

Land Search and Rescue Wellington Induction Process

Aim: The Land Search and Rescue Wellington Induction Process describes the steps to take from the initial approach to join Land Search and Rescue Wellington through to them becoming a member.

Objectives

1. Give volunteers information on what is involved with LSARW
2. Assess competencies of potential field team members
3. Ensure new field team members have basic skills to contribute to a field team

Skills volunteers need to demonstrate before they become LSARW members

- Above average level of fitness
- Appropriate bushcraft skills – gear, camp craft, shelter, food
- Navigation skills – including compass and map reading, orient map, on-track and off-track navigation, move on a bearing, location awareness
- People skills, team player

Assessment Process for potential field team members

1. Contact from applicant wishing to join SAR
2. Email a Land Search and Rescue Wellington Membership Application together with members Info Booklet. Note to applicant that a Police check will be requested (police discretion on membership).
3. Assess Membership Application, if suitable invite to attend Induction weekend. Provide info on Induction weekend outlining requirements (come equipped for 48 hrs in bush).
4. Induction Exercise¹

Purpose of the induction exercise is to ensure volunteers can join a field team (not IMT, urban or support who should in general be staffed from ex-field team or those unable to go in the bush)².

¹ Assessment criteria based on MSC Bushcraft manual

² See Annex A, Outline of the Wellington Land Search and Rescue Induction Exercise

- A Assess kit and if they can use it
- B Assess Navigation skills, assess cooking one hot meal at least, camping, fitness, team work
- C Introduce potential field team members to search methods – sound light line, containment, purposeful wandering, TCA basics, VHF radio
- D Explain about LSARW, how call out works, what to expect on a search, provide feedback, advise an invitation to join will be in the mail.
- E Assess fitness on the standard test: With overnight packs, containing the recommended gear list, potential field members must demonstrate they can walk from the intersection of the Orongorongo Track and McKerrow Tracks to turn off point at GR 645226 (approx 1km horizontal distance and 300m vertical climb) in less than 55 minutes.

5. Post-Induction Course

Submit request for police check. Send a letter from Training Sub-Committee inviting volunteer to attend evening training sessions. Committee to accept the applicant into LSARW, at which time the applicant becomes a FULL member of LANDSAR NZ.

6. Acknowledgment letter to applicant (with ID card) stating they are a full member of LANDSAR NZ, they are on call out list. Explain the benefits of membership, eg insurance, discounts etc, and obligations of membership, to attend further SAR related training eg search methods, TCA, first aid.

Points to Note

After the Induction exercise, volunteers will become eligible to be LANDSAR members, subject to a Police Check. Once Committee have approved their application, they then become members of LANDSAR. They will then be issued with an ID card, SOPs etc.

Prior to Induction, training will not be open to applicants except unless special circumstances require it. This includes evening and weekend training as well as formal courses such as SARINZ courses.

Annexes

The following annexes support this process document.

- A. Outline of the Wellington Land Search and Rescue Induction Exercise
- B. WLSAR Membership Application form, and
Members Information booklet
- C. WLSAR Induction Exercise Pack
 - Induction Exercise Programme
 - Equipment List
 - Navigation Exercise (theory)
 - Navigation Exercise (theory) Answers
 - Navigation Exercise map
 - Purposeful Wandering Intro notes
 - Sound Light / Line Intro Notes
 - TCA Intro Notes
 - Assessment Record Sheets