

Appendix B: National Search and Rescue (SAR) Responsibilities and Functions

Table of Responsibilities

DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY		FUNCTION TO BE PERFORMED BY, OR ON BEHALF OF, THE OVERALL COORDINATING AUTHORITY					
For land, sea and air SAR, in respect of:	Responsible Authority ⁱ	Provision and coordination of air SAR units.	Provision and coordination of land SAR units.	Provision and coordination of marine SAR units.	Communication (other than air/surface)	Air/ground communication for land search and rescue.	Aircraft/ship communication where direct communications not available.
International civil aircraft, manned space vehicles and aircraft on the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) and Recreational Aviation Australia (RA-Aus) Registers	JRCC Australia	JRCC Australia	Police	JRCC Australia Police	JRCC Australia Police	Airservices Australia Police	Airservices Australia
Persons on or from a Vessel at Sea ⁱⁱ	JRCC Australia Police ⁱⁱⁱ	JRCC Australia Police	Police	JRCC Australia Police	JRCC Australia Police	Airservices Australia Police	Airservices Australia Police
Persons and vehicles on land; and Persons and vessels on inland waterways and in waters within the limits of the ports of the relevant State or Territory	Police	Police JRCC Australia ^{iv}	Police	Police	Police	Police Airservices Australia	Police Airservices Australia

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For land, sea and air SAR, in respect of:	Responsible Authority ⁱ	Provision and coordination of air SAR units.	Provision and coordination of land SAR units.	Provision and coordination of marine SAR units.	Communication (other than air/surface)	Air/ground communication for land search and rescue.	Aircraft/ship communication where direct communications not available.
Aircraft not included in the CASA and RA-Aus registers including ultralights, para-gliders, hang-gliders, and gyrocopters.	Police	Police JRCC Australia ^v	Police	Police JRCC Australia	Police Airservices Australia	Police Airservices Australia	Police Airservices Australia
Australian Defence Force (ADF) and Foreign Military Personnel, Aircraft, Ships and Submarines	ADF ^{vi}	ADF	ADF	ADF	ADF	ADF	ADF
Unidentified Distress Beacon Alerts	JRCC Australia	JRCC Australia	Police	JRCC Australia Police	JRCC Australia	JRCC Australia Airservices Australia	JRCC Australia Airservices Australia

Table Notes:

ⁱ The first SAR Authority to become aware of a SAR incident is obliged to respond until overall coordination can be transferred to the 'Best Placed' SAR Authority in accordance with the provisions of the Inter-Governmental Agreement on National Search and Rescue Arrangements 2012 and the principles set out in the National SAR Manual

ⁱⁱ Other than those for which the ADF is responsible

ⁱⁱⁱ Responsibility for the rescue of persons from vessels at sea will be determined in accordance with the 'Best Placed' provisions of the Inter-Governmental Agreement on National Search and Rescue Arrangements 2012 and the principles set out in the National SAR Manual

^{iv} JRCC Australia involvement when requested to arrange for the provision of aircraft or accept coordination of air search in accordance with the principles set out in the National SAR Manual

^v JRCC Australia involvement when requested to arrange for the provision of aircraft or accept coordination of air search in accordance with the principles set out in the National SAR Manual

^{vi} ADF involvement in search and rescue is arranged through HQJOC (Headquarters Joint Operations Command) in accordance with the principles set out in the National SAR Manual