



SURF LIFE SAVING
SEARCH & RESCUE

PART 2: LOCAL SQUAD INDUCTION

SLSNZ SAR Induction - PowerPoint Template (Lite Version)

INSTRUCTIONS

This PowerPoint template is provided for SAR Team Leaders, as a guide for delivering the Local Squad Induction.

Not all aspects of this PowerPoint will be relevant to your club or area squad.

Conversely, there may be localised topics not covered within this PowerPoint, which need to be discussed with your members, as part of the Local Squad Induction.

Presenters need to go through this template and make content changes to reflect your squads systems and processes.

The slides are written with the intent of being a list of prompts only, for the presenter, to aid in the delivery of the induction.

Presenters do not have to use this specific PowerPoint.
They are welcome to use the topics / prompts to design their own.

INDUCTION PROCESS & SIGN OFF

The SAR Induction Process involves two parts:

Part 1: SAR Induction Module

This is a nationally aligned and consistent module that will ensure the same content is delivered to all SAR members. Members sign in to the Surf Life Saving member portal and complete the module in their own time.

Part 2: Local Squad Induction

This will be completed in person with your SAR Squad Team Leader or another designated senior squad member. This part focusses on *local level* SAR processes, specific to your club or area squad.

A designated “SAR Induction Assessor” (up to 3 per squad) will complete a training event, sign off when each member has completed Part 2 and then submit the event. Once both parts have been completed “SAR INDUCTED” status will be awarded on your learner record on the SLSNZ database.

Each member only needs to do the induction once. This will likely be done as part of a whole team meeting or training. Some individual inductions may be required as new members join the squad.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- ▶ **SAR Squad Team Leader**
Responsible for overall squad readiness, operational response and administration.
- ▶ **SAR Coordinator (On-scene)**
Manages and coordinates immediate response activities during a SAR Operation.
- ▶ **SAR Operational Member**
Qualified responders who meet the minimum operational standards and actively participate in SAR deployments on the water.
- ▶ **SAR Support Member**
Volunteers who provide technical or logistics expertise in areas such as planning, communications, or welfare.



CAPABILITY

WHAT WE DO

Our squad has the training, equipment and capability to be tasked for:

- ▶ Core Lifeguarding Response (Lifeguarding beyond the flags)
- ▶ Body Recovery
- ▶ Extended Deployment
- ▶ Low-Light / Night Operations
- ▶ Offshore Response
- ▶ Flood Response
- ▶ Welfare Support



COMMON TASKINGS

- ▶ Most common taskings for our squad
- ▶ Other typical taskings and what is expected for each
- ▶ Local response plans or SOPs for specific areas or jobs
- ▶ Where we operate (geographic boundaries)
- ▶ What our squad scope of operation is (what we do and don't do)



SAR MINIMUM STANDARDS

The new SAR Minimum Standards were endorsed by the National SAR Committee in September 2025. SAR members are required to be compliant by July 1, 2026

- ▶ **Surf Lifeguard Award**
or **Patrol Support Award** (for Support Members)
- ▶ **SAR Induction**
 - Part 1: Online Module
 - Part 2: Local Squad Induction
- ▶ **Surf First Aid Award**
- ▶ **Radio Communication Module**
- ▶ **SurfCom Module**
- ▶ **Wellbeing Module**
- ▶ **400m Swim** (Operational members only / Under 9:00 minutes / completed annually)



TRAINING

- ▶ Our Squad's current Training Plan
- ▶ Expectation for training attendance
- ▶ Mentoring of new squad members
- ▶ Courses and qualifications available
- ▶ SLSNZ SAR Education Framework - See website



PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

Operational members should have a SAR bag ready (usually in your car), containing the following items (depending on your squads scope of practice):

- ▶ Wetsuit
- ▶ Helmet
- ▶ Lifejacket
- ▶ Smock/paddle jacket (pictured on right)
- ▶ SLSNZ SAR jacket
- ▶ Booties
- ▶ Gloves
- ▶ Hood / Cap / Beanie
- ▶ Fins and fin belt
- ▶ Rescue Tube
- ▶ Water and snacks
- ▶ *Specialist equipment (if relevant)



