

# Exercise Evaluation Report

## 2026 TARANAKI SAREX

**Location:** Dawson Falls Area, Mt Taranaki

**Date:** 16/05/2026

**Report version:** 1

**Evaluator(s):** *Kip Mandeno*

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## Executive Summary

The annual Taranaki Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) was successfully conducted over two days, commencing on Saturday morning at Konini Lodge. The exercise was jointly organized by Taranaki Police and Taranaki Land Search and Rescue (LandSAR). Reflecting this collaborative approach, the Incident Management Team (IMT) and the field deployment teams were fully integrated, comprising both Police personnel and LandSAR volunteers.

- **Exercise Format**

The SAREX was delivered in three distinct phases designed to test and build capability:

- **Phase 1 (Saturday Morning):** Module-based training exercises focused on core skills.
- **Phase 2 (Saturday Afternoon – Sunday Morning):** A continuous, overnight operational exercise.
- **Phase 3 (Sunday Concluding Session):** Practical helicopter training, relocated to a nearby farm.

The primary objectives of the SAREX were successfully achieved. The event provided a safe, highly collaborative, and engaging training environment that effectively strengthened the region's collective search and rescue response capability.

## 1. Recommendations

Because of the mixed style of this SAREX, the recommendations have been put straight into the section **5. Findings** section alongside the relevant objectives. This keeps things simple and ensures the feedback makes sense alongside what happened on the day.

## 2. Introduction

The Taranaki Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) is a key activity on the annual local SAR calendar, typically utilizing a traditional lost-party search format.

As a highly popular recreation area, Mount Taranaki features an extensive network of tracks, campsites, huts, and alpine routes. Because it is easily accessible from the local road network, it attracts a diverse range of users—including school groups, tourists, day walkers, and alpinists.

The region is defined by two challenging characteristics:

- **Diverse and Complex Terrain:** Features range from dense, complex bush to highly exposed alpine environments.
- **Volatile Weather:** The mountain is notorious for its rapid, unpredictable weather shifts.

Given these environmental challenges and high visitor volumes, it is vital for local SAR teams to maintain a deep familiarity with the area to ensure an efficient and effective response. The terrain around Dawson Falls provided an ideal setting that perfectly aligns with the training objectives of the SAREX.

## 3. Background

### 3.1 Background to the Exercise

SAREXs have been conducted by Taranaki Police to test and maintain readiness for SAR events that may occur across a wide range of terrain. Like many NZSAR areas, the Taranaki Police District covers a vast range of terrain, including coastal, bush, river, and alpine environments.

### 3.2 Dates, location, organising agency(s), key people

- **Date of Exercise**
  - 16/05/2026
- **Location**
  - Dawson Falls – Mt Taranaki
- **Exercise Director**
  - Wade (NZ Police)
- **Exercise Development**
  - Alan Doy (Taranaki Land SAR)

### 3.3 Participating organisations

- NZ Police
- Land SAR Taranaki
- Skyworks Helicopters Ltd
- AREC
- Rapid Relief Team
- Land Search & Rescue Training

### 3.4 Exercise aim

The primary purpose of the exercise was to:

- Exercise both Incident Management Team (IMT) and Field Team functions
- Provide skills revision and upskilling.

### 3.5 Exercise objectives

- Seven objectives were set for the Exercise; however, the structure of the weekend meant these objectives were carried out in 3 separate sections of the weekend making the objectives manageable and achievable.

<u>1</u>	Practise stretcher management and patient care, including safe packaging, movement across variable terrain, and ongoing patient monitoring.
<u>2</u>	Refresh fundamental wilderness search techniques, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sound and light line</li><li>• Purposeful wandering</li><li>• SET Concept</li></ul>
<u>3</u>	Practise processing wilderness clue sites and reporting relevant information.
<u>4</u>	Helicopter familiarisation with local Tier 2 operator, focusing on working around, loading, and unloading activities.
<u>5</u>	To give IMT members the opportunity to establish a forward base and manage a SAROP.
<u>6</u>	That the IMT is measured against NZSAR response guidelines
<u>7</u>	To develop operational knowledge of the Dawson Falls/Kapuni area to better prepare for future incidents (track network, radio repeater coverage, attractants, etc.)

