



# SARINZ

SEARCH AND RESCUE INSTITUTE  
NEW ZEALAND

*Helping others save lives*

## RIVER & FLOOD SAFETY

### ABOUT THIS COURSE

This course is aimed at Search and Rescue responders who are tasked to operate in and around waterways. This one-day course introduces the hazards and the management of risk and a variety of crossing techniques to operate in and around rivers and flood waters. The course content provides the minimum safety requirements for responders to make informed decisions about crossing and to keep them self and their peers safe. The course is a mixture of theory and practical.

The practical session requires participants to enter the water on numerous occasions to demonstrate solo crossing, a variety of team-based river crossing techniques and to demonstrate a survival swim (to simulate being swept off feet/failed crossing). Participants will also be taught the proper use of a throw-bag and improvised throw-bag techniques to quickly recover a person who is in the water and minimise their exposure to risk. This training is provided in the Search and Rescue context by SAR practitioners with a wealth of real-world knowledge and operational experience.

### COURSE OUTCOMES

People credited with these unit standards are able to demonstrate knowledge of environmental considerations relating to rivers and floods, demonstrate a range of crossing techniques and demonstrate safety techniques when working in floodwaters.

By the end of this course participants should be able to;

- Demonstrate knowledge of environmental considerations relating to river crossings and flooding.
- Identify potential medical problems associated with river crossings and flood waters and their treatments.
- Develop an understanding of river hydrology features.
- Describe hazards associated with rivers and flood waters.
- Demonstrate a survival swim.
- Demonstrate a shallow river crossing.
- Demonstrate a range of team-based crossing methods.
- Use a throw bag use to rescue a swimmer.

The course contains requires participants to work together in small syndicates to undertake a range of exercises and simulated scenarios.

### STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

All persons who successful complete all aspects of the course will gain the following NZQA Unit Standards:

- 427 Cross Rivers, Level 3, 2 Credits.
- 22298 Protect personal safety and the safety of others at flood incidents, Level 2, 2 Credits.

### TRAINING PROGRAMME

The River and Flood Safety course is a one-day training event which can be delivered on its own or in conjunction with other training requirements.

#### Workshop:

Consists of the practical component of the course which is usually delivered over one day with approximate timings of 0830 until 1700. Note that due to practical assessment requirements and participant's prior knowledge the completion time is variable.

### ENTRY CRITERIA / COST

- You will ideally be able to swim and/or not have a fear of being immersed in water.
- You must have a degree of fitness which allows you to operate on uneven off-track terrain such as river banks.
- SAR responders (LandSAR, Surf Life Saving, Coastguard and Police SAR) who meet all of the nominated criteria are eligible for 'fee-free' training. [Check here for more details.](#)
- Minimum numbers apply.

### WHAT TO BRING

- Pen/Pencil.
- Your NZQA, NSI or NSN number (if known).
- Suitable ID. [Check here for more details.](#)
- Outdoor clothing and equipment as per any "standard" SAR operation. Must include boots/footwear in which you would normally be operating in a back country environment. A standard back country pack with at least 10kg of fill/equipment for undertaking a pack float.
- A full recommended list will be included in the course Joining Instructions.



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