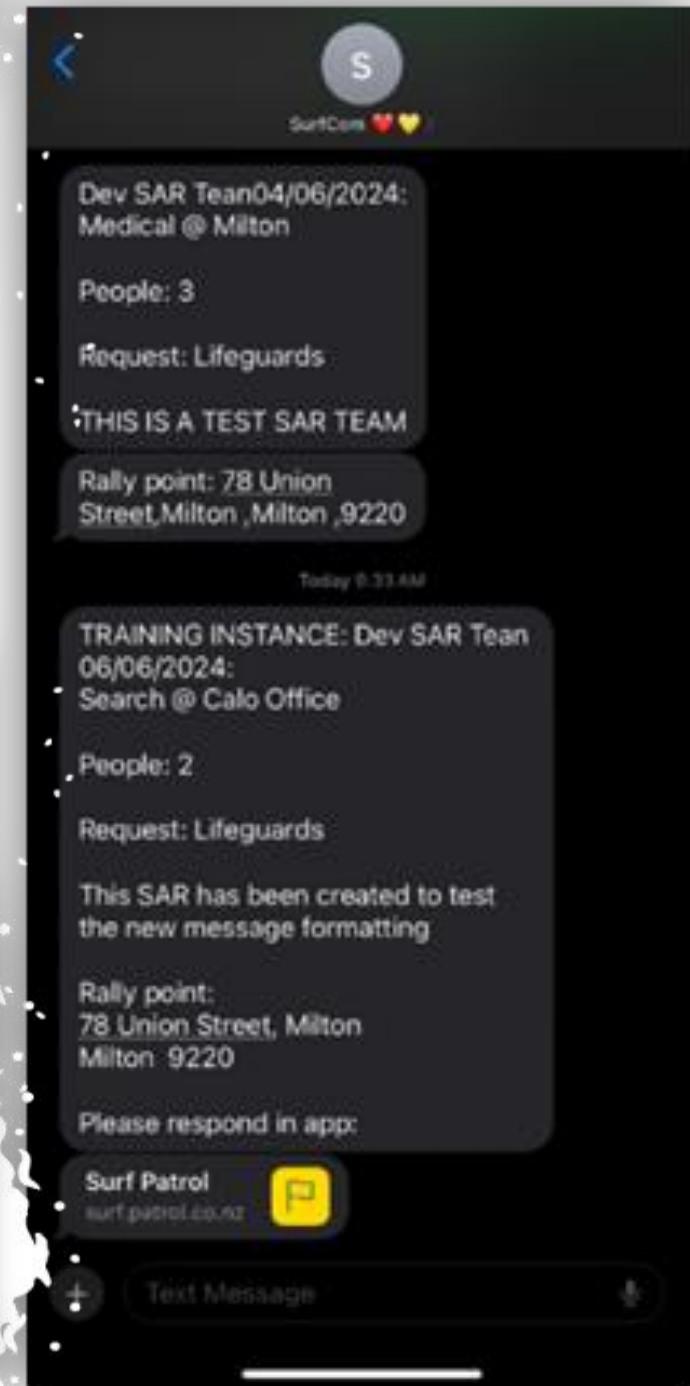
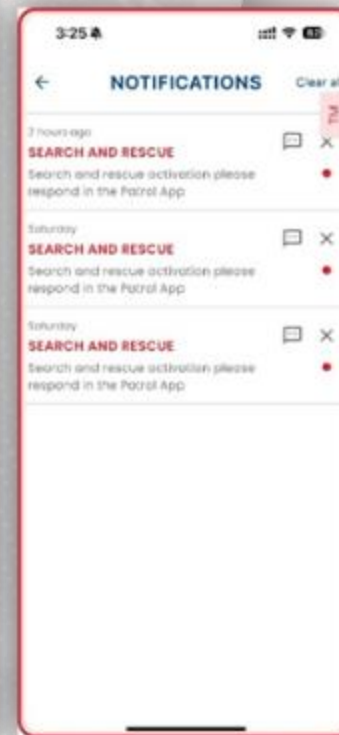
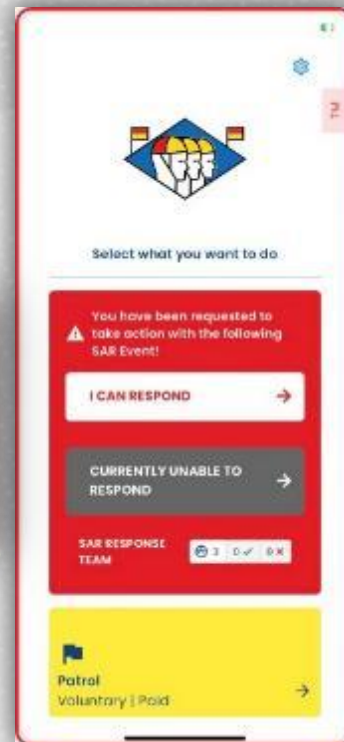
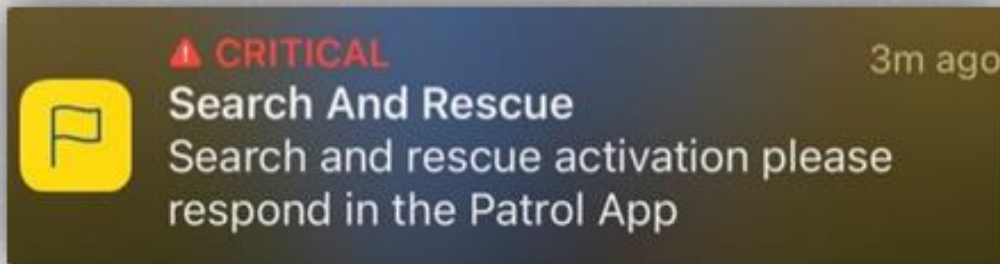
TECHNOLOGY

