

NEW ZEALAND
**SEARCH
AND
RESCUE**

Rapu Whakarauora Aotearoa

New Zealand
Search and
Rescue Council

annual report 2023-2024



Our work in 2023-24

What we achieve

See page 5

152 Lives saved



↑ up 9% from 2022-23

794 People rescued



↑ up 7% from 2022-23

921 People assisted

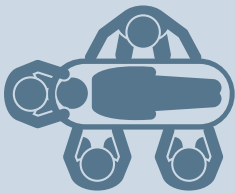


↓ down 18% from 2022-23

Search and rescue incidents

See page 6

3,535 SAR incidents



↑ up 2% from 2022-23

↓ **2,215** Category I incidents coordinated by Police
down 1% from 2022-23

↑ **1,320** Category II incidents coordinated by the Maritime NZ Rescue Coordination Centre
up 6% from 2023-23

Our people

See page 24

11,376 People involved



↑ 3% from 2022-23



6,767
Water



3,601
Land



592
Air



416
Coordination and support

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Throughout this report, search and rescue is abbreviated to SAR



Image from the NZSAR distress beacons digital marketing campaign.

From the Chair



Audrey Sonerson
Chair, New Zealand Search
and Rescue Council

Tenā koutou katoa

Every year, Police and the Maritime New Zealand Rescue Coordination Centre oversee thousands of search and rescue incidents where it is believed someone is at risk.

This year, 152 lives were saved in search and rescue operations. This was only possible through the commitment, skills and dedication of the 11,336 people who make up our search and rescue sector. For some it is their career, but for most it is something to be fitted in around day jobs and family time.

Our search and rescue region spans 30 million square kilometres, and our people need to be trained and ready for a wide range of possible scenarios. This could be anything from a missing fishing boat in the Pacific Ocean, day walkers lost in a regional park, an overdue kayaker to a missing aircraft in the Southern Alps.

On behalf of the New Zealand Search and Rescue Council, I would like to thank everyone involved in search and rescue. They freely give up their time to take part in search and rescue operations, training, joint exercises and meetings. I also acknowledge their families, employers and communities who make this possible.

New Zealand can be confident that our sector is ready to respond when they are called upon, and that they will do an excellent job. It's a privilege to be a part of our search and rescue community, and I trust you will enjoy reading more of our work in the following pages.

Ngā mihi nui,
Audrey

New Zealand Search and Rescue Council as at 30 June 2024



Audrey Sonerson (Chair)
Chief Executive
Ministry of Transport



Andrew Coster
Commissioner
New Zealand Police



Keith Manch
Chief Executive
Civil Aviation Authority



Kirstie Hewlett
Director
Maritime New Zealand



Penny Nelson
Director General
Department of Conservation



Air Marshal Tony Davies
Chief of Defence Force
New Zealand Defence Force



Kerry Gregory
Chief Executive
Fire and Emergency
New Zealand



Giuliana Petronelli
Independent
Council Member

What we achieve

These numbers represent the positive difference made by the people and organisations who make up our sector.



152
lives saved

Where, if SAR agencies had not intervened, lives would definitely have been lost.



77
lives saved
in water
incidents



70
lives saved
in land
incidents



5
lives saved
in air
incidents



794
people rescued

Where SAR agencies locate and rescue people at risk, and return them to a safe location.



921
people assisted

Where SAR agencies aid people at low risk but who, if left, would be at risk.



896
people self assisted

Where people are at risk, but get themselves to a safe location without needing assistance from SAR agencies.

2,853 people at risk this year

At the start of each SAR incident, it is assumed that there is a person or people at risk, who need help from SAR services. Sometimes we discover that people were not at risk after all. This includes accidental distress beacon activations, possible flare sightings and unclear trip intentions.

Sadly, a number of people perish before SAR agencies are notified, or despite our best efforts to rescue them. There were 90 fatalities in 2023-24.

Search and rescue incidents

This year, New Zealand's search and rescue sector responded to 3,535 incidents.

SAR incident: Whenever a Coordinating Authority is aware of a situation that may require a response by the SAR sector

2,215 Category I incidents coordinated by Police

1,320 Category II incidents coordinated by the Maritime NZ Rescue Coordination Centre



Land incidents

↑ up 3 percent from 2022-23

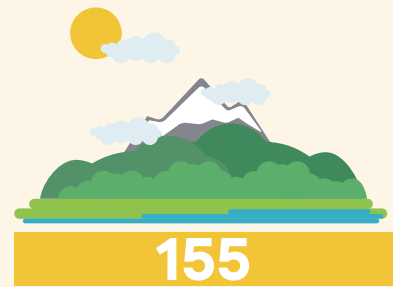
1,060



Water incidents

↑ up 2 percent from 2022-23

653



Air incidents

↓ down 13 percent from 2022-23

20

resulted in a SAR operation being undertaken

854

593

135

did not progress beyond communications or initial investigations

6

17

0

were an unresolved alert with no SAR action required

1

14

0

where New Zealand supplied support and resources to other SAR regions

There were 200 SAR incidents where the environment could not be determined.



Members of Turangi Land Search and Rescue sweeping the Tongariro Alpine Crossing, Easter 2024.
 Courtesy Guido Paseri

Frontline safety and prevention

Frontline safety and prevention services are the wide range of services and activities, not coordinated by either Maritime NZ or the Police, that support people to stay safe or render non-search and rescue assistance.

The following are some examples of frontline safety and prevention services from this year.

1,921

distress calls received by the Maritime Operations Centre

55,194

trip reports on the Coastguard app

1,696

avalanche advisories issued during winter 2023

92

locations patrolled by surf lifeguards

3,210

WanderSearch devices issued to people with cognitive impairment

142,000+

distress beacons registered in New Zealand

4,052

hours of prevention work done by Land Search and Rescue volunteers

242,299

patrol hours by surf lifeguards

36

Medical Advice to Mariner enquiries made via the Maritime Operations Centre

Where we do it

Outside 12 nautical miles, or where the location is unknown (373)



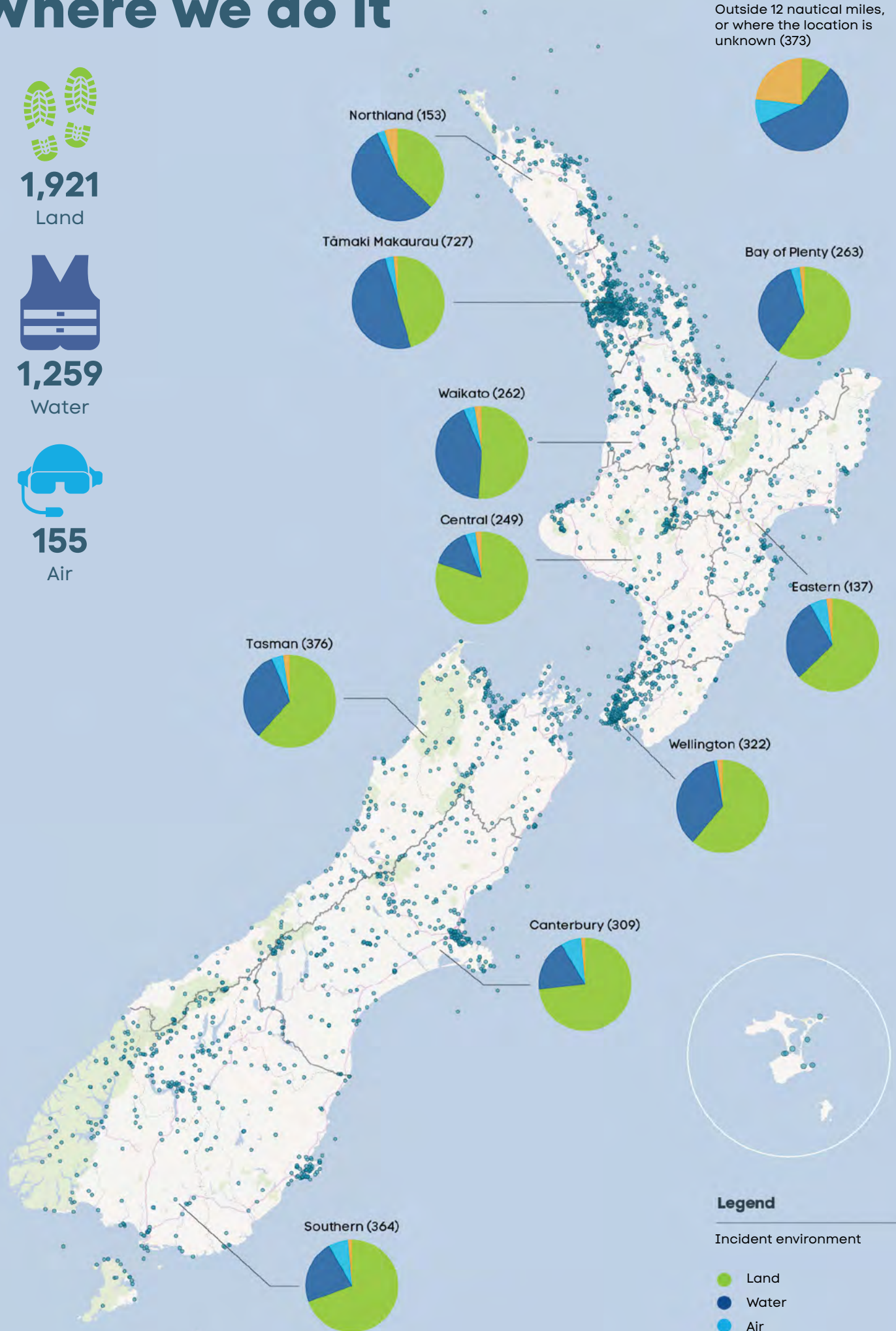
1,921
Land



1,259
Water



155
Air



Legend

Incident environment

- Land
- Water
- Air
- Not determined (200)



The operations room at the Maritime NZ Rescue Coordination Centre.

