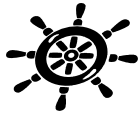




## Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Law Enforcement Division

# Marine Search and Rescue Course (MSARC)



During and immediately following the devastating landfall of Hurricane Katrina, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Law Enforcement Division (LDWF/LED) conducted search and rescue operations that saved thousands of lives. The key to the success of those operations was the training and decades of experience that wildlife agents have in maritime search and rescue.

### Course Objectives

The LDWF/LED Maritime Search and Rescue Course is a Louisiana P.O.S.T. Council approved forty hour course designed to provide maritime rescue workers with basic knowledge and skills in boating and maritime search and rescue. The course consists of classroom instruction and practical exercises. Upon successful completion of MSARC, rescue workers will have the skill and knowledge needed to conduct an organized and safe search and rescue operation.

### Pre-Requisites

Rescue workers are required to have successfully completed a NASBLA approved boating education course ***BEFORE*** attending MSARC ***AND*** must possess a current certification from P.O.S.T. as basic law enforcement peace officer.

### Course Cost and Location

Cost per student is \$250. MSARC will be taught at the LDWF/LED Headquarters located at 2000 Quail Drive located in Baton Rouge, LA.

### Course Topics

Conducting maritime search and rescue operations requires organization, training, and vessel operation skills in order to be effective. MSARC provides training in the following subject matter:

**Maritime Search and Rescue**—rescue worker will be able to identify and employ the elements necessary to efficiently manage and operate a waterborne search and rescue operation.

**Louisiana SAR Emergency Operations Plan**—defines organizational and operational concepts for conducting search and rescue as described in the Louisiana SAR Emergency Operation Plans.

**Louisiana Rules of the Road**—basic navigation rules as prescribed in Title 76.

**Vessel Handling**—handling characteristics of various types of vessels.

#### *Preparation Saves Lives*

*"The skill and dedication of Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries officials and others working in these adverse conditions stand out as a singular success story of the hurricane response."*

— Hurricane Katrina: A Nation Still Unprepared. [Executive Summary](#). Report of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. May 2006.



## Marine Search and Rescue Course (MSARC)

### Course Topics—continued

**Marine Communications/GPS**—use of VHF radio and GPS receiver.

**Aids to Navigation**—Identifying aids to navigation as related to the operation of vessels on state territorial waterways.

**Marlinespike Seamanship**—basic skills in line and knot tying.

**Charts/Maps**—utilizing charts and maps in search and rescue and navigation.

**Preventative Maintenance**—preventing and troubleshooting minor engine/electrical problems.

**Motorboat Trailing**—basic principles of trailering and maintenance.

**Water Survival**—signs of hypothermia and safely retrieving a victim from the water.

**Waterborne Arrest Techniques**—procedures for making an arrest in a marine environment.

### Course Equipment

Rescue workers are required to provide the following equipment while attending MSARC:

**Vessels**— Agencies will provide their own vessels, trailers, vessel equipment, oil, etc. to utilize in training. Agencies should consider the types of vessel they will be utilizing in a search and rescue event when determining which vessels to bring to the course. (i.e. if your agency anticipates mostly shallow water rescue events it is recommended that you provide shallow bottom vessels for the training.) ***BEFORE ATTENDING THE COURSE, a list of vessels that the attendees will be using must be submitted to the LDWF/LED for approval.***

#### **Personal Flotation Devices**

Must be a type I, II, or III personal flotation device. Inflatable devices are allowed as long as they are used in accordance with USCG labeling requirements and your agency permits their use.

#### **G.P.S. Unit/VHF Radio**

A Garmin device is preferred, but any brand unit will do. Participants should have either a hand-held VHF radio or have vessels equipped with a VHF radio.

#### **Uniforms**

Class “B” or BDU style uniforms.

#### **For *course dates* and more information contact:**

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### **Over Fifty Years of Maritime Law Enforcement and Search and Rescue Experience**

***“Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries rescue workers put on an impressive display of both organization and courage. On Monday morning—as Katrina was still raging—they transported 60 boats to New Orleans from their pre-staging areas across the state, and by 4 p.m. they began to rescue people stranded in the storm—more than 1500 rescued by the next afternoon and more than 21,000 before it was over.”***

—Senator Joe Lieberman

“Hurricane Katrina: Urban Search and Rescue in a Catastrophe” January 30, 2006