- ▶ Digital radios (Motorola, Tait, Hytera)
- ▶ Garmin inReach GPS units
- ▶ Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs)
- ▶ Strobes
- ▶ Night Operation kits
- ▶ Mobile radio repeaters
- ▶ Starlink



SQUAD COMMUNICATIONS

- ▶ Patrol App
- ▶ Non-urgent comms (Messenger/WhatsApp Group)
- ▶ Activation texts/emails/phone calls
- ▶ SurfCom (via radio or phone)
- ▶ SLSNZ Radio Network



RESPONDING TO A SAR ACTIVATION

PROTOCOL FOR ADVISING RESPONSE

- ▶ Advise whether you are attending the job or not, via the Patrol App and select your ETA.
- ▶ If unavailable, advise this on the Squad admin chat group (if your squad has one)
- ▶ Turn on handheld radio (if you have one)
- ▶ Respond to muster point (usually club, or direct to scene)
- ▶ Ensure you comply with road rules!



ARRIVING - AT THE CLUB

First on scene: Assess the situation – Get eyes on!

- ▶ Unlock the gate/club/gear shed
- ▶ Turn off alarms
- ▶ Let your team / SurfCom know you're onsite
- ▶ Set up equipment
- ▶ Get changed
- ▶ Complete Onsite Risk Assessment (ORA)
/Dynamic Risk Assessment (DRA)
- ▶ Prepare to respond

Club	Access Codes (gate/lock box)	Alarm Code



ARRIVING-DIRECT TO SCENE

Sometimes we will need to respond to rescues away from our home beach. Usually SAR Squads will go to the club first, get equipment, then respond.

However, there may be times that you are tasked to go direct to the scene, to effect a rescue.

