

MAINE ASSOCIATION FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE

Search Team Member Certification Standard Appendix D

Recommended Minimum Personal Equipment List

The following is a list of the minimum equipment which MASAR recommends ground searchers have with them when responding to a search and/or rescue call. Equivalent items or combinations are acceptable, as noted. The list may be expanded to suit personal tastes, but the basic equipment normally carried while searching should not impair maneuverability or endurance.

Each searcher should be prepared to carry their equipment in winter conditions in rough terrain for up to 12 hours in the field (and 24 hours in a survival situation).. Basic equipment may be carried in a fanny pack or small day pack that can be stuffed inside the main pack when necessary. An additional supply of extra clothing, etc., that can be left at the search base is strongly recommended for all response situations.

NOTE: This list assumes that the searcher will be properly dressed for the season, as well as the prevailing and anticipated conditions.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Year-Round Equipment</u> <u>Description</u>
Ready Pack	Small, light-weight pack, vest with storage pockets, or fanny pack
Compass:	Liquid-filled with sighting mirror, plus spare. Spare may be GPS unit; if so, bring spare batteries for it
Time keeper:	Watch or equivalent
International Orange Vest:	<u>Required item</u>
Light:	Headlamp, plus a second light source. Both to have extra batteries and spare bulb, if the latter is replaceable
Lightstick:	Cyalume or equal
Whistle:	Plastic recommended
Eye protection:	Sunglasses with high UV protection, and goggles (the latter for protection from airborne debris)
Hand protection:	Work gloves with padded palms for litter carrying
Ear protection:	2 sets of disposable foam ear plugs or equal
Lip protection:	Lip balm or equivalent (optional, but recommended)
Skin protection:	Sunscreen (optional, but recommended)
Survival Knife:	Folding knife with multiple tools (locking blade recommended)
Fire Starter:	Two types; at least one must be waterproof
Candle:	High temperature type that will not melt in pack
Cord:	20 feet of parachute cord

Emergency shelter:	Lightweight plastic tarp or bivy bag
Space blanket	
Small mirror:	Compass mirror is acceptable
Flagging tape:	One roll of a high-visibility color
Note paper:	Note cards or notebook, preferably waterproof
Writing tools:	Pencil; indelible marker for writing on flagging
Water:	Minimum 2 quarts
Food:	Non-perishable food for two meals, and high-energy snack food
Medications:	Three day supply of any personal medication
Insect repellent:	Avoid oil-based types if working with rescue ropes and related equipment (optional)
First aid kit to include:	
2 triangular bandages	1 sheet moleskin adhesive or equal
8 Band-Aids	1 multi-trauma dressing
1 roll 1" adhesive tape	4 large safety pins
1 elastic bandage (Ace or equal)	8 - 4" x 4" gauze pads
1 package aspirin or equal	CPR pocket mask
Gloves for body substance isolation	
Toilet paper	
Additional clothing as needed for local conditions:	
Hat	Rain gear
Wind protection	Extra insulating clothing layer(s)
Extra foot insulation layer	Extra hand insulation layer

Equipment Added in Winter

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>
Hand protection:	Extra mittens or gloves
Face protection:	Balaclava or ski mask
Socks:	Second pair of socks
Boot liners as needed	
Snowshoes, cross-country skis, or creepers as needed.	

Additional Equipment (to be carried as needed)

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>
Sleeping bag:	Adequate for anticipated weather and temperatures
Insulated sleeping pad	
Extra clothes:	Complete set, including boots
Food:	Replacement of pack food according to personal preference. Quantities sufficient to sustain for 48 hours
Mess kit	
Pack stove and extra fuel:	1 per team is adequate
Toilet articles:	Towel, soap, toothbrush, etc.