Our search and rescue region

New Zealand's search and rescue region is one of the largest in the world, covering over 30 million square kilometres.

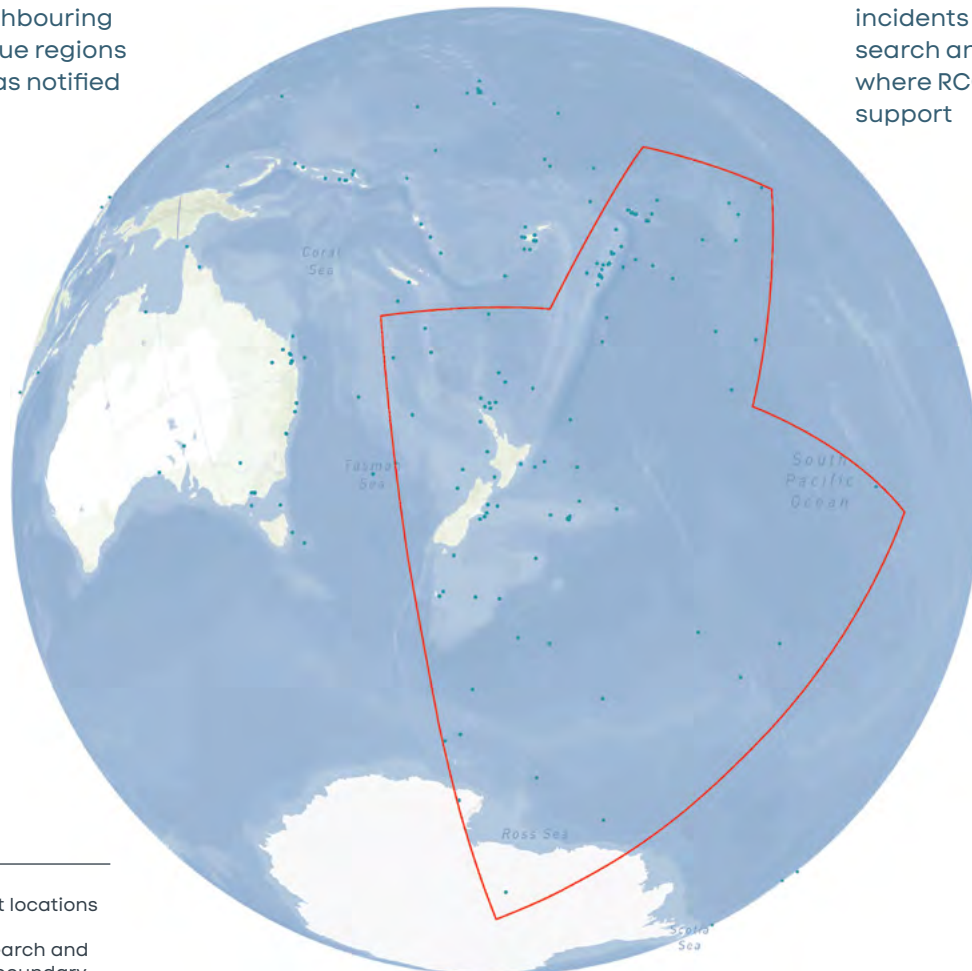
The Maritime New Zealand Rescue Coordination Centre (RCCNZ), based in Lower Hutt, works closely with our neighbouring search and rescue regions: Australia, Fiji, New Caledonia, Chile, French Polynesia, the Cook Islands and United States.

204

incidents in neighbouring search and rescue regions where RCCNZ was notified

16

incidents in neighbouring search and rescue regions where RCCNZ provided support

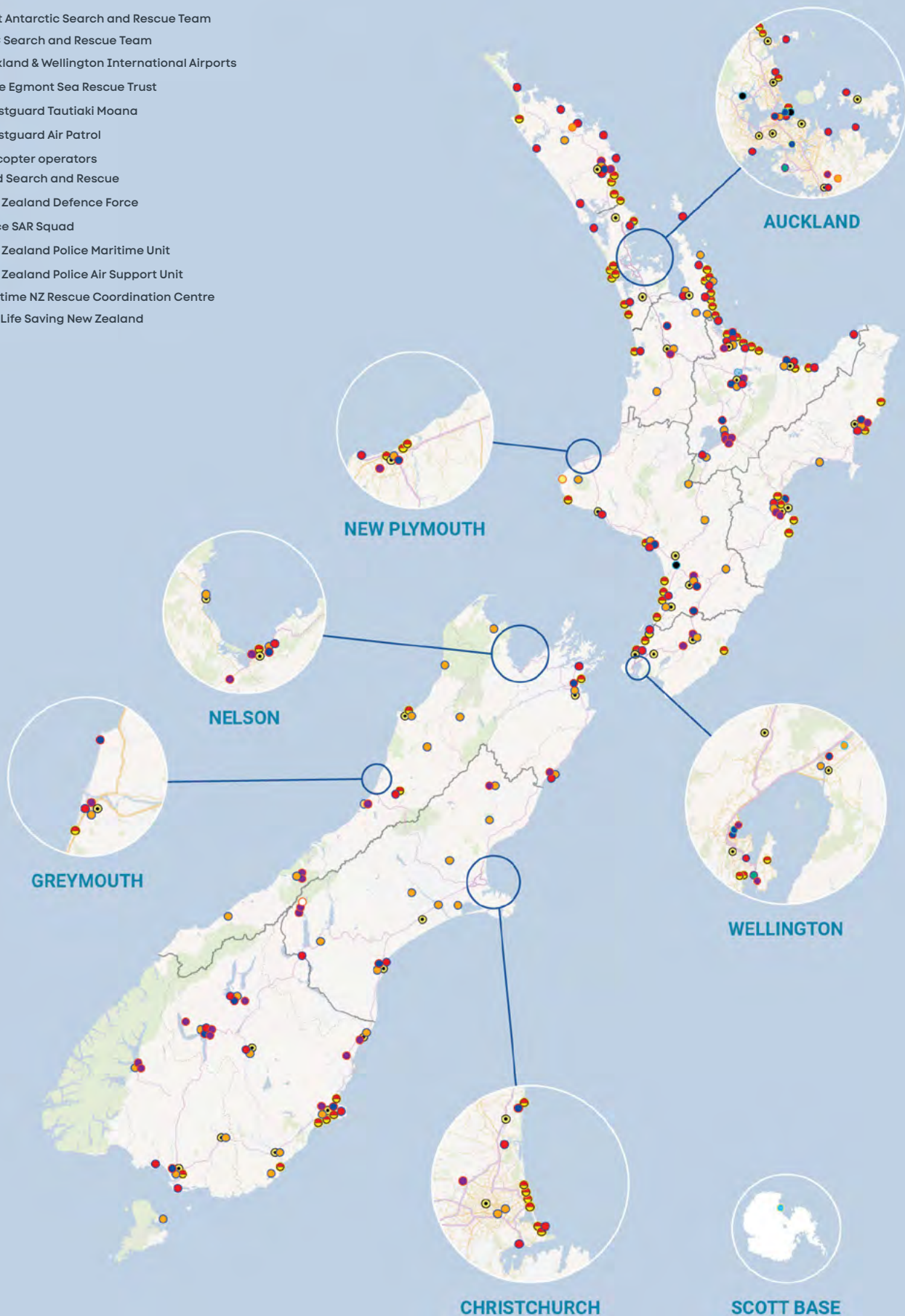


Legend

- 2023/24 incident locations
- △ New Zealand Search and Rescue Region boundary

Where we are

- Amateur Radio Emergency Communications
- Joint Antarctic Search and Rescue Team
- DOC Search and Rescue Team
- Auckland & Wellington International Airports
- Cape Egmont Sea Rescue Trust
- Coastguard Tautiaki Moana
- Coastguard Air Patrol
- Helicopter operators
- Land Search and Rescue
- New Zealand Defence Force
- Police SAR Squad
- New Zealand Police Maritime Unit
- New Zealand Police Air Support Unit
- Maritime NZ Rescue Coordination Centre
- Surf Life Saving New Zealand



How we work together

The search and rescue sector is part of a broader system which includes recreational safety, and frontline safety and prevention services.

The table below outlines how the recreational safety, frontline safety and prevention services, and search and rescue sectors work together to help keep people safe in the outdoors.

Possible level of intervention		
Recreational safety	Frontline safety and prevention	Search and rescue
<p>Advice, methods and measures intended to equip people with the appropriate skills, knowledge and understanding so they can safely recreate outdoors.</p>	<p>Services and activities that support people to stay safe, or render non-SAR assistance whilst they recreate outdoors.</p>	<p>Operations to locate and retrieve people who are lost, missing or injured. Coordinated by Police or the Maritime NZ Rescue Coordination Centre (RCCNZ).</p>
<p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water education programmes run by Drowning Prevention Auckland. Marine forecasts provided by Metservice. A suggested gear list for an overnight hike on the Department of Conservation website. 	<p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mountain Safety Council Avalanche Advisory service Surf lifeguards patrolling beaches Coastguard volunteers towing or refuelling boats Land Search and Rescue volunteers issuing WanderSearch pendants for people with cognitive impairment. 	<p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police coordinating a search for an overdue trail runner in a regional park RCCNZ coordinating a search for a yacht in the Pacific Ocean that has activated a distress beacon RCCNZ coordinating a SAR operation for a missing aircraft, with Police as the on-scene coordinator.

Funding for frontline safety and prevention services, and severe weather events

In May this year, the Government announced additional funding of \$63.644 million over four years for Coastguard Tautiaki Moana and Surf Life Saving New Zealand, as part of the 2024 Government Budget. The funding, which began on 1 July 2024, is for the delivery of frontline safety and prevention services.

The Budget also included \$23.142 million over four years for Severe Weather Response, Readiness, Resilience and Recovery. The funding will be used for training, personal protective equipment, and regional equipment caches for Surf Life Saving New Zealand, Land Search and Rescue and Amateur Radio Emergency Communications. Surf Life Saving New Zealand and Coastguard will receive assistance to replace assets that were destroyed or damaged in the 2023 North Island Severe Weather Events.