Objectives from the exercise planning document

### 3.6 Exercise Events

The SAREX was based at Konini Lodge near the Dawson Falls Visitor Centre. The last SAREX occurred here 10 years ago, so this met the focus of Objective 7. Konini Lodge is an ideal ICP, with separate spaces for IMT and field teams, along with kitchen and bunk rooms.

A detailed timeline for the SAREX was provided and, in broad terms, it was made up of:

- Day One –
  - Exercise Briefing
  - Module Training Exercises
  - Afternoon Exercise Establishment
  - Establishment of the IMT
  - Field Exercise to 9pm with teams overnighing
- Day Two –
  - Continuation of Field Exercise
  - Helicopter Training

## 4. Evaluation Methodology

### 4.1 The agreed outcomes of the evaluation activity

Carry out observation of the training modules and Incident Management team during the SAREX and outcomes from the field teams.

### 4.2 Evaluation scope

Evaluation of the SAREX was carried out at the ICP against the objectives and measured against the various parts of the planning tool relevant to the phase of the SAREX.

### 4.3 Aspects of the exercise observed, what was not observed

All aspects of the SAREX were observed from the initial briefing through to the conclusion of the field exercise. This comprehensive oversight included the evaluation of key components such as general briefings and the training modules.

While no formal, hands-on field assessment was conducted, the overall evaluation relied heavily on monitoring the field teams' operational performance. Specifically, the assessment focused on:

- **Actions:** Decision-making and execution in the field.
- **Communications:** Clarity, accuracy, and frequency of radio traffic and updates.
- **Deliverables:** The quality and timeliness of tasks completed by the teams.

### 4.4 The process followed in preparing and submitting the report

A detailed exercise plan served as the benchmark for this evaluation. Reviewing real-time activities against this pre-established document ensured a transparent, structured, and detailed evaluation process. Additionally, the scale and centralized location of the SAREX allowed for direct engagement and informal interviews with both participants and planners throughout the weekend.

The observations and data gathered on-site were sufficient to complete this assessment; consequently, no follow-up actions or external investigations were required after the conclusion of the exercise.

## 5. Findings

The SAREX covered three key learning phases. The modules were integrated into the afternoon scenario to reinforce skills learned in the morning.

### Objectives 1, 2 & 3

The training modules were delivered by two Land Search & Rescue instructors and one Taranaki SAR member, with well-allocated timeframes that ensured all learning objectives were met.

The instruction adhered strictly to current industry good practice standards and successfully reinforced standard SAR terminology and acronyms. A key focus of the Search Methods training was promoting the active use of the **LandSAR Field Guide** to help members recall specific search tactics and methodologies. Given the often lengthy periods between active, real-world searches, utilising this available reference tool proved to be a highly effective way for members to streamline processes and quickly get into the "search mindset."

A key training module was using the new Ferno Tyrol Stretcher purchased by Taranaki Land SAR. This was key to the success of the field team exercise when the team got to put skills learnt in the field into the rescue scenario of the field exercise.

The SAR members were highly engaged throughout the process, demonstrating a strong commitment to the training and actively participating in all practical exercises.

### Recommendations

- Modules provide a good, annualised skills reinforcement and should feature as part of the SAREX / Training Programme.
- Cycling this with regular style SAREXs provides time to learn skills and then implement them.

### Objective 4

Not assessed however this module was completed.

### Recommendations

- Maintain this training, it is an important part of SAR skills.

## Objectives 5 & 6

### ICP and Facility Suitability

The exercise successfully established an ICP at Konini Lodge. The venue proved highly suitable, offering distinct, separate operational spaces that allowed both the field teams and the IMT to function efficiently without cross-interference.

