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**IDAPA 39  
TITLE 04  
Chapter 07**

**39.04.07 - RULES GOVERNING AERIAL SEARCH AND RESCUE  
OF LOST AIRCRAFT AND AIRMEN**

**000. LEGAL AUTHORITY.**

Pursuant to Section 21-142(16), Idaho Code, the Idaho Transportation Board has promulgated this rule concerning search and rescue of lost aircraft and airmen as required by Section 21-114, Idaho Code. This rule is based on the concept of providing humanitarian relief so that others may live. (11-28-90)

**001. TITLE AND SCOPE.**

**01. Department Authority.** As applied to the Department of Transportation, Section 21-114, Idaho Code, provides for aerial search and rescue. Federal-state agreements (ARRS Operation Plan 9506), Interstate agreements, the National Search and Rescue Plan (AFM 64-2), and the President's policy to provide for effective search and rescue throughout the world, are the basis of the Department of Transportation responsibility and authority for aerial search and rescue operations of lost aircraft and airmen. Section 21-118, Idaho Code, directs other state agencies and municipalities to make available their facilities and services. Section 21-119, Idaho Code, establishes the responsibility of the Department to enforce the Aeronautics Act, rules, regulations, and orders. (1-2-93)

**02. Department Responsibility.** The Department will control, coordinate, and supervise aerial search and rescue operations for lost and overdue civil aircraft and airmen on intrastate flights, portions of interstate flights in and over Idaho, and may assist the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) in search and rescue efforts for military, public, and commercial air carrier aircraft in and over Idaho. (1-2-93)

**03. Search And Rescue Agreements.** The Department shall formulate search and rescue agreements and search and rescue plans in support of the Idaho aerial search and rescue mission responsibility as necessary or which may become necessary. (11-28-90)

**002. -- 009. (RESERVED).**

**010. DEFINITIONS.**

**01. Aerial Search And Rescue Funding.** A dedicated source defined in Section 21-114, Idaho Code, derived from airman registration fees. (11-28-90)

**02. Aerial Search And Rescue Volunteer.** One who volunteers services for humanitarian relief. When accepted in support of SAR missions, SAR volunteer shall become quasi-state employee and be protected by state workman's compensation insurance. (11-28-90)

**03. Aerial Search And Rescue Volunteer Aircraft.** A civil aircraft voluntarily made available to be used in aerial search and rescue operations. (11-28-90)

**04. Aerial Search And Rescue Volunteer Pilot/Observer.** A pilot/observer qualified in accordance with the Idaho Transportation Department Aerial Search and Rescue Manual. (11-28-90)

**05. AFRCC.** Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, the single agency through which federal SAR missions will be prosecuted and federal assistance requested for SAR in the inland region. It is a coordinating agency only. (11-28-90)

**06. Airman/Airmen.** Any individual who engages, as the person in command or as pilot, mechanic, or member of the crew, in the navigation of aircraft while underway. For the purpose of this regulation, search shall be conducted for airmen and passenger(s) of lost aircraft. (11-28-90)