Prime Minister Christopher Luxon, Minister for Transport Simeon Brown, and Associate Minister for Transport Matt Doocey with Coastguard volunteers at a funding announcement event in Howick, Auckland.

Research provides valuable insights

The NZSAR Secretariat's research programme generates vital data and insights that will be applied to our technology, prevention and volunteer support workstreams.

Land Based Recreation Quarterly Survey

Starting in March 2023, around 750 New Zealanders were surveyed every quarter about their land-based recreation activities. The survey dates were aligned with the seasons, providing a baseline for participation, attitudes and behaviours at different times of the year.

The first full years' data was released earlier this year and showed that in each of the four seasons, more than half of all New Zealanders carried out at least one land-based recreational activity. Day hiking (33 percent), off-road driving (21 percent), mountain biking and land-based fishing (18 percent respectively) were the most popular activities.

The survey revealed that mountain bikers, hikers, foragers and trail runners were the most at-risk groups across the year. They go into the outdoors regularly, often go alone, and carry fewer emergency supplies than people who do other outdoor recreation activities.



Two types of emergency communication devices.



59%

of trail runners went alone



5%

of day hikers took an emergency communication device other than their phone



96%

of overnight hikers checked the weather before leaving home



90%

of foragers were familiar with their destination



48%

of outdoor rock climbers regularly relied on others to plan their trip



5%

of survey respondents had encountered a treacherous river crossing

Knowledge, Perceptions and Expectations of SAR Survey

Following on from similar research in 2022, the latest iteration of this survey was conducted in May 2024. The responses of over 1000 New Zealanders, weighted to match New Zealand’s demographics, provide a snapshot which helps to guide our public-facing communications and SAR prevention messaging.

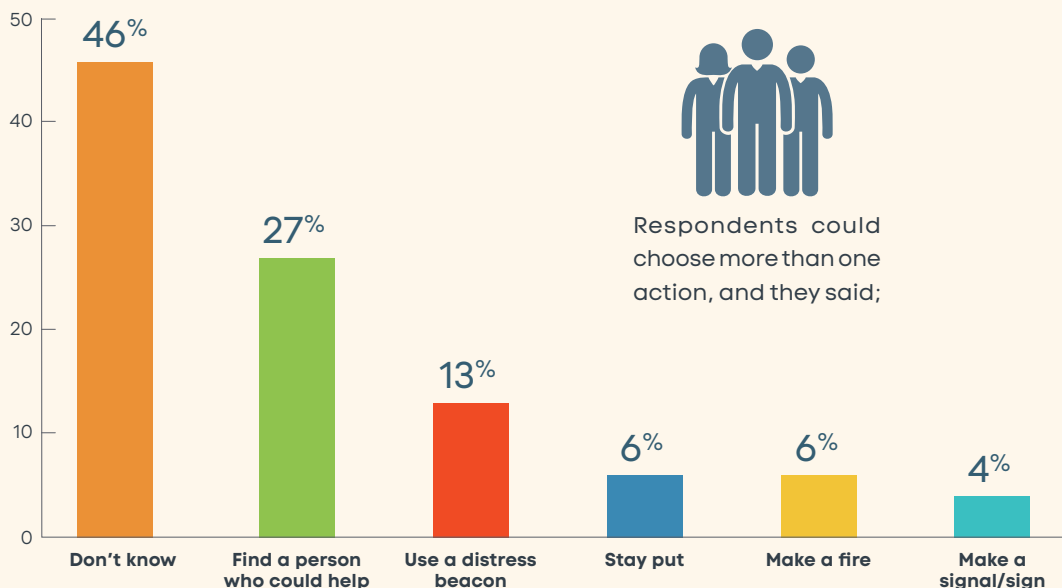
Around half of New Zealanders expect to be found and rescued within three hours of authorities being informed. Between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024, data shows that just

over 60 percent of all SAR operations were resolved within three hours.

The survey also asked about carrying distress beacons. Around three quarters of New Zealanders know what a beacon is, but only a quarter take a beacon on their trips.

Respondents were also asked what to do in an emergency if they couldn’t use their phone. Nearly half were unsure how they would get help in that situation.

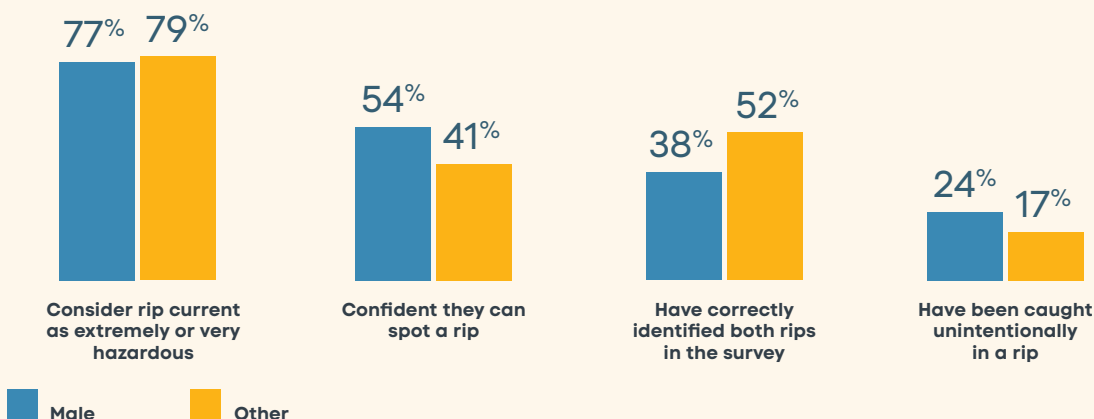
We asked what actions you would take if you needed to get help in an emergency if you couldn’t use your phone.



National Coastal and Water Safety Survey

The survey is a joint initiative between the NZSAR Secretariat, Water Safety NZ and Surf Life Saving New Zealand, and was run for the fourth time in 2024. The research asks about participation in coastal and river activities, swimming ability, and attitudes to hazards in the water.

Rip currents are considered the greatest hazard at a surf beach. The survey shows that young males are the key demographic for targeting rip safety messaging. They have high levels of confidence in their ability to identify a rip, but when tested during the survey, they scored lower than other groups.



Our sector's carbon footprint

The overall amount of carbon emitted by the search and rescue sector has increased, but so has the number of search and rescue incidents.

Earlier this year, the NZSAR Secretariat commissioned a study of carbon emissions from SAR and frontline safety and prevention services for the year ending 30 June 2023.

Between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023, the SAR sector is estimated to have emitted 5,445 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂-e). This is an increase of 789 tCO₂-e (17 percent) compared to the year prior.

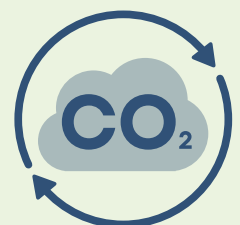
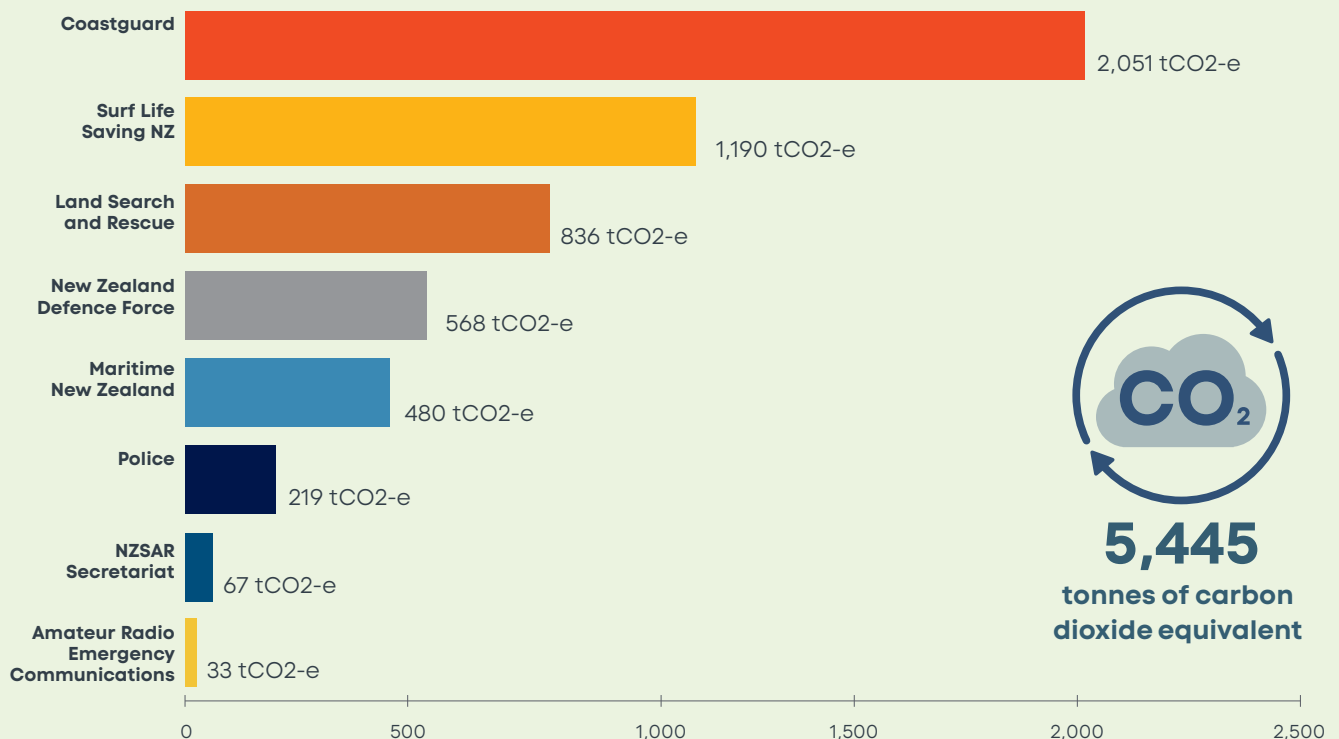
SAR incidents were up 20 percent over the same period, including the unprecedented sector response to severe weather events such as the Auckland Floods in January 2023 and Cyclone Gabrielle in February 2023. During Cyclone Gabrielle alone, three months' worth of SAR operations involving helicopters were conducted in three days.

