

**SAREX for Wanaka Police and LandSAR Groups  
20-21 May 2011**

**Analyse SAREX Need**

completed

1: Establish SAREX Planning team (See Appendix A for instructions and Appendix C and D for Examples)		✓ <input type="checkbox"/>
Police - SAR Coordinator	XXXX	
2 x Ex LandSAR advisors (30yrs SAR experience each at operational and IMT level)	XXXX XXXX	
2: Identify trends and predictions, response needs and asset assessment (See Appendix B)		<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Trends and predictions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2010-2011 has been our busiest year to date, with a predominance of Backcountry Climbing, Tramping, Cannoying and Hunting accidents (approx 40).</li> <li>• Over the past four years we have had a number of incidences in the Kitchener Cirque, Wilmont Saddle areas involving deaths and injuries.</li> <li>• The incidents here are reflected in other incidents occurring regularly in the Mt Aspiring National Park.</li> <li>• Beacon activations are becoming more prevalent</li> <li>• There has will be a continuation of beacon activations which are driving this increased work load.</li> </ul>		
<p>Response Needs</p> <p>Day/night and all weather capability for a SAR response in and around the National Park is need for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climbing, tramping accidents and rescue.</li> <li>• Sub Alpine searches</li> <li>• Back country first aid administration</li> <li>• Appropriate Beacon 1st response capability</li> </ul>		
<p>Asset Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Pre plan exist for sourcing appropriate response groups for the type of incident.</li> <li>• Helo support with a dedicated SAR helicopters is sufficient in area.</li> <li>• NVG capability machine is available in Te Anau.</li> <li>• Comms and rescue resources complete.</li> </ul>		
3 Summarise need:		<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>The current trend shows an increase in back country users involved in a variety of incidences. There is an increase in Beacon activity in our area. Operations have involved minor soft tissue, serious and fatal injuries occurring with most SAR response activity.</p> <p>There is no indication that this trend will decrease so SAR resources need to be practiced and efficient with responses to a variety of activity.</p>		
4: Specify the purpose of this SAREX:		<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To practice the planning phase of the response to an over due</li> </ul>		



## Design SAREX

		√
10:	Set Key Performance Indicators (KPI's)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<p>I. Incident management team develop a completed search plan the covers the appropriate reflex taskings and fist operational period of the formal search planning period.</p> <p>II. Safety office appointed to monitor any safety breaches involving all aspects of the SAREX.</p> <p>III. Injured patients are located with appropriate medical intervention on site</p> <p>IV. Patient is safely stretcher lowered over steep terrain to evacuation site and evacuated by helicopter</p>	
	<p>Develop exercise scenario</p> <p>A party of 3 trampers plan on spending the long weekend in the Rock of Ages Bivvy in the Kitchener Cirque area. Mt Aspiring National Park. They depart on their own one day trips in and around that area. Expecting to meet up at camp in the evening to discuss their respective adventures. All three fail to turn up and concern is raised via DOC as their Panic Date has been exceeded. Police are advised and SAR response is initiated. This will take the form of a Planning exercise on Friday night and a response phase on Saturday. During the course of the operation, a beacon activation is reported from RCCNZ in the same area. All three lost party members will be located injured and will need treatment and evacuation from various locations.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12:	<p>Evaluate plan against training need</p> <p>Plan covers a range of levels of difficulty and exercises SAR response to meet a variety of needs on the ground. A full scale SAREX with real time patients will be utilised.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13:	<p>Determine exercise controllers, participants and resources required including RNZAF request for helicopter support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 x exercise controller at the ICP</li> <li>2 x monitors to observe exercise ICP and in the field</li> <li>20 local Land and Police SAR participants</li> <li>3 x patients</li> <li>1 x Rescue helicopter</li> <li>1 x St Johns</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14:	<p>Confirm and announce exercise date/time and location</p> <p>Friday 20 Paper Exercise 1730-2030 hrs Saturday Ground operation 0700-1800 hrs</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15:	<p>Develop detailed events Three patients.</p> <p>One injured in fall descending Fastness Peak. Lands on ledge on vertical terrain with broke leg and arm. Unconscious. Requires technical rope rescue response and evac.</p> <p>2nd person found injured descending Wilmont Saddle requiring management and movement to suitable helo evac area.</p> <p>3rd person found in bush above rock of ages Bivvy with broken leg requiring stretcher lowing to location for helo evac.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16:	<p>Develop exercise safety plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All teams to have a safety officer appointed,</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- Comms are to be established and confirmed before any team is deployed in the field.
- Secondary Comms protocol with also be established.
- All teams will have first aid kits and appropriate safety equipment.
- Briefing will emphasise safety first in all decisions and actions during this exercise.
- The I/C will adjust the plan and tasking relevant to the skill set of the staff deployed during the exercise.
- Activity will be monitored by independent Exercise monitors for safety concerns.

17: Develop exercise 'control rules'  
"No Duff" applies.

18: Appoint exercise monitors (local and external) and define their role

Ex LandSAR Advisors x 2	Monitor and record SAR activity at IMT level and field teams. Monitor and intervene if safety breaches occur.
Experienced Police SAR Squad Member	Monitor and record SAR activity at IMT level and field teams. Monitor and intervene if safety breaches occur.

