



# Introduction to Search & Rescue Subgroup



The Search and Rescue (SAR) Subgroup aims to provide a consistent approach to any water safety incident attended by multiple services. This will include information sharing, any specific site information for ongoing incident, mobilisation process for incident types, resources deployed initially and available along with interagency training.

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## Improve understanding of the response for rescue of water-related incidents

### **Ensure a control room review to make certain best asset response -**

Look to start a specific Control Room review to ensure a consistent approach to a 999 call. This will involve workgroups and the assistance of SMARTEU.

### **Develop an improved understanding of SAR resource and assets -**

To share with partners what resources each service has and how these are deployed. A review of current partnership training along with SMARTEU to identify best practice and areas for improvement.



## Improve communications both pre- and post-incident

### **Develop consistent corporate communication, including agreed media messages -**

Water Emergency Incident Phase Communication Protocol:

A consistent communications protocol implemented by Police Scotland during the ongoing phases of a Water Emergency Incident providing public reassurance and safety messaging. This may be supported by each partner using their communication pathways.

Tie into Communication Subgroup 3 phases.

### **Ensure involvement of SAR organisations in the Drowning and Incident Review (DIR)-**

All SAR organisations should be encouraged to be part of the DIRs. This is likely to be through a PAWS (or equivalent) group



### Increase Inter-agency water-related training

**Create a best practice guide for Scotland's response requirements** - Joint SAR debriefs to identify if current Policy or Practice needs to be reviewed.

### **Support at least one annual training event**

3 core training events to be agreed after reviewing WAID data to see what are the current trends.



### Implementation of the objectives

To enable Water Safety Scotland to effectively design and implement these objectives they will require the following support:

Partner Agency buy in – for Police Scotland, SFRS, SAS, Coastguard, RNLI and others.

Government Support – Financial.  
Admin and governance support.



## Plans for 2022

Run 3 table or Physical exercise per year involving PS, SAS, SFRS & HMCG

Further tabletop & exercise to be run including other key stakeholders/responders such as MRTs and Flood groups.

Joint water safety campaign under the banner of WSS per year