### The Forward Base vs. ICP Structural Dynamic

A key objective of the weekend was to set up a Forward Base, simulating a departure from the Taranaki Emergency Management Office (TEMO) where operations are normally based. In a formal CIMS structure, a Forward Base operates strictly under the tactical control of Operations at the main ICP and is typically staffed by only a few individuals executing assigned tasks.

Because a primary ICP was not established back at TEMO for this exercise, it was not technically possible to run Konini Lodge as a "Forward Base" in the formal, textbook sense. Instead, the team effectively ran a standalone remote ICP. While this distinction is an important note regarding the initial SAREX objectives, it did not negatively influence the successful execution or outcomes of the field exercise itself.

### IMT Performance and NZSAR Guidelines

During the field exercise, the IMT encountered standard operational challenges typical of a live exercise environment. Specifically, the team initially found themselves being driven by incoming field information rather than proactively driving the operation. This is not uncommon in an IMT during exercises, as the shorter timeframes of a weekend training scenario mean teams often do not get the chance or the requirement to move into formal, long-term extended search planning.

However, as these challenges arose, the IMT successfully worked through them. The search activities and subsequent taskings ultimately followed solid Lost Person Behaviour (LPB) principles and resulted in suitable taskings.

The IMT successfully developed and maintained critical operational documentation to manage and inform the team, including:

- Incident Action Plans (IAPs)
- Information Collection Plans
- Master Mission Timelines
- Missing Person Profiles
- Topographical mapping and overlay management

To support this process, the team utilised a simple, lightweight version of the New Zealand SAR response guidelines, which proved highly effective at steering the hasty response phase of the operation. This document could be enhanced in the future by adding brief descriptions of roles and a checklist of tasks for IMT positions to complete. Overall, within the timeframe of the SAREX, the actions of the IMT largely met the NZSAR response guidelines.

### Field Deployment and Team Dynamics

Field teams were deployed in the early afternoon for an overnight stint in the bush. Team sizes were appropriate for the specific terrain and scope of the assigned taskings. Activities in the field aligned well with the direction of the IMT, and any necessary tasking adjustments made by the teams in the field were done appropriately and in consultation with the IMT.

## Communications Infrastructure and Data Flow

Communications were established a local fixed repeater, a portable repeater, and a Starlink satellite system, providing suitable coverage across the operational area for the duration of the weekend.

Radio communications were managed by AREC and Land SAR personnel in a separate room adjacent to the main IMT space. Some challenges arose regarding the data flow from radio traffic into the IMT, an issue that is not uncommon in emergency management. Maintaining a seamless flow of real-time information from the radio desk to the planning and operations desks is critical to an effective SAROP.

Operationally, communication was solely reliant on voice radio traffic. While radio use is deeply ingrained in SAR personnel, the exercise highlighted that we sometimes overlook alternative options. Developing a more comprehensive plan using PACE principles, a multi-channel communications plan could have provided field teams with alternative options. The rescue phase of the SAREX was well managed and overseen by the trainers. Good decision-making was demonstrated regarding the safety of the patient in hazardous terrain. The field teams completed a successful extraction of the patient while operating with a new stretcher.

### **Recommendations**

- Improve training and knowledge in the roles of IMT
- Look at developing an IMTEX as part of the annual training cycle
- Develop communications training to improve effectiveness of the team
- Continue training with the Tyrol Stretcher to develop familiarisation

### **Objective 7**

The exercise achieved the desired outcomes of the SAREX, with all KPIs supported by being based at Konini Lodge.

## 6. Conclusions

The 2026 Taranaki SAREX was a well-run and well-coordinated event by everyone involved, and Konini Lodge proved to be an excellent venue choice for staging the exercise.

Having a thorough, well-considered SAREX plan in place meant the weekend ran smoothly and kept all personnel actively involved from start to finish. The exercise delivered plenty of solid learning opportunities for both the field teams and the developing IMT, giving everyone a safe environment to test communication setups, software, and processes effectively.

