize the knowledge and skills necessary to manage a wilderness search and rescue incident.

Module: 10

Title: Medical Management of a Subject

Terminal Learning Objective:

10. At the conclusion of this module, the student will evaluate how to tend to the medical needs of a subject of a wilderness search and rescue incident.

Module: 11

Title: Patient Transport

Terminal Learning Objective:

11. At the conclusion of this module, the student will summarize the knowledge and skills necessary to transport the subject out from a wilderness search and rescue incident.

Module: 12

Title: Search Procedures Review

Terminal Learning Objective

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

## Reference List:

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

*Fundamentals of Search and Rescue*, Second Edition, Jones & Bartlett Learning, LLC, 2019. Available through The National Association For Search And Rescue, [www.nasar.org](http://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

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

## 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.

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*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 Blended – Online Classes

Module 1 – Basic Skills and Navigation  
Module 2 – Wilderness Skills  
Module 3 – Lost Person Behavior  
Module 4 – Tracking  
Module 5 – Interview Process  
Module 6 – Preplan  
Module 7 – SAR Resources  
Module 8 – Incident Action Plan  
Module 9 – Managing a WSAR Incident  
Module 10 – Medical Management of a Subject  
Module 11 – Patient Transport  
Total Duration: 10 hours

### DAY ONE

<u>Event</u>	<u>Duration</u>
Introduction	1 hour
Drill 2A/PEC 1– Choosing Clothing and Equipment	1 hour
Drill 7.1 – SAR Resources	1 hour
Drill 5.1 – Interview Process	2 hours

### DAY TWO

<u>Event</u>	<u>Duration</u>
Drill 2.3 – Navigation Triangle	1 hours
Drill 2.1 – Navigation	2 hours
Drill 10.1 – Subject Care and Transport	2 hours
Drill 1.2 – Purify Water	1 hour
Drill 1.1 – Construct Shelter	1 hour

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## DAY THREE

<u>Event</u>	<u>Duration</u>
Drill 8.1 – Initial Search Plan	2 hours
Drill 9.1 – Planning for First Operational Period	2 hours
<b>Lunch</b>	
Drill 2.2 – Reading Maps	1 hour
Drill 11.2 – Collecting Evidence	2 hours
Drill 4.1 – Tracking	1 hour

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## DAY FOUR

<u>Event</u>	<u>Duration</u>
PECs	4 hours

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## DAY FIVE

<u>Event</u>	<u>Duration</u>
Module 12 – Search Procedures Review	1 hour
Drill 11.1 – Practice Search	3 hours
<b>Lunch</b>	
PECs	4 hours

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## DAY SIX

<u>Event</u>	<u>Duration</u>
PECs	4 hours
<b>Lunch</b>	
Q & A	2 hours
Written exam	2 hours

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