Aircrewmen Qualifications

The Crew

The Westpac Helicopter Rescue Service’s aircraft are operated by a crew of three, those being: A Pilot (the aircraft captain), an Aircrewman (communications/navigation) and a Rescue Crewman (down the wireman).

The Pilot has overall command of the aircraft.

The Aircrewman assists the pilot with cockpit duties, communicates with Emergency Services and is the Hoist Operator for Search and Rescue Operations (SAR)

During Hoisting Operations the Rescue Crewman goes “down the wire” to retrieve the patient or person being rescued.

Whilst the aircrews have specific tasks and responsibilities, they work as an integrated team.

Aircrewmen Requirements

Essential Requirements

- Possess a current class 1 drivers license
- Be over 18yrs of age at time of selection
- Be in possession of a current Senior first Aid Certificate
- Have completed the Advanced Resuscitation Certificate (current)
- Flight Radiotelephone operators License (current)
- Hoist endorsement in accordance with C.A.O. 29:11
- Minimum 500hrs aircrew experience
- Pass WHRS physical fitness test ***

Desirable Experience and Qualifications

- SAR/EMS Experience
- Bell 412 / BK 117 experience
- Helicopter Underwater Escape Training (H.U.E.T)
WRHS Fitness test consists of the following and conducted twice yearly:

- 600 metre freestyle swim non-stop in 14mins. (age scale applies)
- 1km walk with a 15kg back pack up and down a steep incline.
- 20 sit-ups in 45 secs
- 20 push-ups in 45 secs.

On selection a surf awareness swim will be conducted for successful candidates, which will consist of:

- A surf swim out past the break, around a buoy
- A duck dive
- Mask and snorkel clearing
- Fin removal and replacement
- Swim back to shore through the surf

The above will be conducted with full kit ie wetsuit, harness, mask, snorkel.

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF CREWMAN**

1. During any flight the Air Crewman is responsible to the Pilot in Command and shall have jurisdiction and control of all other crewmen, medical crew and passengers on board the aircraft. The Aircrewmen is responsible for ensuring that he and the other crewmen perform the following duties:-

   a. Assist the Pilot-In-Command in flight preparation and provide the relevant operational information required during the flight

   b. Read Pre Takeoff and Pre landing Checklists in accordance with Company Operations Manual

   c. Furnish the Pilot-In-Command, whilst airborne, with information which may be necessary for the effective conduct of the flight

   d. During SAR operations, initiate and act on the procedures laid down in the Company Operations Manual

   e. Maintain a log, where possible, of aircraft positions for particular use in the reconstruction of operational events
f. Maintain communications with the Police, Ambulance or SAR communications centres, to keep the Pilot informed of operational requirements

g. Ensure that specialist role equipment required on a particular operation is serviceable and loaded for the conduct of that operation

h. Ensure that the Rescue Crewman performs his duties in accordance with this manual including aircraft start-up & shutdown procedures

Crewmen are to maintain records of each flight completed in Company Aircraft in the approved Flight Crew Log Book. These log books are to be made available to the Chief Pilot or Crew Chief for periodic inspection on request.