While the exercise highlighted some of the standard real-world challenges, such as the IMT needing to drive the process rather than being purely reactive to field data, and the bottleneck of moving information from the radio room to the IMT desks, these are exactly the kinds of snags a SAREX is designed to iron out. Working through the logistics of running a remote setup away from TEMO was invaluable, and the way the IMT sorted out solid, LPB-focused taskings shows the regional capability is functioning well.

Ultimately, the weekend successfully ticked off its goals. It proved that the collaboration between Taranaki Police, Land SAR, AREC, and local support agencies is strong, leaving the local SAR community much better prepared for the unique challenges of any future callouts on Mount Taranaki.

## 7. Appendix

REFER: Planning documents attached

# TARANAKI POLICE AREA

**SAREX**

**KONINI**

**May 2026**

**Exercise Plan**



## **Overview**

Taranaki LandSAR, in conjunction with New Zealand Police, will conduct an annual Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) involving available personnel over a two-day combined training and operational scenario. The primary purpose of this exercise is to:

- Exercise both Incident Management Team (IMT) and Field Team functions
- Provide skills revision and upskilling.

- Enable peer-to-peer learning supported by subject matter experts (SMEs)
- Test operational response in a realistic terrain-based environment

### **Location**

Konini Lodge will serve as the Incident Control Point (ICP) for IMT operations, logistics, and catering. Modular training activities will be conducted in close proximity to Konini Lodge.

The overnight field deployment will involve teams operating on the southern slopes of Taranaki Maunga including Kāpuni catchment and surrounding track network.

### **Objectives**

The objectives of this SAREX are to:

1. Practise stretcher management and patient care, including safe packaging, movement across variable terrain, and ongoing patient monitoring.
2. Refresh fundamental wilderness search techniques, including:
  - Sound and light line
  - Purposeful wandering
  - SET Concept
3. Practise processing wilderness clue sites and reporting relevant information.
4. Helicopter familiarisation with local Teir 2 operator, focusing on working around, loading and unloading activities.
5. To give IMT members the opportunity establish a forward base and manage a SAROP.
6. That the IMT is measured against NZSAR response guidelines
7. To develop operational knowledge of the Dawson Falls/Kapuni area to better prepare for future incidents (track network, radio repeater coverage, attractants etc)

### **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May Program**

1400- Konini Lodge available

### **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May Program**

0800- Administration and Safety Briefing

0830- 1<sup>st</sup> Module

1000- Morning Tea

1030- 2<sup>nd</sup> Module

1200- Lunch

1300- 3<sup>rd</sup> Module

1330-IC receives scenario details

1400- IMT formed

1430- Afternoon Tea- Field Teams/ready field equipment

1500- Field Teams briefed

1530- Field Teams begin to deploy

1600-First Field Teams arrive at LKP

2030- Field Teams bed down in the field or as directed by IMT

2100- Evening Sitreps/IMT shutdown

- Formation of Module Groups for the Saturday Morning
  - Three Groups formed of approx. 9-12 persons

<i>Activity 1</i>	<b>Stretcher Management</b>	<i>Stretcher/Low Angle Ropes/Mule litter Wheel</i>
<i>Activity 2</i>	<b>Wilderness Clue Site Processing</b>	<i>Sign Cutting and Clue Processing</i>
<i>Activity 3</i>	<b>Search Techniques</b>	<i>Sound/Light Line, Purposeful Wander, SET, AROD</i>

	<b>0830-1000</b>	<b>1030-1200</b>	<b>1300-1430</b>
<b>Group A (field)</b>	<b>Activity 1</b>	<b>Activity 2</b>	<b>Activity 3</b>
<b>Group B (field)</b>	<b>Activity 3</b>	<b>Activity 1</b>	<b>Activity 2</b>
<b>Group C (field)</b>	<b>Activity 2</b>	<b>Activity 3</b>	<b>Activity 1</b>

Each field session will be 90 minutes and time between Activities being Morning Tea and Lunch.

## Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May Program

0630- IMT at Konini or as directed by IC

0700- Mornings SITREP/Briefing/Tasks

1000-End FieldEX

1100- Field Teams back at Konini Lodge, Lunch and transfer to Heli Op location

1200- Heli Op

1400- Debrief End SAREX

## Team Composition

**Directing Staff** This will be a group of pre-determined people who will assist with Set-up, meals, assist Logistics Manager and event manager on the day. This group will be responsible for pre-organising teams of registered Field Team members, Missing Persons and Informants in scenarios, assisting with any modules. This group will also assist in any other reasonable tasks assigned to aid the SAREX.

**IMT** Make-up will be as required and dictated by the DS to allow peer to peer learning and coaching throughout the main scenario. Preferably, the personnel will have the opportunity to have a more experienced member alongside them in their function roles to allow uptake of learnings as well as assessment to the competencies.

Administration Unit will be as per local requirements and is expected to work seamlessly alongside the IMT roles. This will be broadly overviewed for efficiency and areas of improvement where applicable by SME/Assessor and senior local members.

## **Field teams**

As per local norms for callouts but recommended 3 person teams who are combined into an Instruction Group of no more than 3x four person teams per group.

Those registered to attend the SAREX will be made into combined teams prior to arrival on Saturday and the team lists displayed by the Organising Team to allow for Team familiarisation and forming prior to the SAREX commencement on Saturday Afternoon.

We may wish to “test” new or developing Team Leaders or utilise existing Team Leaders.

## **Instruction Groups**

Each LandSAR provided SME/Instructor is expected to have **groups** no larger than 3 x four person teams.

Each LandSAR member should make themselves familiar with the LandSAR Competencies.

## **Search Activities**

### ***Missing person scenarios begins Saturday***

The SAREX will consist of three separate Activities followed by a 12hr in field scenario managed by an IMT based at Konini Lodge.

## **Skills based learning, demonstration, and assessments**

Where practicable, the teams will rotate through the skills stations enhancing or reinforcing the skills required for the later Search scenario and then be assessed in alignment with competencies.

### ***Mentoring/Assessment by appropriate group SMEs***

Also, to allow evaluation, skills and knowledge sharing, local SMEs may be assigned to groups to allow knowledge to be shared from experience garnered over their time in SAR.

This will allow the Mentors/Management to view skills and abilities for succession or development of appropriate personnel and by spending the day with the groups, observe better the skills and knowledge being assessed.

Each SME/Assessor will have a **12 people maximum** and assess all on combined assessment/competency sheets as provided.

## **Skills session and assessments**

The host group has chosen the following options for the Saturday (SRM, Search, Wilderness Clue)

Each should run for 1.5 hours and then seamlessly roll over into the next subject.

**Stretcher Management (SRM) 1.5 hours**

*Delivery – LandSAR NZ*

Familiarisation with equipment (Ferno Tyrol *(if this has arrived)*, Traverse Spartan, Mule Litter Wheel & Rope Kit)

Preparing Stretcher, Loading and securing patient

Loading a patient and making comfortable and secure for transport.

Basic knot craft

Simple anchors for low angle ropes (W3P2)

Simple Belay methods

Use of the Mule Litter Wheel / Ferno Tyrol

Carry over distance utilising full team with changes, side-swap and various methods.

Use and demonstrate correct calls for lifting, lowering, uphill and downhill movement.

Stretcher attendant roles assigned, calls made correctly and patient care with Obs completed.

**Wilderness Clue Site Processing (CLUE) 1.5 hours**

*Delivery – LandSAR NZ*

Revise S.T.O.P.P.E.R. and contamination control process.

Sign cutting objects, and processing wilderness clue sites

Establishing DNAC

Marking and recording clue site information for relay by radio.

**Search Techniques (SEARCH) 1.5 hours**

*Delivery – Taranaki LandSAR*

Familiarisation with key concepts SET, AROD

Revise Sound/Light Line

Revise Purposeful Wandering

**Helicopter Operations (HELI) 2.0 hours**

Familiarisation with local tier 2 operation

Working around helicopters, loading and unloading.