**07. ARRS.** Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service. (11-28-90)

- 08. Board.** Idaho Transportation Board. (11-28-90)
- 09. Civil Aircraft.** Aircraft other than public aircraft. (11-28-90)
- 10. Department.** Idaho Transportation Department. (11-28-90)
- 11. Director.** Director of the Idaho Transportation Department. (11-28-90)
- 12. District Aerial Search And Rescue Coordinator.** A designated representative of the State Search and Rescue Coordinator. (11-28-90)
- 13. National Search And Rescue Manual.** That manual for guidance of U.S. Federal Forces, military or civil, participating in search and rescue (SAR) operations. (7-1-97)
- 14. National Search And Rescue (SAR) Plan.** Aerospace Rescue and recovery Service Operations Plan Number 9506, entitled, "Inland Search and Rescue". It coordinates the SAR efforts among the states and federal agencies. (11-28-90)
- 15. SAR.** A commonly used abbreviation for search and rescue. (11-28-90)
- 16. Search And Rescue.** (SAR) (11-28-90)
- a. Search - An investigative act to determine the location of lost aircraft or airman. (7-1-97)
- b. Rescue - Deliver from danger, to save. (11-28-90)
- 17. Search And Rescue Agreements.** SAR agreements involving federal, state, local, and private agencies, and/or individual(s). (11-28-90)
- 18. Search Base(s).** Those locations designated by the state aerial search and rescue coordinator as primary operating location(s) from which a search effort will be conducted. (7-1-97)
- 19. Search Districts.** Those six (6) areas throughout the State which are designated as aerial search and rescue districts by the Idaho aerial search and rescue plan. These areas are the same as the states six (6) highway districts. (7-1-97)
- 20. State.** State of Idaho. (11-28-90)
- 21. State Aerial Search And Rescue Coordinator.** Director, Idaho Transportation Department, or his duly appointed representative, responsible for directing, coordinating and supervising all phases of aerial search and rescue operations. (11-28-90)
- 22. State Aerial Search And Rescue Plan.** Those plans, policies, and procedures set forth in the Department Aerial Search and Rescue Manual. (11-28-90)
- 011. -- 099. (RESERVED).**
- 100. SEARCH NOTIFICATION.**
- 01. Notification System.** The Department shall maintain a twenty-four (24) hour per day search and rescue notification system. (11-28-90)
- 02. Notification Sources.** The Department normally receives initial notification of lost, missing, overdue, or suspected downed aircraft from the Federal Aviation Administration flight service station(s), the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, law enforcement, and/or concerned individuals. (11-28-90)

**101. SEARCH INITIATION.**

When notification is received from agencies, or individual(s) which constitute reasonable probability that an aircraft or airman is down, lost, or missing, a search shall be initiated as described in the National SAR Plan, the Idaho Transportation Department SAR Manual and/or at the discretion of the Department. Safety, weather, darkness, and other operational factors may influence the conduct of the search including time of initiation, duration, and suspension. (11-28-90)

**102. ORGANIZATION.**

**01. Staff.** The Division of Aeronautics shall maintain a qualified staff capable of implementing the state aerial search and rescue plan. (1-2-93)

**02. Designated Search Districts.** The Idaho Transportation Department Aerial Search and Rescue Manual (Plan) designates six (6) search districts. Within each district one (1) or more qualified District Aerial Search and Rescue Coordinator(s) shall be designated based on knowledge, experience, and training. They, along with other SAR volunteers, will function under the direction of the State Aerial SAR Coordinator. (7-1-97)

**103. RESOURCES.**

Normally, state volunteer airmen and their aircraft shall be used for aerial search and rescue. State Division of Aeronautics aircraft and crews may also be utilized. In addition to the use of volunteer airmen and aircraft, the Department may request through and under the direct control of respective county sheriffs, the use/assistance of ground search and rescue agencies, organizations, and/or individual(s). (1-2-93)

**104. -- 199. (RESERVED).**

**200. PROCEDURE.**

**01. Search And Rescue Guideline.** The Idaho Transportation Department Aerial Search and Rescue Manual (Plan) shall provide guidelines for effectively conducting aerial search and rescue operations. It shall establish requirements for crew qualification, adequacy of volunteer search aircraft performance, and District Aerial SAR Coordinator qualifications. In order to effectively implement the State SAR Plan, the State Aerial SAR Coordinator may make SAR agreements as necessary with other agencies/organization(s)/individual(s). They may be either informal verbal agreements or they may be formal written documents. Agreements shall provide for the maximum practicable cooperation of such agencies/organization(s)/individual(s) and the use and coordination of facilities committed to SAR missions. Written agreements will normally involve officials of comparable levels in their respective agencies. Written agreements should be as brief as possible, covering only those specific items for which the agreement is deemed necessary. They should not be repetitious or contradictory of matters contained in the National SAR Plan. (7-1-97)

