

DACSAR Required Gear List

The following gear and clothing items are those required for Field Certification. DACSAR team members should regard these as the minimum gear required for participation in a search and rescue mission.

Additional information can be found in the Field Certification Study Guide at http://www.nmeso.org/FieldCert_docs/StudyGuide.pdf

Clothing¹

- Sturdy hiking boots (ankle-covering)
- Sturdy work gloves
- Head cover(s)
- Gloves and/or mittens (for warmth)
- Socks (and extras)
- Inner layer (basic underwear, long underwear – bottoms and tops)
- Middle layer(s) for warmth (bottoms and tops)
- Outer layer for wind and water protection (bottoms and top with hood)

Gear

- Pack or container to carry/hold the required gear and clothing
- Eye protection (glasses, sunglasses)
- Food for 24 hours
- Water (2 quarts minimum)²
- Knife
- Fire starter
- Compass with 5 degree accuracy³
- Map of search area⁴
- Whistle
- Signal mirror⁵
- Light source⁶
- Personal first aid kit (See recommended contents list overleaf)
- Space blanket
- Pencil or pen and paper
- 20 feet of 1 inch tubular nylon webbing (*Two lengths recommended*)

Notes:

1 Although cotton and cotton-blend clothing may be included in a summertime pack, each candidate for Field Certification must also have non-cotton/cotton blend clothing layers (inner, middle, and outer layers). It can be cold and wet in New Mexico's mountains even in summer - and especially at night.

2 Only the water containers need to be brought to the Certification session. Two quarts really is a minimum for a long summer search mission.

3 Military or lensatic compasses are not acceptable. You must know how to use your compass.

4 A map does not have to be brought to the Certification session. Usually maps will be provided to field teams at Incident Base - but don't count on it.

5 Glass or mil-spec plastic with mesh around sighting hole. Again, you should know how to use it.

6 Flashlight or headlamp with extra batteries and replacement bulbs.

Personal First Aid Kit

First aid kit should be contained in baggies or in a waterproof container of some sort. It is intended for treatment of the sorts of relatively minor cuts, scrapes, and scratches, and burns that might be acquired in the field. Small first aid kits containing these items can usually be found in a store's sporting goods department.

Sunscreen (SPF 15+), insect repellent (DEET), and water should also be available.

Be sure to include personal medications (*e.g.*, insulin, antihistamines, etc.)

Recommended Items:

Knife or razor blade

Tweezers!

A few large Band-Aids & butterfly Band-Aids

A few gauze pads & tape

Moleskin

Ace bandage

Antibiotic ointment (*e.g.*, Bactroban)

Eyedrops (*e.g.*, Visene)

Aspirin (or ibuprofen as an anti-inflammatory and acetaminophen as a pain reliever)

Steroid cream (*e.g.*, hydrocortisone 1%)

Antihistamine (*e.g.*, Benadryl)

Antidiarrheal (*e.g.*, loperamide)

Oral antibiotic (Mainly for diarrhea: levofloxacin, ciprofloxacin) (Prescription item)

Water purification tablets.

Consider adding patient medications:

Latex gloves & hand sanitizer

Epinephrine injector (EpiPen) - for severe allergic reactions, heart attack (Prescription item)

Aspirin - for heart attack

Honey packets - for hypoglycemia

Oral rehydration salts (8 tsp sucrose+1 tsp salt +1 liter water) for dehydration, diarrhea

... and a spare space blanket.

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