OUTREACH
RESCUE



SEARCH TEAM LEADER

Goal:

To enable delegates to function as operationally competent search technicians and search team leaders when undertaking duties during operational searches for the location of lost and missing persons. Ideally suited to those who require an accelerated learning to be effective in Search.

Target group:

Emergency services personnel and individuals from organisations involved in search and rescue (SAR) activities at operator and leadership levels.

Highlights:

- Delivered by L&MPS International, who are leading experts in international missing person search.
- Delivered at the Outreach Rescue training centre which has a diverse range of environments for practical drills, including quarries, woodland, open land, thick undergrowth, crashed vehicles and more making this an immersive training experience.
- This course upskills existing Search Technicians to lead search teams

Lost & Missing Person Search Team Leader

Course length

16 hours (2 days)

Instructor

2:8 or 3:12

Period of validity

Unlimited

Certification

Joint Outreach Rescue and L&MPS International Certificate of Achievement

Venue

Outreach Rescue, Tan-y-Bwlch Centre, Llanllechid, Bangor, Gwynedd, North Wales LL57 3HY

Description

The Lost & Missing Person Search Team Leader course provides essential skills for leading SAR teams. Delegates will learn to plan and deploy search operations, assess terrain and environmental factors, allocate team roles, and deliver structured briefings. Strong leadership, supervision, and communication are emphasised, ensuring clear tactical instructions and best practice application.

Leaders will evaluate search progress, document critical information, liaise with agencies, and manage external influences. They will handle 'Actions On' procedures for crime scenes and coordinate rescue scenarios. Post-search, they will brief Search Management, ensuring thorough debriefing and search assurance.

Additionally, the course highlights the importance of maintaining team welfare, particularly in high-stress or traumatic incidents, reinforcing the STL's responsibility to ensure effective, compliant, and well-supported search operations.

Compliance:

This course, based on the Police Search Governance Board Lost and Missing Persons Search Learning Descriptors

Previous knowledge:

Completion of a Search Technician course with a technical level of search knowledge and rescue skills (search techniques, communications, navigation and first aid etc.) is recommended. A period of consolidation following the Search Technician is recommended, alternatively this course can be combined with the Search Technician - see other courses.

Requirements:

Age 18+. Delegates must be fit for physical training requiring the delegates to move at a moderate pace over difficult terrain and within structures whilst carrying rescue and first aid equipment.

Progression:

Successful completion allows entry to: Lost Person Behaviour and Search Coordination courses which are independently delivered by L&MPS International. Contact L&MPS International for further details.

Theoretical elements:

- Classroom sessions cover the theoretical elements of search techniques & practices, leadership and prepare candidates for the practical elements of the course.
- A written exam paper confirms learning.

Practical elements:

- Over 50% of this course is practically based and includes teaching sessions and scenario-based learning covering search and rescue skills including hasty, open, closed, thorough and vehicle search types, searcher techniques, casualty handling and crime scene management.

- Delegates must come suitably prepared with relevant workwear (uniform if appropriate) to include full-length robust clothing for operating in undergrowth and abrasive environments, robust footwear (work or mountain boots) as well as waterproof clothing and layering for inclement weather, as well as a torch and backpack to remain independent as a Search Team Leader for a minimum of 8 hours.
- PPE is required and can be provided by Outreach Rescue including helmets, gloves and eye protection or delegates can provide their own subject to serviceability.
- The course is holistically assessed throughout.