



FUNDAMENTALS OF SEARCH AND RESCUE (FunSAR™) COURSE

Oklahoma City, OK * JUNE 10-12 & 24-26, 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? Bob James could be the guy to help you out. An Instructor authorized by the National Association for Search & Rescue (NASAR™), Bob is offering the Fundamentals of Search and Rescue (FunSAR) course in Oklahoma City, OK on the weekends of June 10-12 & 24-26, 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 the OK/DHS website and requires COUASI approval. If approved, COUASI 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 an ACOG/COUASI in which ACOG is hosting the course and the Instructor 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 Summer temperatures in Central Oklahoma are usually warm, 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: Bob James is a SAR TECH II currently serving as a Field Training Officer for the Search One Rescue Team in Dallas, TX. There he is responsible for training new team members the skills necessary to perform ground search operations as Mission Ready Flankers in support of K9 air scent, cadaver, and trailing teams in urban, wilderness and light disaster environments. As a former U.S. MARINE CORPS infantry officer, Bob is further able to share his military field experience with students to broaden their knowledge and skills in survival, navigation, and wilderness travel.

Bob is a certified NASAR Instructor for both the Introduction to Search and Rescue (ISAR) and Fundamentals of Search and Rescue (FUNSAR) courses. He is also a SAR TECH II Evaluator for the SAR TECH II and SAR TECH III certification exams.

Bob retired four years ago as the Chief Human Resources Officer for a fortune 100 company but continues to provide management consulting services on a part-time basis in the areas of management development, leadership and executive coaching. In addition to his search/rescue and consulting activities, Bob serves on the Board of Directors for the Sulentic Family Foundation and is a member of the Texas Advisory Board for Canine Companions for Independence (CCI).

Are YOU Ready for the FUNSAR challenge?

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