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Search Suspension & Termination

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Suspension

"The temporary halting of searches to be continued at a later time"

Termination

"The halting of searches that are concluded, whether successful or not"

International SAR Convention, 1979 defines termination as "The search should only be terminated when there is no longer any reasonable hope of rescuing survivors."

Termination Criteria is detailed in IAMSAR VOL II Chapter 9. "during the distress phase, the SMC or other proper authority determines the further search would be to no avail because additional effort cannot appreciably increase the probability of successfully finding any remaining survivors or because there is no longer any reasonable probability that the distressed person has survived."

Consider

The possible ramifications of suspending searching (e.g. political involvement, impact on the maritime community)

- Is it safe to continue searching
- Is there any chance of finding the casualty alive
- Is there a high or potentially adverse media interest
- Informing the Press Office
- Is there a need for welfare support due to the effect on individuals

Do not stop searching just because it has become dark

Consult

□ You must always make the decision together with the Maritime Tactical and Strategic Commander, as appropriate, and consult:

- The Ops team

- The facilities involved
- Other authorities involved
- The OSC
- The Next of Kin (NoK)

Next of Kin

- Have the NoK / family been given advanced warning of termination?
- Provide relatives with as much notice of your intention to terminate the search as possible

Review

Before a decision can be reached you must review the incident to ensure it has been conducted correctly

A review of the incident should include:

- Search decisions (for proper assumptions and reasonable planning scenarios)
- Certainty of initial position and any drift factors used to determine the search area
- Significant clues and leads
- Data computations
- Accuracy of information
- Error Margins and other Variables
- The Search Plans and POD
- What was the Coverage Factor and POD for the planned / completed searches
- Survivability

□ The reasons for suspending a search must be clearly recorded. Searches may be terminated even if the incident remains open

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