



FUNDAMENTALS OF SEARCH AND RESCUE (FunSAR™) COURSE

Oklahoma City, OK * APR 15-17 & APR 29-MAY 01, 2011

Heard about this “search and rescue stuff” but don’t know what it’s about? Have you joined a search team but you’re looking for a solid footing in SAR basics? Jim Keck could be the guy to help you out. An Instructor authorized by the National Association for Search & Rescue (NASAR™), Jim is offering the Fundamentals of Search and Rescue (FunSAR) course in Oklahoma City, OK on the weekends of April 08-10 & April 29-May 01, 2011. You must attend both weekends.

FunSAR is a nationally recognized, 47-hour curriculum designed to give newcomers to search and rescue (SAR) the academic and rudimentary field (backcountry) skills as well as practical experience to function as a novice wilderness/rural searcher. Combining classroom and backcountry training, it is an intensive, all-weather course that includes a simulated SAR mission for those who are interested in learning more about participation in SAR.

Topics in FunSAR include:

- Personal survival/safety
- Choosing personal SAR equipment
- Environmental hazards & first aid issues
- Land navigation/map & compass
- Philosophy of search
- Search tactics
- “Clue consciousness”
- Incident Command System (ICS) & Introduction to Search Management
- Tracking basics
- Familiarization with ropes and rope equipment

FunSAR is a tested training program that has been updated to address the latest changes in the practice. The course was developed & is updated by a committee of active, volunteer and paid SAR participants from many of the most professional wilderness SAR providers, including the National Park Service and the U.S. Army National Guard. Additionally, FunSAR is listed in the (DHS) NIMS education criteria for compliance with the SAR (operator) requirements. NASAR provides a detailed description and syllabus of this course at <http://www.nasar.org/nasar/course.php?id=2>.

FunSAR’s curriculum has now been tailored to prepare students to successfully challenge the NASAR™ SARTECH II™ written and practical test. SARTECH is a certification that participants have the minimum written and practical skills to function in a given search job. It was developed in much the same way as FunSAR. Organizations that have members participating in SARTECH include the National Park Service, U. S. Forest Service, Georgia Parks and Historic Sites and the U.S. Army Special Forces. The SARTECH II exam is to certify persons serving as a ground search crewmembers. This is one of the certifications proposed to be required by NIMS for credentialing as a SAR operator. More information about SARTECH is available at <http://www.nasar.org/nasar/course.php?id=15>.

Early enrollment in this FunSAR course is important. There are a limited number of openings and, based on past experience, the course is expected to fill. Enrollment can be made via this website. If you are approved for ACOG UASI tuition payment, it covers the cost of the textbook, course materials, student registration and snacks during the classroom portions of the course. NASAR will award a certificate of completion to those who successfully complete the class. This is a “certificate course” in which the Instructor, not NASAR, is hosting the course and is responsible for ensuring that registrations and course completions are recorded with NASAR.

Upon registration, you will be mailed an information package that includes a class schedule, directions to the class location, information on local food and lodging and a list of required supplies. Students should expect to arrive in the classroom by 1830 of each Friday night. Lodging will not be required for the final Saturday night since it will be spent “in the field.”

FunSAR is an intensive, physically demanding course that includes an overnight exercise in which participants will spend the night in emergency shelters that they have improvised in the forest. You must pass a written test as well as several practical exercises involving “hands-on” skills before you receive a certificate of completion of the course. Students will be expected to bring with them at least a minimal level of physical fitness for outdoor activities as well as appropriate clothing for conditions. While Spring/early Summer temperatures in Central Oklahoma are usually moderate, they can vary widely in short periods of time. We conduct the exercises regardless of the weather conditions. You will be required to bring, at least, the items on a modest list of equipment.

INSTRUCTOR: Jim Keck is the Team Leader for the Shawnee/Pottawatomie County Emergency Management Search and Rescue Team and has participated in many searches throughout Oklahoma. Previously Jim was a member of the Carroll County Emergency Management Team responsible for SAR, and other responses. Jim has also served as a member of the Civil Air Patrol and worked in Emergency Medical Service for 10 years at various levels of EMT. Jim has worked as an Environmental, Health, & Safety (EHS) officer for several major corporations and was the head of Emergency Response Teams (ERT). These ERTs are “all-hazard” responders. Jim is authorized by NASAR to teach Introduction to Search and Rescue (ISAR) and Fundamentals of Search and Rescue (FUNSAR). Jim is also an Evaluator for the SARTECH II and III certification examinations. He is a distinguished graduate of ISAR, FUNSAR, Advanced Search and Rescue (ADSAR), and the Managing the Lost Person Incident (MLPI) courses. An avid outdoorsman, Jim enjoys rock climbing, ice climbing, scuba diving, caving, kayaking, backpacking, and everything related to SAR.

Are YOU Ready for the FUNSAR challenge?

Contact: Jim Keck

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