19: Confirm multi agency participation  
As in 9

20: Set up SAREX

**Conduct**

completed



21: SAREX's are run under CIMS, IAMSAR, or other recognized structure.  
CIMS selected as it is a Police / LandSAR SAREX

22: Monitoring systems/real time feedback process in place  
Monitors to have established check sheets and Comms to monitor all SAR activity and record accordingly. SAREX will involve real time Comms.

23: Start the exercise  
Phase one: IMT training and paper exercise 1730 hrs  
Phase two: SAR resource Deployment as planned the previous night.

24: Sustain and control exercise activity  
Controlled by the I/C Police SAR Coordinator

25: Intervention (if required) to keep exercise on track  
Police SAR Coordinator to act as I/C and direct tasking as needed to achieve and test exercise objectives.

**Debrief**

completed



26: Hot debrief immediately after SAREX

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes all personnel/agencies, written or verbal</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preliminary feedback from monitors</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide appropriate exercise closure</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>
27:	Cold Debrief within appropriate time frame: to be carried out at the next monthly LSAR meeting	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key performance indicators are evaluated</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal review and analysis of SAREX systems, performance and processes</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28:	Monitors analysis and findings completed	<input type="checkbox"/>
29:	SAREX report completed	<input type="checkbox"/>
30:	Final report circulated to participants and agencies	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Implement Learning

		completed
		√
31:	Implement report findings into Pre-plans, SOP's and training and development	<input type="checkbox"/>
32:	Ongoing evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/>
33:	Develop 'lessons learned' and distribute as appropriate	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Monitors Report: Comments in Red**  
**SAREX for Wanaka Police and LandSAR Groups**  
**20-21 May 2011**

**Analyse SAREX Need**

completed

1:	Was a SAREX Planning team established:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2:	Were trends and predictions Identify, response needs and asset assessment considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Trends and predictions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Response Needs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Asset Assessment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Was the need summarise correctly from an operational Needs Analysis: <b>Yes</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4:	Was the specific purpose of this SAREX meet:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To practice the planning phase of the response to an over due climbing/tramping party. <b>Yes</b></li> <li>• Locating, treating and evacuating injured persons from a remote but active area of the National park. <b>Yes all three teams evacuated and dealt with patients</b></li> <li>• This is to involve realistic scenarios for our IMT, Alpine Cliff Rescue, Bush and Swift Water Rescue teams. <b>Yes all teams accommodated and utilised respective skill sets</b></li> </ul>	
5:	Were the specific SAREX objectives achieved:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	I. To practice and refresh the planning process for our reflex taskings and initiate our formal search planning. <b>Yes</b>	
	II. To test and practice our current communications capability involving the use of link box and repeater in an operational environment. <b>Yes</b>	
	III. To practice and test the capability of Helicopters operators' ability to locate a training beacon activation activated during the search operation. <b>This did not occur due to time constraints and budget.</b>	
	IV. To practice and test the treatment of an injured climber and trumper in a realistic environment <b>Yes, all teams located and managed patient treatment.</b>	
	V. To practice and test the evacuation of injured patients over steep terrain involving rope rescue skills. <b>Yes</b>	
	To practice real time situational leadership and decision making for team leaders in the field. <b>Yes challenging scenarios and some inter-team personality clashes gave TL a real time management opportunities.</b>	

6:	Select exercise name	Wanaka SAREX 2011	✓
7:	Establish a budget		✓
8:	Obtain lead agency authority	Police authorised	✓
9:	Seek multi agency participation	Emails sent to key agencies plus phone calls Police LandSAR St Johns Rescue helicopter/s DOC <b>All involved except St John who were unavailable for Exercise due to work commitments</b>	✓
<b>Design SAREX</b>			✓
10:	Set Key Performance Indicators (KPI's)		✓
	I.	Incident management team develop a completed search plan the covers the appropriate reflex taskings and fist operational period of the formal search planning period.	
	II.	Safety office appointed to monitor any safety breaches involving all aspects of the SAREX.	
	III.	Injured patients are located with appropriate medical intervention on site	
	IV.	Patient is safely stretcher lowered over steep terrain to evacuation site and evacuated by helicopter	
	<b>KPIs met. I was completed on Friday night II - IV achieved on Saturday</b>		
	Develop exercise scenario A party of 3 trampers plan on spending the long weekend in the Rock of Ages Bivvy in the Kitchener Cirque area. Mt Aspiring National Park. They depart on their own one day trips in and around that area. Expecting to meet up at camp in the evening to discuss their respective adventures. All three fail to turn up and concern is raised via DOC as their Panic Date has been exceeded. Police are advised and SAR response is initiated. This will take the form of a Planning exercise on Friday night and a response phase on Saturday. During the course of the operation, a beacon activation is reported from RCCNZ in the same area. All three lost party members will be located injured and will need treatment and evacuation from various locations. <b>Realistic scenario to accommodate 4 different teams.</b>		✓
12:	Did the plan meet the training need?	Plan covers a range of levels of difficulty and exercises SAR response to meet a variety of needs on the ground. A full scale SAREX with real time patients will be utilised. <b>Yes</b>	✓
13:	Determine exercise controllers, participants and resources required including RNZAF request for helicopter support:	1 x exercise controller at the ICP 2 x monitors to observe exercise ICP and in the field	✓