*TBC with Police SAR coordinator and helicopter operator.*

**Locations**

***Map in Use***

Topo50 BJ29 Mount Taranaki

***Exercise Locations***

Location	GPS Ref.	Comment
ICP	Dawson Falls	Konini Lodge
12hr FieldEX	NZTOPO BJ29	Dawson Falls/Kapuni
VHF Repeaters: Taranaki 20W Portable (ESB57) Taranaki Fixed (EE122)	As dictated by IMT in consultation with AREC	At ICP Konini Lodge

### Key Personnel

Function	Name	Contact Number
Exercise Controller	Wade Callender	
Exercise Design	Alan Doy	021592687
Incident Management Team	Determined on day	
Police Personnel	Ged (Poilce SAR)	
Safety Officer	TBC by Exercise Controller	
Department of Conservation		

### Responsibilities

Function	Responsibility	Comment
ICP Set Up	Directing Staff, Base Support + Logistics	Konini

Team Equipment	Pete Ford	Taranaki LandSAR Gear Officer
Lost Party Comms	Alan Doy	
VHF Handheld radios	Police/LandSAR	
VHF Repeaters	Police/LandSAR	Fixed EE122
GPS Handheld Receivers	Police x6 LandSAR x13	Police sets Taranaki LandSAR based sets Datums NZTM set, and plot/waypoints trails cleared
Laminated Maps and Photos	Alan Doy	Maps for lost parties, search teams and ICP use
Computers and Printers		Forward Base support for SAR laptops, printer
First Aid Equipment	Police	At ICP and carried by teams
Accommodation	Individual	Exercise participants to provide personal equipment for overnight accommodation in the field. The location for the overnight camp will be given at the conclusion of the day's scenario. DS and IMT stay at Konini Lodge.
Transport	Individual	Transport to and from the exercise venue to be an individual responsibility. Police 4WD vehicles and LandSAR members vehicles will meet transport requirements during the SAREX
Catering		Saturday: Morning Tea/Lunch/Afternoon Tea (all participants) Dinner (DS and IMT) Lunch will be provided on Sunday at the SAREX ICP for all participants
Land Manager Liaison	Wade Callender	Police liaise with Department of Conservation and Taranaki Regional Council, Private Land owner

## Communications

### ***Within Exercise***

Exercise activities	VHF channel – EE122
Lost parties	VHF channel –Missing Parties ESB57

	Note: Lost parties are to be issued with non-SARTrack enabled radios.
Directing Staff	DS ESB57

**External**

- Police radio
- Cellular telephones
- STAR Link Wifi

# Emergency and Hazard Management Plan

<b>Event Name:</b>	SAREX 2026 Konini Lodge – Dawson Falls	<b>Date:</b>	16/05/2026	<b>Time:</b>	0800
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<b>Person in Control:</b>	Wade Callander	<b>Safety Advisor:</b>	
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## A Identify Hazards

<b>Event Location:</b>	Te Papakura o Taranaki/Taranaki Maunga- Dawson Falls, Konni Lodge
	<b>List Hazards at Location</b>
<b>Natural Hazards:</b>	Sub alpine and bush terrain, weather, temperature, streams/river, bush
<b>Manmade Hazards:</b>	Roads, vehicles, lack of cell phone reception, several personnel with minimal experience will be in attendance, limited facilities, and shelter, predator control. Timeframes for search and training periods are defined to ensure that fatigue is mitigated
<b>Other Activities:</b>	Iwi/DoC Conservation land to which people normally have access. It is possible that members of the public may be within the search area and they will need to be made aware of search activity and search movements.