Outside of operational activities, the sector is considering ways to reduce carbon emissions. Strategies include using videoconferencing to reduce travel, and utilising hybrid or lower-emission petrol vehicles for staff travel where possible.



Coastguard, Surf Life Saving and Land Search and Rescue assets during Cyclone Gabrielle. Courtesy Coastguard Hawke's Bay

Estimated carbon emissions by agency for the year ending 30 June 2023



5,445
tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent

Maritime NZ, Police and the NZ Defence Force are required to report their carbon emissions through the Carbon Neutral Government Programme (CNGP). The information reported here does not add to, or double up on, the information these organisations have reported to the CNGP. The figures depicted here are a representative view of carbon emissions across the SAR sector, and are subject to rounding.

Our Te Ao Māori journey

The search and rescue sector is increasingly incorporating a Māori worldview into organisational culture, identity and initiatives.

The journey acknowledges the importance of improved relationships with iwi, and the benefits that Te Ao Māori can bring to the sector and the communities we serve. A number of Kaihautū Māori (Māori advisers) have been engaged by sector organisations to provide cultural guidance and lead new initiatives. Some examples from across the sector illustrate the progress on this journey.



Members of the Land Safety Forum at Apumoana marae. Courtesy DOC

Coastguard Tautiaki Moana

Tautiaki Moana is the ingoa Māori (name) gifted to Coastguard in 2021 by Te Arawa iwi.

The name Coastguard Tautiaki Moana was publicly launched with the new organisational identity in April 2024.

Respect for Te Ao Māori is a pillar of Te Anga Whakamua, Coastguard's Māori and Pasifika strategy. This year, eight Coastguard women undertook kaikaranga (ceremonial welcome caller) training to support their Kaihautū Māori on official occasions. The training, taught by karanga experts from Ōwhata Marae in Rotorua, began with a noho marae (overnight stay) in May, continued with fortnightly online sessions, and concluded with a final noho marae and two pōwhiri (ceremonial welcomes) where the graduates put their training into practice.

Land Search and Rescue Rapa Taiwhenua

A special karakia (incantation) for the organisation was composed by Matua Miru Mclean (Ngai Tūhoe, Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Tāwhaki) in 2023. Land Search and Rescue personnel can say the karakia before deploying to the field and when concluding operations to assist with closure. As part of the Taonga Tuku Iho cultural competency framework, weekly kōrero (discussions) have been recorded for all staff and volunteers to benefit from.

NZSAR Secretariat

The inaugural Kaihautū Leaders and Chief Executives Hui was held in November 2023 in Wellington. Organised by the NZSAR Secretariat Kaihautū, this event was the first time that leaders of SAR agencies, recreational safety organisations and iwi had come together in one place to discuss the key issues in this space. The hui focused on whakawhanaungatanga (relationship building) and sharing of mātauranga (knowledge).

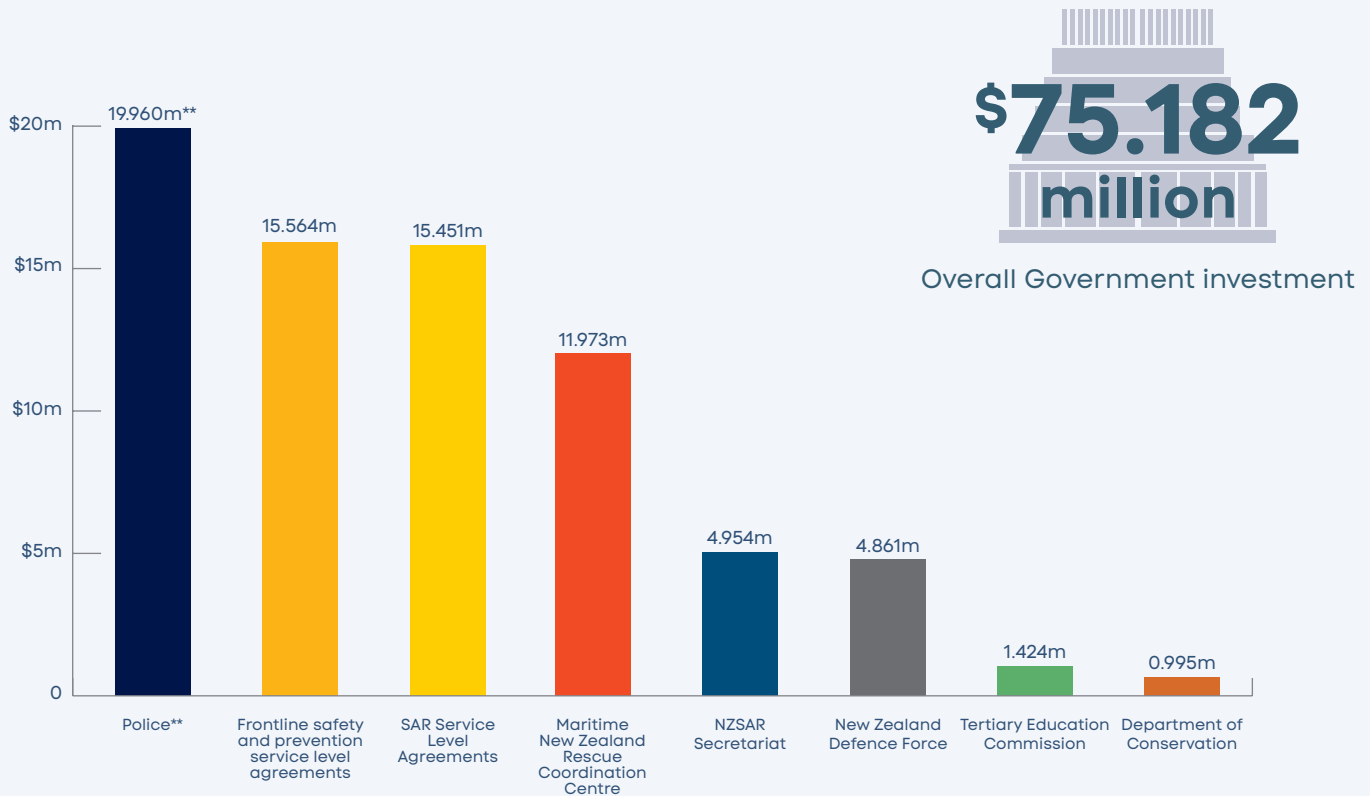
Land Safety Forum

In February 2024, the Land Safety Forum hui involved a noho marae at the Apumoana Marae in Rotorua. Members attended online wānanga (training sessions) prior to the noho marae to practice speaking in te reo Māori and learn more about the tikanga (normal protocols) and kawa (formal marae customs) of the Apumoana Marae.

The noho marae provided the opportunity to learn more about tikanga and kawa as well as provide a space to network, share information and deepen relationships in a more informal setting. The stay also included a site visit to Hot Water Beach on the shore of Lake Tarawera to look at how hazards are communicated in a popular recreation area.

How our work is funded

This year, the Government invested over \$75 million into search and rescue and frontline safety and prevention.



All figures subject to audit

** The costings provided are known operational costs of SAR to Police, and are unaudited. This is not a financial report and does not reflect total spend of Police on SAR related matters. This includes Vote Police and Fuel Excise Duty funding.

Total cost

This year, we have included the Government investment in frontline safety and prevention services.

The total cost of SAR to the Government varies each year, as operational costs can change depending on the number, length and type of SAR operations. The costs captured here include Government investment not administered by the NZSAR Council.

This does not reflect the full cost of SAR and frontline safety and prevention services, as it is difficult for some organisations to accurately capture this number.

How the sector is funded

Fuel Excise Duty paid by recreational boat owners funds the NZSAR Secretariat, the SAR Service Level Agreements, two Memorandums of Understanding and around 67 percent of the Maritime NZ Rescue Coordination Centre's costs.

Other sources of funding for the sector include:

- Lottery Grants Board Te Puna Tahua
- Government Budget
- Community grants
- Donations and bequests
- Fundraising and partnerships.



The Life Flight helicopter conducting over-water winch training.

Sector investment pays dividends

This year, the Government invested over \$33 million, through the NZSAR Council, to ensure the financial sustainability of New Zealand's search and rescue capability and frontline safety and prevention services.

Surf Life Saving New Zealand \$12.330m

The Government's investment has ensured that beach patrols around the New Zealand coast can continue, as well as funding for training courses, the annual SAR Summit and replacement equipment for SAR Squads.

The National Digital Radio Network has been upgraded, allowing clubs to connect with the centralised SurfCom system. As a result, there is greater oversight of operations and the ability for more resources to be deployed when needed. The bespoke Patrol app has been updated with new functionality for the reporting of incidents and activating peer support when needed.

Funding has also been allocated for upgrades to surf club buildings, ensuring they remain fit for purpose in the future.

SAR Squads have become more diverse over time, reflecting the range of experience in incident management, leadership, search techniques and boat handling within the organisation.



A SurfCom radio operator.

Department of Conservation \$0.995m

The Department of Conservation Search and Rescue team have continued to provide a specialist search capability based at Aoraki/Mount Cook. The team also provide frontline safety services including sharing local route information on social media and running the daily radio schedule for huts within the Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park

They have taken part in cross-sector training sessions with the Air Force, Land Search and Rescue specialist alpine teams, and local helicopter providers. They have also acquired new water rescue equipment, enabling them to assist with rescues on the glacial lakes and rivers within the national park.

