



FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

Search and Rescue (SAR) Workshop IV SAR Coordination and Response in the Antarctic

14 May (Wellington) & 16–17 May (Christchurch) 2019, New Zealand

Convened by the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs (COMNAP)

Co-hosted by Antarctica New Zealand



& Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand (RCCNZ), Maritime New Zealand



Background

Safety of human life is a paramount concern for all who undertake activities in the Antarctic Treaty area. COMNAP continually works on the topic of safety in partnership with our Member National Antarctic Programs and with the five Rescue Coordination Centres that have responsibilities over portions of the Antarctic Treaty area. This is recognised through ATCM XXXVI Resolution 4 (2013) Improved Collaboration on Search and Rescue (SAR) in Antarctica, in particular, recommendation 7a, which recommends that the Parties: “support COMNAP to continue to foster collaborative discussions and vital sharing of information regarding SAR matters including through: holding triennial workshops on search and rescue, that include representatives of the RCCs, National Antarctic Programs, relevant experts, private operators as well as commercial emergency notification service providers, and inform future ATCMs on the results of these workshops;”.

This is the fourth in a series of the COMNAP SAR Antarctic Workshops.

Objectives

The overarching objective of the workshop is to continue to **improve Search and Rescue (SAR) coordination and response in the Antarctic** as a follow up on SAR Workshops I (2008), II (2009) and III (2016). Specific objectives of this fourth workshop are to:

- Conduct a **review of progress**, in particular on actions arising from the previous workshops;
- Continue the **exchange of timely and useful information** that can be used in the event of a SAR situation;
- Present examples of **best practice** to support SAR coordination and response;
- Exchange information on **aviation safety** including advanced notification of air operations in support of prevention of incidents, accidents and near-misses;
- Discuss **lessons learned** from recent real Antarctic emergency incidents;
- Engage all participants in **regional coordination and response to Mass Rescue Operations (MRO)** scenarios.

Proposed Schedule: General

(Note: the Workshop will take place in two cities-Wellington followed by Christchurch)

Day 0: Monday 13 May 2019 (Arrive Wellington)

- Recommended arrival date for those who intend to participate in the Wellington-based session

Day 1: Tuesday 14 May 2019 (Wellington)

- This workshop day of particular relevance to Rescue Coordination Centres

Travel Day: Wednesday 15 May 2019

- Delegates to fly from Wellington to Christchurch; or
- Recommended arrival date for international arrivals to Christchurch and those who wish to participate in the Christchurch-based sessions

Day 2: Thursday 16 May 2019 (Christchurch)

- This workshop day for Rescue Coordination Centres and National Antarctic Programs and others

Day 3: Friday 17 May 2019 (Christchurch)

- This workshop day for Rescue Coordination Centres and National Antarctic Programs and others

Optional: Saturday 18 May 2019, program of tourism activities to be planned (at own expense)



Who should attend?

This is a practical and technical workshop which will focus on increasing our efficiency to coordinate and respond to an emergency situation in the Antarctic Treaty area. It would be of value to those involved in the five Antarctic “gateway” Rescue Coordination Centres, for representatives from National Antarctic Programs, and from others who have members operating in the Antarctic, such as IAATO and CCAMLR.

Contacts

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***Pre-register your interest in receiving additional information-just reply to this email.
Workshop website for the SAR Workshop IV will open on 1 December 2018.
On-line registration for the SAR Workshop IV will open on 1 February 2019.***

www.comnap.aq/SitePages/SARWorkshop2019