

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

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SAR SITUATION REPORTS

- 1 At its twenty-seventh session the Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation agreed that the Organization should prepare a standard format for search and rescue situation reports (SITREPS) for the transmission of information between Rescue Co-ordination Centres (RCCs).
- 2 The Sub-Committee prepared a provisional draft text which is attached hereto.
- 3 Member Governments are invited to convey the draft standard SITREP format to their search and rescue authorities and to request them to conduct trials with this format to establish its suitability.
- 4 Member Governments are kindly requested to report the result of these trials to the Organization to enable the Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation to prepare a standard format at its twenty-eighth session.

DRAFT STANDARD FORMAT FOR SEARCH AND  
RESCUE SITUATION REPORTS

Situation Reports (SITREPS) should be compiled as follows:

- 1 Short form - to pass urgent essential details when requesting assistance, or to provide the earliest notice of a casualty.

TRANSMISSION PRIORITY	(Distress/Urgency, etc.)
FROM	(Originating RCC)
TO	-
SAR SITREP (NUMBER)	(To indicate nature of message and completeness of sequence of sitreps concerning the casualty.)
A. IDENTITY OF CASUALTY	(Name of vessel, call-sign, flag state.)
B. SITUATION	(Type of message - e.g. distress/urgency position, date/time, nature of distress/urgency, e.g. fire, collision, medico)
C. NUMBER OF PERSONS AT RISK	
D. ASSISTANCE REQUIRED	
E. CO-ORDINATING RCC	

- 2 Full form - When time permits the full form may be used for the initial SITREP or to later amplify it. The following additional sections should be used as required:

F. DESCRIPTION OF CASUALTY	(Physical description, owner/charterer, cargo carried, passage from/to, etc.)
G. WEATHER	(Actual and/or forecast at the scene.)
H. INITIAL ACTIONS TAKEN	(By casualty and RCC).
J. SEARCH AREA	(as planned by RCC).
K. CO-ORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS	(OSC/CSS designated, units participating, communications, etc.)
L. FUTURE PLANS	
M. REMARKS/CONCLUSION	

NOTES:

- 1 Each SITREP concerning the same casualty should be numbered sequentially.
  - 2 If help is required from the addressee, the first SITREP should be issued in short form if remaining information is not readily available.
  - 3 Further SITREPS should be issued as soon as other relevant information has been obtained. It should not be necessary to repeat information already passed.
  - 4 In prolonged operations "no change" SITREPS, if necessary, should be issued at intervals of about three hours to reassure the recipient that nothing has been missed.
  - 5 When the incident has been concluded a final SITREP should be issued to make this clear.
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