The DOC-led Land Safety Forum meets three times a year and has developed a culture where information is freely shared and organisations can learn from each other. Several sub-groups have been established including data and insights, safety signage, and behaviour change. The forum also assisted with the inaugural Kaihautū Leaders and Chief Executives Hui, focusing on key issues, challenges and opportunities for iwi and hapū engagement with the sector.



Members of the DOC SAR team.

Coastguard Tautiaki Moana \$10.867m

Government investment has ensured units have funding for training programmes, safety systems and ongoing compliance costs. Funds have also been made available for the repairs and ongoing maintenance of rescue vessels, base buildings and support equipment.

There has also been support for salaries of key staff, including a new procurement manager who has developed a national strategy for purchasing new buildings, rescue vessels and personal protective equipment. A new fundraising team has been established to maximise community funding opportunities including large-scale gifting, Coastguard memberships, lotteries and regular donation programmes.

Coastguard is also running several frontline safety and prevention initiatives, including the Old4New lifejacket replacement programme, bar crossing courses, and targeted support to under-served communities.



The Coastguard Dunedin rescue vessel.

NZ Mountain Safety Council \$0.419m

Government investment supports the New Zealand Avalanche Advisory, which provides avalanche forecasting through a network of local experts.

Condition reports, avalanche observations and safety messages were delivered across a range of social media channels, with high levels of engagement from the public. A series of videos were created, utilising case studies from members of New Zealand's alpine community, which performed especially well on social media. Mainstream media also reported regularly on avalanche alerts, near-miss stories and warnings.

Public avalanche advisory danger signs across the country were audited and repaired or replaced as required.



*Cracks indicating an avalanche hazard.
Courtesy MSC*

Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (AREC) \$1.394m

AREC have continued to focus on ensuring the long-term growth of their organisation. A new strategic roadmap and operating model is now being embedded within the organisation.

Recruitment has been a big focus for the year, with AREC leaders engaging with members of amateur radio clubs. Recruitment material including brochures and the website have been modernised, and several public outreach events have been held with promising results.

Induction processes for new members have also been improved, as have the online training resources for existing members. Better rostering and reporting software is ensuring that volunteer time is captured more accurately.



*AREC members in the field.
Courtesy Matchil du Plessis*

Land Search and Rescue \$5.630m

A new structure within Land Search and Rescue has resulted in better support to frontline volunteer groups. A peer support programme has been established to ensure the wellbeing of volunteers, and the LeadSAR professional development programme has continued.

A Kaihautū Māori role has been established, which is focused on developing deeper relationships with iwi across New Zealand. A new karakia that is unique to Land Search and Rescue has been composed, and staff and volunteers have undertaken cultural capability training.

Support for the Safer Walking programme continues, with several workshops and training events being run for the volunteers who operate the WanderSearch system. Stakeholder reference group meetings are held twice a year and help ensure that the system remains fit for purpose, supporting people with a cognitive impairment who may be at risk of going missing.



Land Search and Rescue volunteers

Police \$1.126m

Ongoing Government investment funds the salaries for 10 District SAR Assistant Coordinators and one Team Leader. These civilian roles support the Police SAR Coordinators and District SAR teams with administration, logistics and training. This has resulted in an uplift in Police engagement with SAR partners, better understanding of the skills and resources available in each district and strengthened relationships across the sector.

Police have also improved their rostering system for SAR team training, streamlined their SAR team selection process and implemented a new fatigue management system to ensure staff safety.



Some of the Police District SAR Assistant Coordinators with team leader David Grace

Youth Search and Rescue \$0.375m

Government investment has resulted in new staff roles being created at Youth Search and Rescue (YSAR), enabling the organisation to implement its planned growth strategy. Several new branches have been opened across New Zealand, ensuring that more young people aged 14 to 18 have an opportunity to receive SAR training.

Online learning packages have been developed for YSAR, ensuring that young people living in remote areas can still access training. Additional funding has also been made available to support in-person training events.



Members of YSAR during drone training.



Land Search and Rescue volunteers and Police during Cyclone Gabrielle. Courtesy NZ Defence Force.

Held in high esteem

Search and rescue ranks second in national reputation survey

In May, research agency Verian announced the results of its 2024 Public Sector Reputation Index survey. New Zealand Search and Rescue was included for the first time, ranking second overall behind Fire and Emergency New Zealand.

The online survey asked 3,541 New Zealanders to rate 58 public service agencies on 16 different attributes under the pillars of trust, social responsibility, leadership, and fairness.

The sample was weighted by age, gender, region, ethnicity and education to match New Zealand's population.

"This ranking reflects the high level of trust and confidence that New Zealanders have in our search and rescue system, and the over 11,300 people who make up our search and rescue sector – 88 percent of whom are volunteers," said Duncan Ferner, NZSAR Secretariat Director.

What our advocates say about our sector

"They do an amazing job, especially as they are mainly volunteers, sometimes risking their own lives to save others."

"They are an important part of our society and are always just a phone call away to jump to the rescue."

"They provide valuable service to everyone in New Zealand. This is an essential service."



An incident management team in action. Courtesy Jen Murray

A chance to sharpen their skills

The Eastern District search and rescue exercise, held in November 2023, included a few twists that encouraged teams to think outside the box.



"The SAR exercise provided volunteers from across the region the chance to work together to resolve a tricky situation in challenging terrain. While there were plenty of things to work on, that's the reason we train regularly; to keep our skills as sharp as possible, and ensure our junior people get the chance to learn and develop."
– Senior Constable Andy Walker

The scenario was a 'lost party' of three individuals, including a visitor from Australia, had failed to return from a fishing trip to the Tukituki River in the eastern Ruahine Range. More than 40 volunteers from Land Search and Rescue Hawke's Bay deployed to the search area, which was a mixture of farmland and native bush, with rivers meandering through open flats and big gullies. Experienced mentors were assigned to each of the teams, providing the opportunity for junior members to train under the support of senior members who could provide hints and tips when necessary.

Before long, a field team found a discarded container of Alzheimer's medications from one of the missing people. The incident management team quickly realised the significance of the find, and asked Police to search their files for a Safer Walking profile for the person. This revealed he wore a WanderSearch pendant, which is a small device for people with cognitive impairments which can be tracked with a specialised radio receiver.

"We really wanted to exercise the WanderSearch equipment and procedures in a non-urban environment," says Senior Constable Andy Walker, exercise organiser. "The field team tasked to scan the area was able to get a faint signal from about two kilometres away. Within about 500 metres, they had a pretty good fix on the pendant's location, down in a narrow section of river."

Although they soon found the discarded pendant, thunderstorms prior to the exercise had damaged the pre-laid footprints and other signs. This made for a challenging track for the field teams. The rainfall had raised river levels, prompting suggestions to ask for water-based search assets.

"We often work with the Surf Life Saving NZ Hawke's Bay SAR Squad, and sometimes the local jetboat club," says Andy. "But they were unavailable on the day, so field teams searched the river corridor a safe distance from the water."

Volunteers from Amateur Radio Emergency Communications were

tasked to set up the repeaters, which provided valuable practice as well as validating regional readiness plans. "We conduct our district SAR exercise in different areas each year, so volunteers get to know the lay of the land, plus we know where repeaters work and where they don't."

These repeaters reached back more than 70 kilometres to the incident management team, who were in the Coastguard Hawke's Bay base in Napier. "That is the main incident control point for Category I SAR operations in the region," says Andy. "It is well set up and we have a great relationship with the Coastguard team." The incident management Team were kept on their toes by the media, as Andy organised reporters from both the local radio station and newspaper to ask several questions as the exercise progressed.

Preparing for a major incident

Exercise Whakarauora Tangata was designed to prepare our sector for a nationally significant search and rescue incident.



In January 2023, the Interislander ferry *Kaitaki* lost power and began drifting towards Wellington's South Coast with over 800 people on board. Had *Kaitaki* not regained limited power and made it back to port safely, this may have become a nationally significant SAR incident.

Exercise Whakarauora Tangata was designed to ensure New Zealand is prepared for an incident such as a Cook Strait ferry grounding. Run by the NZSAR Secretariat, the exercise series focused on identifying and evaluating policies, procedures, capabilities and capacity across the SAR sector.

Over the last 12 months, a series of exercises were run in the Bay of Plenty, Eastern, Wellington and Southern Police districts. While the underlying scenario remained the same, aspects of each exercise were changed to match the local area and the resources available.

The scenario was based on a fictional boutique cruise ship which experienced an incident requiring the evacuation of all passengers and crew. Several foreign nationals were on board the cruise ship, and one passenger was creating videos of the evacuation and posting them on social media.

By the numbers

- 1** Maritime NZ Rescue Coordination Centre exercise
- 1** Lead agency workshop
- 3** Functional search and rescue exercises
- 4** District-level incident management team exercises
- 44+** Agencies involved
- 393** Scenario injects
- 1500+** Person-days invested

Above and opposite page: The scenario being played out in Te Anau, during the Southern District exercise.



Some exercises were run as tabletops for the incident management team. Others were tactical exercises that took place in the field, giving SAR people a valuable opportunity to test their skills in a complex, fast-moving scenario.

In addition to the core SAR sector agencies, numerous central Government and local Government agencies took part, including Customs, Ministry for Primary Industries, MBIE, Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora, and local emergency management groups. Together, they used the exercise series to test their planning and processes that would be utilised during a nationally significant SAR incident.

During both tabletop and practical exercises, special attention was paid to the reconciliation process, where rescued people are formally accounted for, and cared for, once they have reached a place of safety.

The evaluation of the exercise revealed that at a tactical level, SAR units are capable in their roles. However, more work is needed to ensure that groups and individuals working at the operational and strategic level have a sound understanding of how a nationally significant SAR operation might be run.

Duncan Ferner, NZSAR Secretariat Director, said the exercise series successfully met its objectives. "Exercise Whakarauora Tangata provided a realistic and complex simulation to test inter-agency cooperation and coordination. We've demonstrated our strengths and identified opportunities to improve our higher-level procedures. New Zealand is now better prepared to respond to a nationally significant SAR incident because of this work."