<b>Event Description:</b>	Search and Rescue Exercise at Dawson Falls/Mount Taranaki, including training activities, scenarios, and overnight camp to upskill and assess abilities of Police SAR and LandSAR IMT and field team members
	<b>List Task Related Hazards</b>
<b>Task Hazards:</b>	Risk of sprain, strain, or injury from conducting tasks incorrectly Risk of hypothermia if appropriate PPE not worn correctly River crossing if not assessed or carried out correctly

<b>Current Weather:</b>	Cloudy, possible rain, temperature 5-11°C
<b>Forecast Weather:</b>	TBC
	<b>List Weather Related Hazards</b>
<b>Climate Hazards:</b>	Frost, sun, rain, wind, temperature (especially overnight)

## B Risk Controls

Risks resulting from exposure to the above hazards will be controlled by the following actions:

### Compulsory Safety Practices

- Complete specific safety assessments for all team taskings
- Team safety discussions before the commencement of tasks and whenever plans, conditions or other circumstances change during a task

- Safety equipment, appropriate for each task, is available and is used
- Accidents and incidents (including near misses), that are more than trivial, will be reported

**LandSAR Safety Standards** Personnel at this event must be familiar with and observe the following Safety Standards (✓ as applicable):

- |                                 |                               |                            |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ✓ General Deployment Safety     | ✓ Health and Fitness for SAR  | ✓ River Crossing and Water |
| ✓ On Road Driving               | ○ Off Road Driving            | ✓ Helicopter Safety        |
| ✓ Off-Track Operations          | ○ Sub-alpine Avalanche Safety | ○ Alpine Rescue            |
| ○ Technical Rescue – High Angle | ○ Technical Rescue – River    | ○ Technical Rescue – Cave  |

**Specific Event Level Risk Controls** (ie. those that apply to multiple event tasks/activities and are not covered by LandSAR safety standards)—detail here and continue on attachments if necessary:

Identify hazard (consider environment, equipment and human factors)	Risk Controls (note the procedures or standards to be observed to maintain safety)
Environment	Ensure the Exercise Director and Incident Controller are aware of the latest weather forecast and current conditions. Ensure all teams are briefed on environmental conditions and are prepared to proceed in the circumstances and conditions on the day, and that all are aware of the evacuation procedure should this be necessary
Equipment	Ensure all equipment to be used during the SAREX is present, certified in date and has been checked as serviceable by the group using the equipment. Ensure all teams have functioning communications, and access to radio, PLB and first aid kits
Personnel	Ensure all personnel have appropriate training, abilities, briefings, PPE, and are aware of their responsibility to monitor self and team for any signs of illness, injury, or fatigue. Take rest breaks as required
Administration	Ensure all personnel are aware of communication plan and timings for SAREX, test all communications, confirm emergency preparedness, conduct briefings and debriefs as required

**Team Welfare** (consider the need for all of the following and tick those that have been arranged for this event)

- ✓ An effective system is in place for personnel sign-in and sign-out and tracking of team locations and status
- ✓ Personnel are adequately provisioned with food and drink
- The safety of any transport provided before, during or after the event has been assessed
- Personnel/team maximum work periods have been established and rotation has been provided for
- Arrangements for personnel welfare during stand down periods have been made

**Emergency Plan** (prepare a separate plan or provide basic details here)

Method and protocol for signalling an emergency situation during this event:

Call 'No Duff' VHF Channel EE122, ESB57 or cell phone, or activate PLB

Assembly points and escape routes:

ICP at Konini Lodge, Dawson Falls, Manaia Road

Emergency resources (other than normal emergency services):

Ground assets involved in SAREX

Relevant emergency contact numbers:

Police 111, Incident Control Point, Incident Management Team 00211914906 (Wade)

## C Post Event Action

- Debrief – safety performance and issues at this event should be reviewed and recorded. All safety lessons learned should be communicated to relevant audiences, locally and via LandSAR NZ.
- Recording Keeping – retain Safety Plans, Safety Assessments and records of Take Five briefings.
- Complete and forward all accident/incident reports to: [safety@landsar.org.nz](mailto:safety@landsar.org.nz)

Plan prepared by:

Plan approved by: