

GEN 3.6 SEARCH AND RESCUE

1 Responsible service(s)

The Search and Rescue Service in the Republic of Maldives is provided by the Air Traffic Services Section of the Maldives Airports Company Ltd, in collaboration with the Maldivs National Defence Force of the Ministry of Defence and National Security which has the responsibility for making the necessary facilities available. Postal and telegraphic address of Maldives Airports Company Ltd are given on page GEN 1.1-2

The address of the Maldives National Defence Force is as follows:

Maldives National Defence Force
Ministry of Defence and National Security
Male', Republic of Maldives.
TEL: (960) 3322607
AFS: NIL
Website: www.mndf.gov.mv

When SAR operations are needed a Rescue Co-ordination Centre is established; the addresses are as follows:

For aviation:
Rescue Co-ordination Centre
Male' International Airport
Republic of Maldives
TEL: (960) 3322071
Fax: (960) 3313258
AFS: VRMMYCYX

For maritime SAR
MNDF Coast Guard
Ministry of Defense and National Security
Republic of Maldives
Tel: (960) 3325981,3338898
Fax: (960) 3310054

The service is provided in accordance with the provisions contained in ICAO Annex 12 - *Search and Rescue*.

2 Area of responsibility

The Search and Rescue Service is responsible for SAR operations within Male' FIR.

3 Types of services

Details of related rescue units are given in Table 3.6.3 - Search and Rescue Units. In addition various elements of domestic airline operators, the merchant marine and the armed forces are also available for search and rescue missions when required. The aeronautical, maritime and public telecommunication services are also available to the search and rescue organisation.

Name	Location	Facilities	Remarks
Male'/International	041130N 0733145E	One Dornier 228 - MRG	4 HR PN
Male' (Harbour)	041025N 0733020E	Two Patrol vessels	Endurance 20 HR, speed 20 kt, capacity 30 casualties in each.
Male' (Harbour)	041025S 0733020E	Two Patrol vessels	Endurance 20 HR, speed 20 kt, capacity 25 casualties in each.
Male' (Harbour)	041025S 0733020E	Two Patrol vessels	Endurance 12 HR, speed 25 kt, capacity 15 casualties in each.

4 SAR agreements

No formal agreement has been concluded as yet, between the SAR service of the Republic of Maldives and the SAR service of any other State concerning the provision of assistance upon receipt by the former of a request from the latter for aid.

Requests for the entry of aircraft, equipment and personnel from other State to engage in the search for aircraft in distress or to rescue survivors of aircraft accidents should be transmitted to the Rescue Co-ordination Centre. Instructions as to the control which will be exercised on entry of such aircraft and/or personnel will be given by the Rescue Co-ordination Centre in accordance with a standing plan for the conduct of search and rescue in its area.

5 Conditions of availability

The SAR service of the Republic of Maldives is available without charge to neighbouring States upon request to the Maldives Airports Company Ltd at all times when they are not engaged in search and rescue operations in the Male Search and Rescue Region. The SAR facilities are not available to other States as these are extremely limited.

6 Procedures and signals used

6.1 *Procedures and signals used by aircraft*

Procedures for pilots-in-command observing an accident or intercepting a distress call and/or message are outlined in ICAO Annex 12, Chapter 5.

6.2 *Communications*

Transmission and reception of distress messages within the Male' Search and Rescue Region are handled in accordance with ICAO Annex 10, Volume II, Chapter 5, paragraph 5.3.

For communications during search and rescue operations the codes and abbreviations published in ICAO Abbreviations and Codes (Doc 8400) are used.

The frequency 121.5 MHz is guarded continuously during the hours of service at the Male' Area Control Centre. It is also available at Male' / International and Gan aerodrome control towers. The Male' Coastal Radio Station guards the international maritime distress frequencies.

6.3 *Search and rescue signals*

The search and rescue signals to be used are those prescribed in ICAO Annex 12, Chapter 5 paragraph 5.10.

Ground/Air Visual Signal Codes for use by survivors

No	Message	Code symbol
1	Require assistance	V
2	Require medical assistance	X
3	No or Negative	N
4	Yes or affirmative	Y
5	Proceeding in this direction	↑
<p>Instructions for use:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make signals no less than 8 ft (2.5 m) 2. Take care to lay out signals exactly as shown. 3. Provide as much colour contrast as possible between signals and background. 4. Make every effort to attract attention by other means such as radio, flares, smoke, reflected light. 		

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