

SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR) IN THE ARCTIC , STATUS AND CHALLENGES

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Abstract

An acceptable level of safety, including a high level of preparedness for undesirable incidents, are crucial for the sustainable development of the Arctic communities, and for healthy economic development in the High North.

Key challenges for Search and Rescue (SAR) operations in the Arctic and North Atlantic region include long distances, severe weather, ice and cold conditions, a poor communications network, lack of infrastructure and limited resources. In addition, the limited capacity to host patients, the need for coordinated situational awareness, and the need for specialized evacuation and survival equipment pose major challenges for maritime safety and SAR in the Arctic.

The ARCSAR innovation network will address the Arctic and North-Atlantic (ANA) region, preparing to cope with the Security and safety threats that will result from increased commercial activity in the region including traffic through the Northern passages. ARCSAR will identify capability gaps and needs for innovation in technology, knowledge transfer, procedures and methods for improved Safety, SAR and Oil Spill Response.

Keywords: Search and Rescue, SAR, Oil spill Response, Emergency management, Emergency, Response, Innovation, Arctic, North Atlantic, Maritime Safety, Extreme weather conditions

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