



# New Zealand Search and Rescue

## A Summary of SAREX Common Themes

A regional SAREX and its evaluation provides feedback for further ongoing development. The publication of evaluation reports is designed to allow wider dissemination and sharing of information and lessons. While each evaluation contains exercise-specific feedback, there are a number of common threads that are summarised below.

<p>General</p>	<p>SAREX's provide a valuable opportunity for Police and local agency personnel to exercise alongside each other. They are valued and appreciated by the participants.</p> <p>Multi-agency SAREX's provide an opportunity for personnel to work alongside each other in an exercise setting.</p> <p>Fully integrate safety management into all phases of an exercise.</p> <p>Use CIMS terminology and processes. CIMS training for all IMT personnel is integral for management. IMT staff can take up training and role play opportunities as and when available between exercises.</p> <p>Develop regional pre-plans for different scenarios, and include available resources and call-out capabilities and procedures.</p> <p>Use the T Card system for signing in and out of the incident.</p> <p>Prepare communication plans that include black spots, repeater options, cell phone coverage, channel names and numbers, and available radio supplies.</p>
<p>ICP</p>	<p>Where possible, use a venue for the Incident Control Point (ICP) that would also be used in an operation.</p> <p>Consider establishing fixed ICP venue(s) as appropriate.</p>
<p>IMT</p>	<p>Use a mix of experienced and new personnel, and/or have an experienced person(s) as an advisor.</p> <p>Ensure the Incident Controller keeps focus on management and not on operations function.</p> <p>Include non-police personnel as CIMS function managers where there is appropriate expertise.</p>

	<p>Ensure all IMT personnel wear relevant coloured and labelled vests/arm bands to identify functions and roles in accordance with CIMS.</p> <p>Schedule management meetings (short) at regular times during an operational period – possible hourly, depending on the pace of the incident.</p> <p>Locate the Communications cell separate to the rest of the IMT to avoid noise distractions.</p> <p>Make information visible – e.g. through whiteboards – and keep this update, in particular the IAP and timeline.</p>
<p>Land SAREX</p>	<p>Use realistic and well set-up scenarios, as these work well and get ‘buy-in’ from participants.</p> <p>Check the compatibility of Police search dogs to work with SAR search dogs in advance of an exercise. Police search dogs potentially have an aggressiveness that may mean they are not always compatible to work with SAR search dogs.</p>
<p>Rogaine SAREX</p>	<p>Use Rogaines for field team assessment, and not for training. Feedback from the Rogaine can be used to tailor group training during the year as required.</p> <p>Include a total shut down period (e.g. midnight to 4am) and a forced rest period (e.g. 6 hours) to help with driver safety in particular.</p> <p>Use stations of comparable time, and consider their placement (e.g. in a circle) and accessibility at night.</p>
<p>Marine SAREX</p>	<p>These SAREX’s often highlight issues relating to communication, particularly when a variety of assets are utilised.</p> <p>Use RCCNZ to produce a search area determination for the exercise, as it would happen in an operation.</p> <p>Develop standard tasking forms.</p>

Avalanche SAREX	<p>Incorporate contingencies to manage the impact of weather, especially for transport and on-site communication where whiteout can occur.</p> <p>Avalanche rescue is time-critical. Exercises provide the opportunity for team members to undertake regular training in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transceiver searching with specific focus on deeper burials</li><li>• Digging, including V shaped Conveyor Belt approach</li><li>• Probing, to pinpoint the victim and formal Probe-lines</li><li>• Patient care, including hypothermic victims and the latest international guidelines</li><li>• Use of dogs</li><li>• Use of marker flags</li><li>• RECCO searching.</li></ul> <p>Prepare all team members for unexpected situations and ensure they are self-sufficient. They should all be carrying:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overnight gear, including shelter, food and extra clothing</li><li>• Communication devices</li><li>• Medical kits</li><li>• Equipment to 'walk out' in, including maps/compass, crampons, ice axe, rope (short), slings, carabiners etc.</li></ul> <p>Ensure all teams arrive at a training or real event with adequate medical equipment to attend injured parties and transport them from site, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rescue stretchers (collapsible, rigid or soft)</li><li>• Additional weather protection for the patient including sleeping bags, blankets, mats, bivi bags, face shields etc.</li><li>• Shelter - a tent or bothy bag</li><li>• A comprehensive First Aid kit including cold injury treatment.</li></ul>
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