Video news bulletins were used during the exercise series.



The exercise name 'Whakarauora Tangata' is an amalgamation of three words. Whaka gives mana to the word it is combined with, rauora means rescue and tangata means people. Together, Whakarauora Tangata means 'the rescue of people'.

Our people

This year has seen a slight increase in the number of people involved in search and rescue in New Zealand. The majority are volunteers who freely give their time and expertise to help people in need.



6,767

Water



3,601

Land



592

Air



416

Coordination and support

11,376 people involved • 12% paid • 88% unpaid volunteers

Each search and rescue incident is coordinated by either Police or the Maritime New Zealand Rescue Coordination Centre. We asked two of their staff how they got involved in search and rescue.



Constable Emma Petch is a member of the Waikato Police SAR Team

I'd always known that I wanted to be directly involved in helping my community. My husband began applying for the Police, and as I learned more about

the job, it became clear that it was a career that suited my desire to get stuck in and involved.

At school, I took an outdoor education class, which got me into adventures in the outdoors. It was a logical progression to pair that interest with policing to make search and rescue part of my career! Soon after joining the Police, I also volunteered for Land Search and Rescue to learn a bit more and get some first-hand experience. As a volunteer, I went on some interesting operations, plus spent time alongside Police SAR Team members. This confirmed my goal of joining the Waikato Police SAR Team.

One thing that strikes me about search and rescue is the quality of the people involved and the dedication they show. I just love turning up to a job where I know everyone, and they are all so motivated to be there.

But at the end of the day, the most important thing for me is the opportunity to bring someone home to their family. Whatever the outcome, helping the family get their loved one back is what motivates me to do the best I can in the role.



Alex Taylor is a Search and Rescue Officer at the Maritime New Zealand Rescue Coordination Centre

SAR has been a significant part of my life for the past decade. I joined the Kariakotahi Surf Life Saving Club in 2014 and

the club became my home away from home. I owe a lot of my personal development to the people and the experiences I had as a volunteer surf lifeguard and SAR Squad member. I also volunteered for the Coastguard Auckland Air Patrol, becoming an in-flight coordinator and eventually the unit training officer.

I knew there were very few full-time paid roles in the SAR sector, so when an opening at the Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand came up in 2022, I couldn't let the opportunity pass by. I was accepted into the training course and moved to the Kāpiti Coast for the role. Now as a qualified Search and Rescue Officer, I really enjoy the wide range of talented and interesting people I get to work with.

Activities like hunting, fishing and trail running are a big part of my life. I'm a strong advocate for people challenging themselves outdoors and I'm grateful that I get to help those people when things don't go to plan.

Supporting our volunteers

Volunteers make up 88 percent of the people involved in search and rescue in New Zealand. We are deeply grateful for the service and commitment of our volunteers, plus their whānau, communities and employers who enable them to do this important work.

Sourced from the 2024 Volunteer Engagement Survey and SAR agency demographic data.

38%

are female

61%

are male

33

average age of female volunteers

44

average age of male volunteers

82%

of volunteers are European

11%

of volunteers are Māori



4%

from the Rainbow communities

7%

from other ethnic groups

61%

felt their volunteer hours were sustainable

71%

said they were very likely to continue volunteering

32%

said getting time off work to volunteer was a barrier

36%

volunteered for more than one organisation

The NZSAR Secretariat continues to work closely with the volunteer managers from each of the non-government SAR organisations to ensure volunteers are well supported. Biennial surveys help take the temperature of volunteer engagement across the sector, and identify reasons why volunteers stay, and why they leave.

Celebrating and promoting diversity, equity and inclusivity has been a strong focus area this year. We want all volunteers

to be comfortable bringing their whole selves to their volunteer work and feel valued for their skills and expertise.

Interest in joining the SAR sector remains strong, with 3,560 visitors to the 'Join SAR' page on our website this year.

Behind each volunteer stands supportive friends, whānau, communities and employers. Without such support from the community, our sector simply could not do what it does so well.

Meet our SAR people

The highly trained and dedicated people that make up New Zealand's search and rescue sector come from all walks of life. We asked a few of them about their search and rescue journey so far.



Tara Coe is the Head of Life Saving Operations and SAR Squad member at Kariaotahi Surf Life Saving Club.

I'm a fourth-generation surf lifeguard here at Kariaotahi. My Great Grandfather was a surf lifeguard with the former Waiuku Surf Club, and my Poppa was a founding member of the Kariaotahi Club, so I guess you can say surf lifesaving is in my blood.

As well as responding on the water to SAR incidents locally, I am one of the Surf Life Saving New Zealand National Duty Officers who helps provide big-picture coordination and support when there's a job on anywhere in the country. I help find additional resources, and ensure there's post-incident support to all those involved.

Over the years, my SAR experience has helped me develop a sense of calm when something serious is unfolding. In situations where others might feel panic, it's satisfying to be able to calmly make sense of a problem, understand what is needed and know how to deliver it.

The coast out here is wild and often intimidating, but we love it and want others to be able to enjoy it safely too. Reuniting families with their loved ones is a great feeling, but there's also the sense of community amongst the surf lifeguards to rally round and support each other, whatever the outcome of the operation.



Bee Fradis is a CaveSAR specialist team member and Vice-Chair of Golden Bay Land Search and Rescue.

I grew up in New York City and found my passion as an outdoor instructor in New Hampshire. I fell in love with New Zealand when I came here to develop my instructing skill set with courses at the Outdoor Pursuits Centre near Tūrangi.

I was drawn into the caving world, and soon joined CaveSAR. In caving, it's likely that when we get called for a rescue it will be for one of our peers, so it felt important to support our tight-knit community. When I became pregnant, I wanted to keep helping, so I transitioned to the CaveSAR incident management team. Altogether I've been involved in CaveSAR for over a decade.

Last winter I joined the incident management team of my local Land Search and Rescue group in Golden Bay. I was doing the courses and exercises with the above-ground volunteers, so it made sense to become a member of their team too.

It's a privilege to be in Land Search and Rescue's Inclusivity Advisory Group. We know that we do a better job overall with a broad range of people and skill sets, and create a more sustainable organisation. It's fantastic being involved in something that ensures we are welcoming to all volunteers.



George Loomes is the Supervisor of the Department of Conservation Search and Rescue team.

I left the family farm out of high school and moved to Christchurch. Realising I wasn't fond of city life, I found myself shifting to Franz Josef where I became a glacier guide. My personal climbing and skiing developed whilst working at Franz, and I began on the pathway to become a guide. Meanwhile I began volunteering for Land Search and Rescue, enjoying the technical rescue training and operations.

For eight years I had a parallel career in rope access, mainly in offshore oil and gas, which complemented spending time climbing and skiing. When the pandemic hit, I couldn't travel overseas for work, so I found myself doing some industrial rope access back home. When a seasonal role with the Department of Conservation at Aoraki came up I jumped at it. The role was a great opportunity that indulged my passions for SAR and alpinism. I progressed within the team to become supervisor.

Having a job that centres around risk management and visitor safety is what gets me up in the morning. The best part of the role that I get to operate in a high functioning team. It is extremely satisfying to experience a flow-state where everyone works in sync to get people home in a high-risk environment.



Sergeant Emma Porritt is an Air Loadmaster on the C-130 Hercules aircraft at No.40 Squadron, Royal New Zealand Air Force.

After high school, I knew I wanted to do something adventurous, with hands-on learning of more practical skills. I'd had an interest in the military, and an organised visit to the Whenuapai air base showed me the Air Force was the choice for me.

After six years as a Medic, I re-trained as an Air Loadmaster. During the transition from the P-3K2 Orion to the P-8A Poseidon, there was a period of about six months where the Hercules crews at 40 Squadron provided the fixed-wing SAR capability for the Defence Force.

My first SAR operation was a memorable one! We provided overwatch and communication relays as two large vessels helped rescue a solo sailor from a stricken yacht. The seas were huge, with seven-metre waves frequently obscuring the yacht from the other vessels. From 500 feet above the ocean, my job was to provide imagery of the yacht to the Maritime NZ Rescue Coordination Centre and be ready to deploy a life-raft or other survival gear if things got worse.

I love the challenge of SAR operations. We need to respond quickly, adapt to difficult and changing circumstances and use our skills within a wider team to help save someone's life. It's deeply rewarding, especially when we're able to come away with a successful outcome.



Hunter MacDade is a volunteer for Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Otago Branch.

Both my parents are in the Police, so quite a few Police SAR Team members were family friends, who shared lots of stories about search and rescue.

I've long been interested in electronics and radios, which led to a job as a radio technician. I'm often in Fiordland for work, being helicoptered up to radio installations in the alpine zone that need maintenance or urgent repairs.

About two years ago, I went along to the Dunedin Amateur Radio Club to get involved. Another big interest of mine is getting into the outdoors, so when a club member told me about Amateur Radio Emergency Communications, it seemed like the perfect way to combine all my interests!

My first major call out was a search for an overdue fisherman along a river. There were multiple search teams on the banks, surf lifeguards on the water and a helicopter overhead. It was an eye-opener of the importance of good comms during a dynamic and time-critical response.

Being part of the 'SAR family' is one of my favourite parts of the role. Everyone is super welcoming, and it's fantastic to be a part of all the multi-agency relationships, where we are all working together to save people's lives.

There's nothing better than putting those skills and teamwork together to go and help someone when they need it the most.



Emily Bykar is a crew member at Coastguard Maketu.

I've been living near the ocean in Tauranga since I was 12. A love for the sea led me to study Marine Biology at Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology and Waikato University. Coastguard piqued my interest to help others, and I first thought being a crew member was a career opportunity, but I quickly learned that it's a bunch of dedicated volunteers out on the water. Once my studies were over and I'd settled into a job, I joined my local unit and began to learn the ropes.

Although I'd spent a lot of time on the water, there was still lots to master. It's great learning to drive the jetboat, operate the radios, use the radar and thermal imaging technology, knowing those skills are going to benefit others and help our community.

