



## SARINZ Training & Copyright Issues

### Introduction

The present level of Land SAR training and expertise in this country is directly related to SARINZ.

SARINZ has recently written to the LandSAR Board to remind them of the principles of SARINZ and the existence of copyright on courses developed by SARINZ.

### SARINZ IP and Copyright

There are a number of features and factual matters that LandSAR NZ should be bringing to the attention of members whenever training is being discussed or reviewed.

SARINZ is aware that in 2011 LandSAR has been assembling a parallel training system to that developed by SARINZ and so is in direct competition for any government funding, TEC or otherwise.

During the past nine years of developing and delivering courses, SARINZ has built up a considerable body of expertise and intellectual property, which other training organisations would be dependent on acquiring or licensing if proposing their own parallel system. SARINZ is one of the few organisations in the world to have extensive search, rescue and management IP. The Trust maintains the IP to ensure its high standards, continued development, availability long term and to prevent the 'dumbing down' of IP by others.

SARINZ is confident in its legal position regarding IP on its courses provided to volunteers. SARINZ also owns copyright on much of the search section of the LandSAR Field Guide 2010. SAR volunteers will recognise that this has a large component of SARINZ IP, made available through a 2010 LandSAR/SARINZ agreement to publish under a LandSAR/SARINZ banner. The LandSAR Notebook/Aide Memoire pages, of October 2011, also include unacknowledged SARINZ IP. SARINZ has requested appropriate acknowledgement from the LandSAR board.

LandSAR volunteers have always had numerous interactions with SARINZ, as trainees, instructors, and members of its governance team. All SARINZ members have always assumed that a working partnership between LandSAR NZ and SARINZ would continue, and we would all be winners, whether or not the necessary funding comes via TEC. SARINZ is a far better partner than competitor. However the formal agreement between these two organisations was cancelled earlier in 2011 by the LandSAR Board, in the new approach to SAR training nationally.

SARINZ believes that a close working relationship with LandSAR is in the best interests of volunteers, but it must be a mutually beneficial, trusting relationship to ensure that volunteers continue to receive the training and support they deserve.

### SARINZ History and Funding

SARINZ started training funding for land SAR volunteers in 2003, which was enabled by the introduction of Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) funding of about \$1m per annum via a training partnership with Tai Poutini Polytechnic.

At that time this was new money coming through to benefit the training of SAR volunteers, and it has continued since in varying amounts. The ONLY current funding for land SAR that comes via TEC is that through the Tai Poutini Polytech/SARINZ relationship. We are very aware of the overall satisfaction of land SAR members with SARINZ courses and the immense improvement in competencies that has resulted.

### Basic Principles of SARINZ

SARINZ have a number of basic principles which guide our decision making and day-to-day operations. These are:

- To provide high quality, nationally consistent, internationally bench marked training to the Emergency Services Sector (especially LandSAR).
- To ensure that wherever possible volunteers do not have to pay to receive quality training. We fundamentally believe that volunteers give enough of their time, without having to incur additional financial costs.
- To work in a cooperative way with all clients to ensure personnel are suitably trained in accordance with operational needs.
- To ensure that where SARINZ IP is utilised by other agencies and external publications, it is appropriately recognised and referenced. This does not necessarily imply that there will be a charge for the use of the SARINZ IP.
- To maintain SARINZ as a nonprofit organisation that uses any surpluses to fund R&D for the benefit of the SAR sector in New Zealand.
- To encourage SARINZ management to be members of a volunteer emergency service so that all strategic decisions reflect the needs of frontline personnel.
- To maintain a mandatory requirement that SARINZ tutors MUST be operational members of a volunteer emergency service appropriate to the field in which they tutor and be near the top of their game to ensure credible delivery.