If this is the case, remember to:

- ▶ Liaise with SLSNZ SAR Coordinator (On Scene)
- ▶ Have a back up plan – Ensure support is on the way
- ▶ Complete a Dynamic Risk Assessment (DRA)
- ▶ Advise SurfCom of your intended actions (radio or phone – 0800SAVELIFE)



ON WATER

- ▶ Process for launching IRBs/RWC in a hurry
- ▶ Chain of Command – Who is in charge?
- ▶ Protocols for updating SurfCom
- ▶ Reflex tasking / Initial deployment plan

- ▶ On Water Comms
 - ▶ Radio Channels and callsigns
 - ▶ Comms plan - Primary and back up
 - ▶ What other non SLS channels are available
 - ▶ Local radio comms black spots



SAR MEMBER SUPPORT

Support Services

- ▶ Duty Officers - Local, Regional, National
- ▶ Peer Support
- ▶ Telus Health
- ▶ Other SLS clubs and SAR Squads
- ▶ Partner Agencies
- ▶ SAR Support Officers

Debriefs

- ▶ Hot Debriefs
- ▶ Cold Debriefs
- ▶ Inter/Intra Agency Debriefs
- ▶ Wellbeing Debriefs



NSOPS/POLICIES

There are a number of National Standard Operations Procedures and Policies that help guide the delivery of SAR services. Some of which relate directly to the way we operate in our squad.

SLSNZ Policies

- ▶ Body Recovery Policy
- ▶ Minimum Equipment for SAR Squads
- ▶ Helmet use in Lifeguard Operations

SLSNZ National Standard Operating Procedures (NSOPs)

- ▶ CIMS Response NSOP
- ▶ Body Recovery NSOP
- ▶ Blood & Bodily Fluid Exposure NSOP
- ▶ Emergency SAR Response with SurfCom NSOP
- ▶ SAR Squad Participation NSOP
- ▶ Offshore Marine Operations NSOP

**SLSNZ
Policies**



**SLSNZ
NSOP's**



MANAGING SAFETY

We have the responsibility to manage the safety of ourselves, our team, the patients and the public (when effected) at any SAR Operation

- ▶ Use the Patrol App and complete an Onsite Risk Assessment (ORA)
 - This will usually be done by the SLSNZ On Scene Coordinator
- ▶ Dynamic Risk Assessments – Reflex taskings
- ▶ Localised risk management processes
- ▶ Always have a rescue and / or back up plan

STOP ▶ THINK ▶ ACT ▶



AREA FAMILIARISATION

[Using Google Earth or by physically touring around your area, see or discuss local SAR hot spots]

NOTEWORTHY POINTS OF INTEREST IN OUR AREA

Examples:

- ▶ River mouths with sand bars
- ▶ Parts of the beach with significant rips
- ▶ Local boats ramps/launching points
- ▶ Likely places that people fall from/jump off cliffs
- ▶ Rock fishing hot spots
- ▶ Piers/wharves
- ▶ River rescue hot spots
- ▶ Local support agency bases
- ▶ Nearest medical care facilities



TASKING AUTHORITIES/ SUPPORT AGENCIES

- ▶ Who we work with locally
- ▶ When we would work with them
- ▶ How we communicate with them at SAROPs
- ▶ Local CIMS protocols
- ▶ Building local relationships- Inter agency training



CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

- ▶ Local culturally significant areas
- ▶ Body recovery protocols (local)
- ▶ Iwi representation for sustained searches etc.
 - When it is appropriate and who we contact
- ▶ If a rahui is in place – what does that mean for us?

**Mei kitea tētahi e raru
nui ana waeahia 111
ka uia ngā pirihiimana.**

**If you see someone in trouble,
call 111 and ask for Police**



ADMIN

- ▶ Personal Reimbursements:
 - ▶ What can be reimbursed/claimed back and what can't
 - ▶ How the process works
- ▶ Process for advising short/medium/long term unavailability?
 - ▶ When should you advise you're unavailable?
One week, one month?
- ▶ Health and Safety process (and improvements process) for SAR Squad/Club
 - ▶ How we capture what we can do better
 - ▶ What we feedback to the club and how
- ▶ Process for raising issues within the squad
 - ▶ Point of contact for different issues



SAR SUPPORT STAFF



Matt Cairns
National SAR Manager



Nick Wagstaff
Upper North Island
SAR Support Officer



Saige Falaniko
Lower North Island
SAR Support Officer



Chris Jeffery
South Island
SAR Support Officer



Seth McPhee
SAR Education
Development Officer
(Education Team)

Surf Life Saving New Zealand Search and Rescue
“Saving lives beyond the flags”



SURF LIFE SAVING
SEARCH & RESCUE