

Proposed Addition to ASRC Standard MOU  
Saturday, September 01, 2007

It is mutually understood that:

- the Legal Responsible Agent (LRA) will be clearly identified for each SAR incident
- the LRA should and likely will identify an on-scene SAR incident commander (IC) or unified command (UC) to whom authority to conduct a search is delegated by the LRA. This appointment should be recorded in writing whenever possible. This designation will include several options below. All options by default are conferred to the appointed IC/UC if not otherwise withheld by the LRA.
  - Decide search management organization, staff positions, and define roles of staff positions
  - Decide incident objectives, search strategy and tactics
  - Delegate authority to staff positions to perform duties as assigned
  - Make resource requests
  - Decide appropriate use of resources for incident tasks
- An ASRC member serving in the role of IC (ASRC IC) will have specialized training and certification to perform this role
- An ASRC IC will adhere to ASRC Operational Policy, terms stipulated in this MOU, and will exercise best judgment to fulfill the duties of his position.
- An ASRC IC may be constrained by other requirements, such as policies decided by the insurance provider. Where any of these constraints conflict with what the IC considers in the best interest of the subject, the conflict will be reviewed with the LRA. The LRA may assume liability for the decision that is in conflict with the constraint. In particular, the LRA may direct use of resources by the IC in any way the LRA believes appropriate, and the IC is expected to accommodate this request under the liability extended by the LRA.
- The nature of emergency operations involves quick reaction and on-scene best judgment, sometimes without the ability to confer or seek approval of the LRA in some cases.
- The incident management staff work under the ongoing supervision of the IC
- Whenever there is a question or complaint during an incident about the work performed by the IC or a member of the management staff, these issues will be raised to the IC and LRA first. The IC and LRA have the sole position to arbitrate appropriateness of decisions made on the incident.
- An LRA may rescind delegations of authority at any time, and may appoint a different IC without cause. If any change is made in the IC authority, the current incident action plan (to include staffing, resource use, etc) must be re-authorized under the new authorities.
- ASRC is a volunteer professional SAR organization without any direct funding or profitable business activity of it's own. Thus members participate in unpaid, volunteer capacity, and during their "free" time, according to the ASRC Operations Manual, ASRC Training Manual, and ASRC Administration Manual. Members may not be available for incidents and may not be available quickly for administrative tasks, to include handling complaints from internal or external sources.
- Questions and complaints about operational issues involving ASRC members after the incident has concluded will be raised in writing to the ASRC ICs involved with cc to the ASRC Operations Officer, or all of the ASRC Board of Directors. Within 30 days of receipt of the complaint, ASRC will initiate a due-process procedure as documented in the ASRC Administration manual.

- No immediate response or corrective action will required of ASRC, except to place a member on non-operational status if deemed necessary by agreement of the ASRC Officership. The due-process investigation may take up to 30days and a response may require review and decision by the ASRC BOD within 90days. At all times, ASRC will provide written status of the investigation to the complainant.