010-10-02

Search and rescue signals: key figures

8 figures in 4 groups. Read the cue, say the figure, then check. Each group ends with a recap.
Rules change: check the regulation in force.

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Number of manoeuvres in the follow me signal, flown in sequence

3 manoeuvres

Circle the surface craft, cross its projected course close ahead, then head off

How often the aircraft circles the surface craft in the follow me signal

at least once

Circle the surface craft before you cross its projected course

Surface craft signals: recap

CUE	FIGURE	DETAIL
Number of manoeuvres in the follow me signal, flown in sequence	**3 manoeuvres**	Circle the surface craft, cross its projected course close ahead, then head off
How often the aircraft circles the surface craft in the follow me signal	**at least once**	Circle the surface craft before you cross its projected course

> **Circle, cross ahead, head off.**

Symbols in the survivors' ground-air code

5 symbols

V, X, N, Y and one arrow, each a single symbol

Symbols in the rescue units' ground-air code

7 symbols

LLL, LL, the plus bar, XX, two-arrow forms and NN, all doubled or tripled

Minimum length of each ground-air symbol

2.5 m (8 ft)

Survivors' and rescue units' symbols, as conspicuous as possible

Ground-air code: recap

CUE	FIGURE	DETAIL
Symbols in the survivors' ground-air code	**5 symbols**	V, X, N, Y and one arrow, each a single symbol
Symbols in the rescue units' ground-air code	**7 symbols**	LLL, LL, the plus bar, XX, two-arrow forms and NN, all doubled or tripled
Minimum length of each ground-air symbol	**2.5 m (8 ft)**	Survivors' and rescue units' symbols, as conspicuous as possible

> **Survivors: single symbols. Rescue units: doubled or tripled.**

Times the landing lights flash on and off, by night, for understood

twice

Landing lights, when the aircraft has them

Times the navigation lights switch on and off, by night, for understood

twice

Navigation lights, when the aircraft has no landing lights

Air-to-ground signals: recap

CUE	FIGURE	DETAIL
Times the landing lights flash on and off, by night, for understood	**twice**	Landing lights, when the aircraft has them
Times the navigation lights switch on and off, by night, for understood	**twice**	Navigation lights, when the aircraft has no landing lights

> **Day: rock the wings. Night: lights twice.**

Date from which the Annex 12 appendix publishes the visual signals

26 November 2026

Before that date, the IAMSAR Manual alone publishes them in Volume III

Applicability: recap

CUE	FIGURE	DETAIL
Date from which the Annex 12 appendix publishes the visual signals	**26 November 2026**	Before that date, the IAMSAR Manual alone publishes them in Volume III

> **Annex 12 appendix from 26 November 2026.**