



Caroline Thomas Jacobs,
Director

**CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES &
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Law Enforcement Branch

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Donald M. O'Keefe, Chief

**Direction and Control of the Search Function
Advanced Course
Hosted By:
San Mateo County Sheriff's Office
October 19, 2026 – October 22, 2026
POST Control #: 9410-23407-26-001**

The "Direction and Control of the Search Function Advanced Course" is a 4-day, 32-hour course with trained, professional, and experienced instructors. The course is directed toward search and rescue coordinators, their alternates, team leaders and others having those responsibilities. This course is designed to teach search and rescue personnel how to manage extended multi-day search and rescue operations. Course objectives include:

- How to properly manage an extended mutual aid search; leadership and safety, effective briefings, managing the Incident within the Incident
- How to utilize CALTopo for search management, mapping, assignment building and managing large search datasets
- How to apply resources efficiently; search theory, terrain-driven search management, environment considerations, assignment segmentation
- Students will learn remote planning and collaboration concepts utilizing CALTopo, Google sheets IAP Builder and live tracking of resources on CALTopo app.
- How to manage daily operations via the "Planning P"; the daily planning cycle leading to the IAP for the next operational period
- How to manage specialized incidents, including abductions and fire evacuation/recovery operations

- Multiple tabletop scenarios; creating effective search plans, map packages, IAPs, and effective operational briefings
- A review of multiple case studies

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

For success, students will need to bring a laptop (no tablets please) and will need to download the CALTopo app on their smartphone. There will be extended periods utilizing laptops for tabletop scenarios, students should bring back up power options such as an extension cord, strip, or battery pack.

STRONGLY ENCOURAGED:

Cal Topo has a mapping and incident response course available at <https://training.caltopo.com/firstresponse/course>. This self-paced course gives students a strong foundation in computer mapping which will assist them in getting the most out of the Direction and Control of the Search Function Advanced Course, and it is strongly encouraged that students complete it prior to the class.

COURSE INFORMATION:

DATE:

October 19, 2026 – October 22, 2026 (Monday - Thursday) 0800-1700

TRAINING LOCATION:

San Mateo County EOC
501 Winslow
Redwood City, CA 94063

PARKING:

See Attachments for Parking Pass and Map.

LODGING

Book your group rate for The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office

You will find the information for your online reservation link below. If you have questions or need help with the link, please do not hesitate to ask. We appreciate your business and look forward to a successful event.

Option #1:

Residence Inn by Marriott Redwood City San Carlos for \$259 USD per night - Last Day to Book : Friday, September 18, 2026

<https://app.marriott.com/resview2?id=1783465822109&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

Option #2:

Crowne Plaza Foster City – San Mateo for \$209 USD per night.

[San Mateo Sheriff Room Block](#)

COURSE REGISTRATION:

Cal OES and the host agency provide this course free of cost. Enrollment is on a first come, first-served basis. Applicants should register as soon as possible since applications are accepted as they are received, and class size is limited. When your application is accepted, you will receive notification by email.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Please click on the link below or scan the QR Code and complete the application. You will receive e-mail verification of receipt.

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/g/cpw31hGeqD>



POST CERTIFIED:

This course is certified by California Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) under Plan IV for full-time regular law enforcement officers.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Course Specific Questions:

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General Questions:

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