

**Safe Working Procedure for:** Bank search of rivers, lakes, ponds etc

**Date of Assessment:** January 2008

- Search Manager/ POLSA will conduct a separate assessment to ensure the appropriateness of such a search, and to ensure it is safe for NORLSAR members to carry out this activity
- Teams involved in this type of search must still have minimum of 3 members (Team leader, first aider and radio controller) in the team to deem it viable and safe.
- Team Leader to ensure appropriate rest breaks are taken to ensure welfare of team
- Individual Search Technician/s carrying out the bank search must
  - Be confident/ competent swimmer and have good abilities in the water
  - Be no more than 5 metres away from the river bank edge when searching
  - Wearing/ attached to a safety line via a suitable harness
  - Wearing a buoyancy aid
  - Must wear appropriate PPE for the situation (hat, wet weather clothing/ wetsuits etc)
  - Carrying a suitable knife (be able to unfold/use with one hand and have a serrated edge e.g. a diver's knife) – to ensure they can cut themselves free from the safety line if required in an emergency
  - Have sight of a team member/ member holding onto safety line at all times
  - Be able to shout/ make themselves audible to team members/ person holding safety line at all times

**Signed:**

**Print Name and Designation:**