**02. District Aerial SAR Coordinators.** The State Aerial SAR Coordinator shall assign District Aerial SAR Coordinators who act under the direction of the State Aerial SAR Coordinator, organizing the volunteer personnel and resources of his assigned search district area for maximum efficiency, safety, and economy. Said District Coordinator may be either a volunteer, state employee or other individual as assigned by the State Aerial SAR Coordinator. (7-1-97)

**03. Designations By State Aerial SAR Coordinators.** The State Aerial SAR Coordinator will designate airports of primary operational support as necessary in the aerial search effort. The State Aerial SAR Coordinator may designate Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFR) under Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) 91.137 as required for safety of search aircraft. Normally the State Aerial SAR Coordinator will function in the Division of Aeronautics facilities but the option to dispatch state coordinator to the airport(s) of primary support, State EOC, or other location as necessary, may be exercised. State Division of Aeronautics aircraft may be used as necessary with state crews or with state pilot in command and volunteer pilot/observer(s). Volunteer aircraft and crews shall be screened by the District Aerial SAR Coordinator for availability, qualification, and willingness to participate in the search. Flight logs and mission records shall be maintained and all pertinent information shall be screened and recorded and forwarded to the State Aerial SAR Coordinator at the close of the mission or as requested. (1-2-93)

**04. Interstate Coordination.** On some occasions the aerial search and rescue effort may need to

extend into bordering states or Canada. Interstate coordination with other states/Canada shall be achieved as necessary by the Department for SAR mission needs. Coordination with other search and rescue organization(s)/individual(s) may be developed as needed or necessary. Such considerations as weather, time, no flight plan, no emergency locator transmitter signals, nonavailability, or limited search resources near the objective search area(s) may dictate extending Idaho resources into bordering states/Canada. In a like manner, it may sometime become necessary for bordering states/Canada to extend their resources into Idaho. (7-1-97)

**05. Funds.** Aerial search and rescue funds shall be used solely in support of aerial SAR efforts. Financial support of aerial SAR volunteers shall include but not be limited to SAR training, education, equipment, coordinating efforts, communications, and aircraft fuel and oil expenses. (11-28-90)

**06. Official Mission Report.** A report shall be made to the State Aerial SAR Coordinator by the District Aerial SAR Coordinator at the termination of daily search activity. The State Aerial Coordinator SAR shall consolidate all necessary report information and relay it to AFRCC. All mission working papers which are accumulated during the course of the search mission will be analyzed for meaningful content upon which to base operational decisions and the final official mission report. (11-28-90)

**07. Time Period Of Searches.** Aerial searches shall be continued until either successful or until all reasonable leads are exhausted and/or passage of time has drastically reduced the possibility of survival. If search is unsuccessful and all leads have been exhausted, the search may be suspended by the Director until either new leads are received or conditions have changed which increases the probability of detection. (7-1-97)

**08. Completion Of Search.** Searches will be closed when the search and rescue objective has been located, the respective county sheriff notified, it is certain that authorized ground personnel gain access to the search objective for positive identification of missing or downed aircraft and assistance to possible survivors, and post mission procedures are completed. (11-28-90)

**09. Required Reports.** Upon completion of the mission, all cooperating/participating agencies shall be advised as promptly as possible. News releases shall be made as deemed appropriate by the State Aerial SAR Coordinator. It shall be ascertained that all search aircraft are accounted for. A report of mission activity shall be made to AFRCC. A synopsis of the entire mission shall be developed by the State Aerial SAR Coordinator. The following forms shall be attached to the synopsis: (11-28-90)

- a. Search and Rescue Information Sheet (APT-2600) (11-28-90)
- b. Search Aircraft Operations Log (APT-2603) (11-28-90)
- c. Air Search and Rescue Fuel and Oil Record (APT-2602) (11-28-90)
- d. Mission Authorization, Personnel Register (APT-2604) (11-28-90)
- e. Search and Rescue (SAR) Mission Report (APT-2606) (11-28-90)

**10. Final Report.** The synopsis and attachments shall constitute the final official search and rescue mission report. (11-28-90)

**201.-- 999. (RESERVED).**

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