One of the best parts about being involved in SAR is the supportive, tight-knit team environment. The guys at Coastguard Maketu are always willing to share their knowledge, their experience, and are quick to share a laugh or two. We all know that we've got each other's back.

There's nothing better than putting those skills and teamwork together to go and help someone when they need it the most.

Training together

Government investment funded over 130 search and rescue training courses this year.

This year, more than 1500 people attended 133 SAR sector training courses funded by the Tertiary Education Commission. Overall, 74 percent of planned courses were delivered across 31 different syllabi.

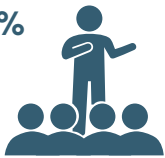
About a third of the courses funded were multi-agency. These courses, run by Land Search and Rescue Training, are in addition to the in-house training run by the various SAR organisations. They are open to SAR people from across the sector, which strengthens our culture of collective training and learning from each other.

Participant feedback

Every year, the NZSAR Secretariat commissions an independent survey to gather feedback from course participants. The figures below relate to courses in the 2023 calendar year.

We asked participants to rate various aspects of the training courses.

98%



rated their tutors' knowledge as excellent or good

97%



said assessments were fair

92%



had confidence they could use their new skills in a SAR operation

90%



of respondents rated the courses as excellent or good overall

"The course was excellent. The instructors were passionate and knowledgeable about the topic."

"The courses I've attended were run very professionally. I rate them very highly."



Volunteers and staff from Surf Life Saving NZ, Coastguard, Police and Land Search and Rescue at Exercise Waka Ama, a multi-agency marine SAR exercise held in November 2023. The exercise ran over two days at multiple locations across the Waikato region. Courtesy Police

Fostering standardisation in alpine rescue

The 2024 Alpine Search and Rescue Workshop provided the opportunity for individuals and agencies to build relationships, improve interoperability and promote standardisation.

The workshop was designed and delivered by the Department of Conservation Search and Rescue Team (DOC SAR), with administrative support from the Land Safety Forum and funding from the NZSAR Council. This full-day event in Wānaka drew representatives from the full scope of the sector, including governance agencies, coordinating authorities, helicopter operators and front-line responders.

“It is rare to have a complete cross-section of the alpine SAR community,” says Scotty Barrier, one of the workshop organisers. “The greatest benefit of the day was the discussions and relationships fostered between all levels of the sector.”

Also attending were the President and Technical Commission President of the International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations and a delegate from the Australian Mountain Safety Collective, allowing our alpine SAR community to directly engage with overseas experts.

The workshop provided the opportunity to see and discuss new equipment, rescue techniques, technologies and

approaches to alpine SAR operations. Discussions during the day helped identify solutions for improved cross-sector processes in tasking and operational support. The excellent representation from front-line responders gave the opportunity for DOC SAR to demonstrate international best-practices, as well as encourage improved standardisation of operational techniques here in Aotearoa New Zealand.



170



53

More than 170 people, representing 53 organisations, attended the workshop.



Live rescue simulations demonstrated new techniques and procedures. Courtesy DOC





Honouring exceptional achievements

On Tuesday 21 May 2024, the Hon Matt Doocey, Associate Minister for Transport presented the 2023 New Zealand Search and Rescue Awards in the Grand Hall of Parliament.

These Awards are presented annually in recognition of dedicated service and outstanding achievements within New Zealand’s search and rescue region.

“It’s people who are the beating heart of the search and rescue sector,” said Minister Doocey. “Nearly 90 percent of the people in the sector are volunteers. They go out day or night to help those in need, and I’d like to acknowledge the family, friends and employers who make that possible.”

Forty nominations were received for 2023, with two Gold Awards and ten Certificates of Achievement being awarded at this year’s ceremony.

Congratulation to all the Award recipients!



Gold Award
OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY

Hawke’s Bay Surf Life Saving NZ SAR Squad

For the rescue of over 200 people from Esk Valley and Pakowhai during Cyclone Gabrielle on 14 February 2023.

The squad conducted rescues in a maze of buildings, trees, fences and debris for nearly five hours in the Esk Valley. After being redeployed to Pakowhai, where the Ngaruroro River had burst its banks, they continued with difficult rescue operations well into the evening. Many squad members were personally impacted by the cyclone, but they dropped everything to rescue others in need, clearly going above and beyond for their community.



Gold Award
SUPPORT ACTIVITY

Senior Constable Conrad Smith

For his service and commitment to search and rescue and the Ruapehu Emergency Services Charitable Trust.

Senior Constable Conrad Smith has been an active member of New Zealand’s search and rescue community for 18 years, from field team member to incident controller and chairperson of the Ruapehu Emergency Services Charitable Trust. His legacy includes the development of the Central Plateau Emergency Management Facility, a five-year project requiring nearly \$1.2 million in fundraising.



Certificate of Achievement

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY

Northland Land Search and Rescue
Northland Police SAR Squad
Fire and Emergency New Zealand
Ti Hiku Specialist Water Rescue Team
Fire and Emergency New Zealand
Urban Search and Rescue Team
Fire and Emergency New Zealand
Whangārei Fire Station and support staff
Northland Plumbing and Gas

For the search for a missing teenager in Abbey Caves on 9 May 2023.

Wakatipu Land Search and Rescue – Alpine Cliff Rescue

For the rescue of two climbers from The Remarkables between 1-2 July 2023.

Rakaia Land Search and Rescue
South Canterbury Land Search and Rescue
Murray Bowden and Buck

For the rescue of a missing trampler from Little Mount Peel / Huatekerekere between 26-27 December 2023.

The crew of the *Amaltal Apollo*
The crew of the *Moana Chief*
No. 40 Squadron Royal New Zealand Air Force

For the rescue of a solo sailor 50 nautical miles from Cape Kidnappers / Te Kauwae-a-Māui between 29-30 March 2023.

Northland Rescue Helicopters

For the rescue of a sailor 100 nautical miles from Kerikeri on 12 May 2023.



Certificate of Achievement

SUPPORT ACTIVITY

Martin Balch

For his service and commitment to search and rescue in Otago.

Graeme Irvine

For his service and commitment to search and rescue in Otago.

Rob Carpenter

For his service and commitment to search and rescue and Coastguard Marlborough.

Jonathan Walmisley MBE

For his service and commitment to search and rescue and Coastguard Wānaka Lakes.

Phil Harman

For his service and commitment to search and rescue and Surf Life Saving in Hawke's Bay.



Our strategic direction 2021-24

Outcome

NZSAR will ensure New Zealand provides effective search and rescue services for people in distress throughout New Zealand's search and rescue region in order to save lives.

Vision

A cohesive community of capable people in sustainable organisations, finding and rescuing people in distress, operating collaboratively within a robust search and rescue system.

NZSAR Council goals



A robust and integrated SAR system. We seek a collective, cross sector culture of being 'one SAR body' within an integrated SAR system. Our policies, processes, procedures and documentation will be coherent, aligned and support effective, efficient and safe SAR practice. We will undertake SAR activity cooperatively and learn from our experiences within a just culture. We will continue to improve our understanding of the SAR sector, our performance, our people, our operations and external influences so that we can improve our services, strengthen our resilience and mitigate our risks. We will also promote and support SAR innovations and showcase good practice.



Efficient and sustainable SAR organisations. We seek high performing, efficient and sustainable SAR organisations with adequate, secure funding. We will sustain an inclusive and collaborative environment that enables volunteerism. Our capabilities will be fit-for-purpose, appropriately located and adequate to address known SAR needs. We will make affordable, evidence-based investment decisions supported by good quality information. We will adapt our organisations and arrangements in response to changes in our operating environment and ensure we continue to deliver effective SAR services throughout the New Zealand search and rescue region.



Capable SAR people. We seek to maximise the potential of our SAR people. We will work to ensure our people have access to appropriate training and ensure we conduct SAR activities competently and safely. We will collectively coordinate our standards, training, exercises and documentation. Knowledge will be shared without restriction and we will learn from each other and our experiences. We will also recognise and celebrate the dedication, courage and commitment of our people.



SAR Prevention. We seek an informed, responsible, adequately equipped and appropriately skilled public who are able to either avoid distress situations or survive them should they occur. Many organisations have a role to play with SAR prevention. Collectively, we will enhance personal responsibility through information, education, regulation, investigation and enforcement. We will collaborate with, inform, and contribute to partner organisations. When required we will enable, coordinate or lead public focused SAR preventative strategies and actions in order to reduce the number and/or the severity of SAR incidents within the New Zealand search and rescue region.



Director's report



Duncan Ferner
Director
NZSAR Secretariat

‘Ki te kotahi te kākaho ka whati,
ki te kāpuia e kore e whati’

When we stand alone, we are vulnerable,
but together we are unbreakable.

This year has been a busy one for both the sector and the NZSAR Secretariat, as you would have seen from the pages of this report.

The standout statistic for this year is the sheer number of search and rescue incidents. We finished the year with 3535 incidents, which is just shy of 10 a day. This is our highest annual incident count ever, and a 44 percent increase on 10 years ago.

As I reflected on these numbers, I was reminded that search and rescue does not happen in isolation but is part of a broader system that includes recreational safety, and frontline safety and prevention services. The NZSAR Secretariat has spent some time this year considering how the different systems work together, and you can see some of this thinking on page 11.

The Secretariat also ran a large number of cross-sector meetings and workshops this year. These events are our team's main way of bringing the sector together and forging consensus views on collective issues. It also helps us to be informed of trends and challenges affecting the sector. We always come away from these events with a renewed appreciation of the work the sector does, and the skills people have. Thank you to everyone who has contributed, whether it has been attending a workshop, taking part in a discussion group, or being interviewed for a report.

For the last 18 months, we have been running Exercise Whakarauora Tangata. This is a step up from the Rauora Exercise series that many of you will be familiar with and gives us the chance to evaluate our ability to respond to nationally significant SAR incidents. Past examples include the loss of the *Wahine* in 1968 or the Erebus accident in 1979. Thankfully, these types of incidents are very rare but as the consequences could be severe, we need to plan for and practice how we would organise and respond, just in case. Thank you to everyone who was able to take part.