	20 local Land and Police SAR participants 3 x patients 1 x Rescue helicopter 1 x St Johns	
	<b>Appropriate resources involved</b>	
14:	Confirm and announce exercise date/time and location Friday 20 Paper Exercise 1730-2030 hrs Saturday Ground operation 0700-1800 hrs	✓
15:	Develop detailed events Three patients.  One injured in fall descending Fastness Peak. Lands on ledge on vertical terrain with broke leg and arm. Unconscious. Requires technical rope rescue response and evac.  2nd person found injured descending Wilmot Saddle requiring management and movement to suitable helo evac area.  3rd person found in bush above rock of ages Bivvy with broken leg requiring stretcher lowering to location for helo evacuation.	
	<b>Patient options practised as planned</b>	
16:	Develop exercise safety plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All teams to have a safety officer appointed,</li> <li>Comms are to be established and confirmed before any team is deployed in the field.</li> <li>Secondary Comms protocol with also be established.</li> <li>All teams will have fist aid kits and appropriate safety equipment.</li> <li>Briefing will emphasise safety first in all decisions and actions during this exercise.</li> <li>The I/C will adjust the plan and tasking relevant to the skill set of the staff deployed during the exercise.</li> <li>Activity will be monitored by independent Exercise monitors for safety concerns.</li> </ul> <b>Safety Overview carried out by XXXX due to monitor's unavailability. Nil safety issues raised.</b>	✓
17:	Develop exercise 'control rules' "No Duff" applies.	✓
18:	Appoint exercise monitors (local and external) and define their role	
	Ex LandSAR Advisors x 2 <b>Completed by XXXX</b>	Monitor and record SAR activity at IMT level and field teams. Monitor and intervene if safety breeches occur.
	Experienced Police SAR Squad Member <b>Completed by XXXX</b>	Monitor and record SAR activity at IMT level and field teams. Monitor and intervene if safety breeches occur.
19:	Confirm multi agency participation	

	As in 9	<input type="checkbox"/>
20:	Set up SAREX	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Conduct**

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21:	SAREX's are run under CIMS, IAMSAR, or other recognized structure. CIMS selected as it is a Police / LandSAR SAREX: <b>Yes</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
22:	Monitoring systems/real time feedback process in place Monitors to have established check sheets and Comms to monitor all SAR activity and record accordingly. SAREX will involve real time Comms. <b>Yes</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
23:	Start the exercise Phase one: IMT training and paper exercise 1730 hrs <b>3.5 hrs of Search Management and IMT Training</b> Phase two: SAR resource Deployment as planned the previous night. <b>11 hrs exercise including Debrief</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
24:	Sustain and control exercise activity Controlled by the I/C Police SAR Coordinator <b>XXXX</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
25:	Intervention (if required) to keep exercise on track Police SAR Coordinator to act as I/C and direct tasking as needed to achieve and test exercise objectives.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Debrief**

completed

26:	Hot debrief immediately after SAREX <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes all personnel/agencies, written or verbal</li> <li>Preliminary feedback from monitors</li> <li>Provide appropriate exercise closure</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
27:	Cold Debrief within appropriate time frame: to be carried out at the next monthly LSAR meeting: <b>To be Completed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key performance indicators are evaluated</li> <li>Internal review and analysis of SAREX systems, performance and processes</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
28:	Monitors analysis and findings completed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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**Implement Learning**

completed

31:	Implement report findings into Pre-plans, SOP's and training and development. <b>As appropriate</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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### Summary:

Very realistic exercise and well run. Lots of active and challenging tracking work for the tracking teams in a real time situation. ACR team easily dealt with locating and rescue of injured climber in steep snow and ice environment. SWR team deployed to search the gorge of Kitchener River which took them 5 hours. They missed a single clue left for them to find but given the length of the area to search this was not significant.

Active debrief with all staff and Team leaders contributing made for many learning points for the group. Key one indicated below.

### Lessons learned:

- A digital camera picture of a faint boot print came up significantly clearer and more obvious than could be seen with naked eye.
- Take fresh batteries for the small UHF inter team radios as they don't show Battery life when switched on at base and there were some failures.
- Split larger group numbers to smaller 4-6 man teams for better Team Leader management and control in the field. 6-9 man teams too large for tight bush situations on steepish terrain
- Actively manage new members on the ground. Appoint a permanent buddy if new to role. One new member broke away from Sound line in dense bush and became separated at the time attentions were being paid to the zoning in on the lost party.
- More training to staff unfamiliar with Helo door closing and strict protocols to be enforced for movement around the Helo. Pilot complained of doors being slammed by one or two people and one person on leaving machine moved toward high ground instead of going to ground beside machine as per protocols.
- Problem with switching channels and forgetting to switch back.
- Secondary Comms action and use of SAT phones again very useful for lost comms protocol

Monitor: XXXX NZ LSAR - Wanaka