

SEARCH AND RESCUE EXPERTS GROUP

MANDATE

1. Background

EPPR Strategic Plan:

Objective 5: Work to effectively implement relevant agreements among the Arctic States and arrangements of the Arctic Council in order to advance emergency prevention, preparedness and response capabilities.

Pursuant to the Arctic Council Iqaluit 2015 Declaration, the Arctic Council's Emergency Prevention, Preparedness, and Response (EPPR) Working Group will advise SAO's on relevant SAR incidents and events and maintain a repository of lessons learned and best practices of Arctic SAR incidents and events. EPPR facilitates implementation of the Agreement on Cooperation in Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue in the Arctic (SAR Agreement) by focusing on enhancing cooperation, highlighting best practices, exchanging information, analyzing results of exercises, and sharing lessons learned. EPPR will maintain a repository for lessons learned in Arctic SAR exercises and incidents. EPPR recognizes operational SAR tactics vary and remain the responsibility of member states.

The Search and Rescue Expert Group (SAR EG) is comprised of subject matter experts (SMEs) organized under the Emergency Prevention, Preparedness, and Response (EPPR) Working Group to promote the implementation of the SAR Agreement.

The SAR EG reports to the EPPR as a guiding body not in an operation capacity. The SAR EG acts as a facilitator for high level, inter-governmental discourse on Arctic Search and Rescue issues and assesses the implementation of the Arctic SAR Agreement. The specific goal of the expert group is to identify key lessons of Arctic incidents and exercises and communicate/disseminate effective practices and necessary mitigation or remedial actions to the ministerial level, Member States and other relevant international bodies. The expert group supports existing operational fora dealing with Arctic SAR issues by leveraging high level engagement from government and scientific institutions.

2. Purpose/Role

The SAR EG reports to the EPPR as a guiding body. The group's purpose is to facilitate high-level, intergovernmental discourse on Arctic SAR issues and to ensure the implementation of the Arctic SAR agreement, by:

- Collaborating with other bodies, fora, working groups and academia to compile, identify, analyze and disseminate pertinent recommendations and needs related to Arctic SAR issues.
- Evaluating exercise and live incident reports for common themes identified in lessons learned and disseminating mitigation recommendations as appropriate.
- Communicating key findings to EPPR for coordination within the Arctic Council and other relevant bodies.
- Supporting responsible and safety oriented culture for recreational and commercial activities in the Arctic.
- Supporting different operational fora in their action oriented efforts, including SAR exercises.



- Sharing findings from - and influencing the direction of - research and development in academia and industry to reduce, prevent and/or respond to the impact of SAR incidents in the Arctic.

3. Administration

- SAR EG meetings will be scheduled as appropriate by the SAR EG
- Projects and activities to be undertaken by the SAR EG will be presented to and voted on by EPPR member states and Permanent Participants during regularly scheduled EPPR meetings.
- The SAR EG will present updates on projects undertaken by the SAR EG at EPPR meetings.
- The SAR EG reports to the EPPR Chair.
- EPPR Member States, Permanent Participants, and Observers should endeavor to participate in SAR EG activities as per the Arctic Council Rules of Procedures.
- The Experts Group will be chaired (Chair) on two-year terms by a representative from one of the EPPR Members States, which may be the EPPR Member State holding the current Arctic Chairmanship or as recommended by the Experts Group through consensus approval of the EPPR. A Co-Chair position may be a representative from one of the EPPR Members States not holding the position of SAR EG Chair.
- The Chair and Co-Chair responsibilities include the management and facilitation of SAR EG meetings (both in-person and teleconferences) and projects. Even though project leads may differ from the SAR EG Chair, the SAR EG Chair should report project status to EPPR when appropriate. The Chair should inform the EPPR Executive Secretariat in the administration, agenda, and outcomes of SAR EG activities as appropriate.

Amendment / Termination: This SAR Experts Group Mandate is effective from the date of signature and may be terminated by consensus of the EPPR Heads of Delegation. This Mandate may be amended biennially by either consensus approval of the EPPR or through Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs) / Ministerial Declarations.

Jens Peter Holst-Andersen

June 29, 2017

Signed (Date)

Chair, EPPR