In May we celebrated the annual New Zealand Search and Rescue Awards with a ceremony at Parliament that was notable for the number of Government Ministers and MPs who came along to support their people. This year 12 awards were given out, honouring service and commitment to search and rescue. The support category recipients alone had over 170 years of SAR experience between them – a testament to their passion and commitment to our work.

Without the dedication of thousands of volunteers, New Zealand's SAR sector would simply not function. Of the 11,376 people involved, 88 percent are unpaid. This year, \$33 million was invested in search and rescue via the NZSAR Council, of which a significant portion pays the operating costs for the volunteer SAR agencies. We want volunteers to be able to focus on what they do best – helping others – rather than 'shaking the tins' looking for support.

These are exciting and busy times for our sector. To the members of the NZSAR Consultative Committee and NZSAR Council, thank you for your input and expertise over the last year. And to those on the coalface – whether that's attending training, organising committee meetings, maintaining equipment, or heading out on a search – thank you for your work. We have a world-class search and rescue service in New Zealand, and you can be rightly proud of the part you play.

Stay safe,
Duncan

Our governance arrangements

NZSAR Council

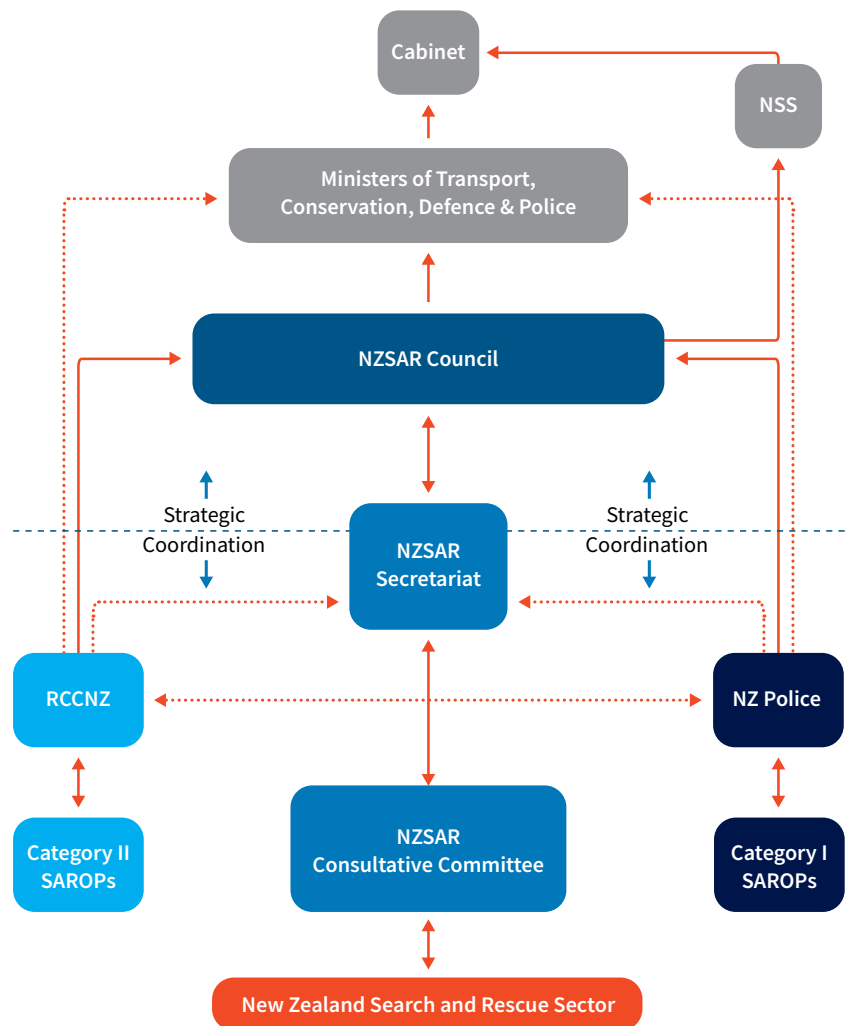
Provides national strategic governance and leadership to New Zealand’s search and rescue sector. In keeping with the Council’s high-level strategic function, its membership is drawn from the chief executives (or delegated to a senior executive) of:

- Ministry of Transport Te Manatū Waka
- Civil Aviation Authority
- Department of Conservation
- Fire and Emergency New Zealand
- Maritime New Zealand
- New Zealand Defence Force
- New Zealand Police

There is also an Independent Member who represents the interests of the non-Government organisations involved in search and rescue.

NZSAR Secretariat

Provides the NZSAR Council with information, support services and advice. It also provides sector leadership and implements measures to effect strong strategic coordination of New Zealand’s search and rescue sector.



NSS: National Security System SAROPs: Search and rescue operations
RCCNZ: Maritime NZ Rescue Coordination Centre

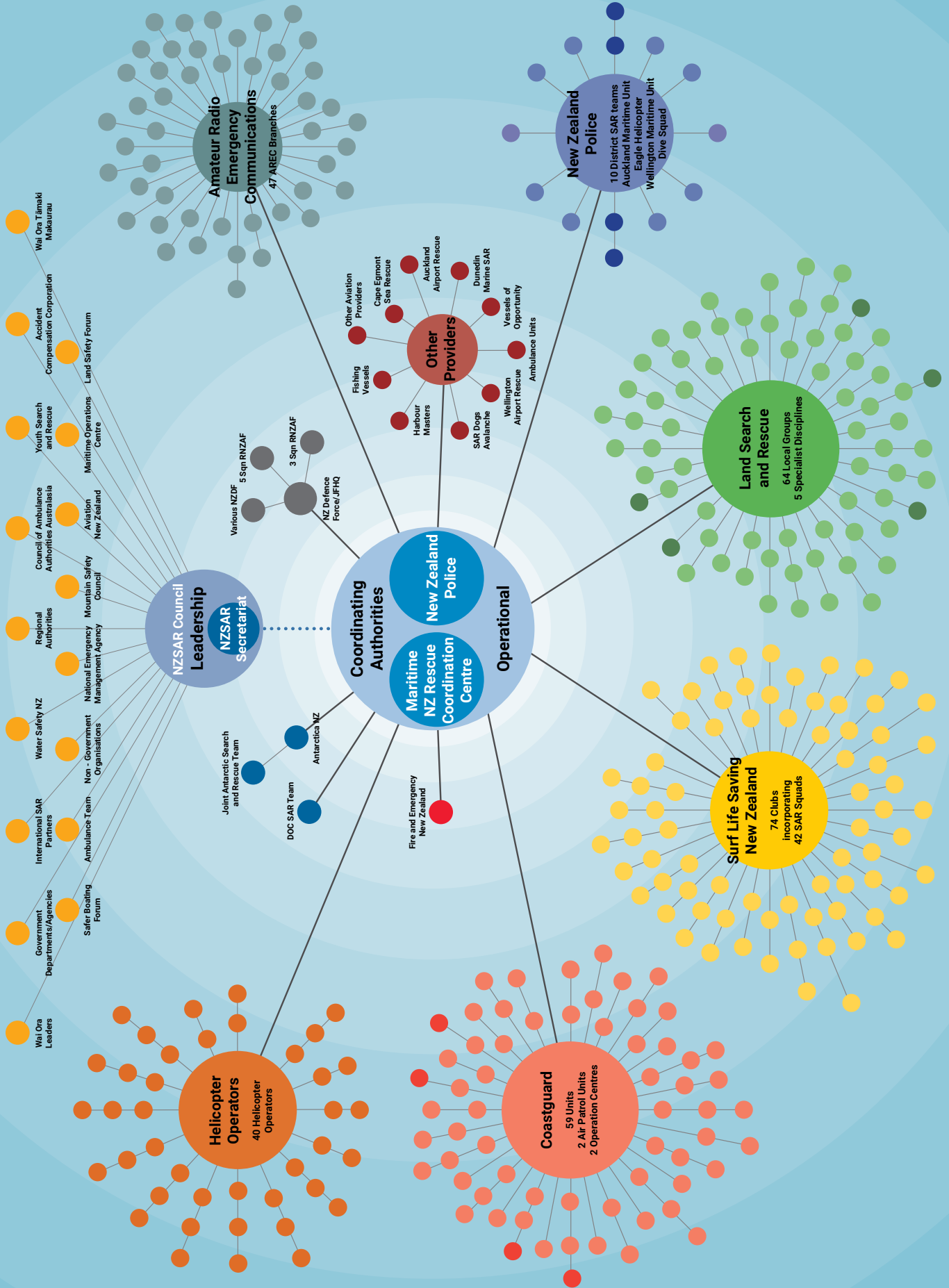
NZSAR Consultative Committee

Provides a national forum for all New Zealand SAR stakeholders, including voluntary groups. Consultative Committee members include:

- Amateur Radio Emergency Communications
- Ambulance Team
- Antarctica New Zealand
- Australian Maritime Safety Authority
- Aviation Industry Association New Zealand
- Civil Aviation Authority
- Coastguard Tautiaki Moana
- Council of Ambulance Authorities Australasia
- Department of Conservation
- Fire and Emergency New Zealand
- Hato Hone St John
- Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora
- Land Search and Rescue
- Maritime New Zealand Rescue Coordination Centre (RCCNZ)
- Maritime Operations Centre
- Ministry of Transport Te Manatū Waka
- National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)
- New Zealand Defence Force
- New Zealand Mountain Safety Council
- New Zealand Police
- NZSAR Secretariat (Chair)
- Surf Life Saving New Zealand
- Water Safety New Zealand
- Youth Search and Rescue

Our sector

Partners



NEW ZEALAND SEARCH AND RESCUE

Rapu Whakarauora Aotearoa

New Zealand Search
and Rescue Council
nzsar.govt.nz



A projection of New Zealand's search and rescue region over Asia