Table 4-7-1: National SAR Committee's Geo-referencing Matrix

Georeference System User	United States National Grid (USNG)	Latitude/Longitude DD-MM.mm[1]	GARS[2]
Land SAR Responder[3]	Primary	Secondary	N/A
Aeronautical SAR Responders[4]	Secondary	Primary	As Needed[10]
Air Space Deconfliction[5]	N/A	Primary	N/A
Land SAR Responder/ Aeronautical SAR Responder Interface.[6]	Primary	Secondary	N/A
Incident Command: Air SAR Coordination Land SAR Coordination	Secondary Primary	Primary Secondary	N/A N/A
Area organization and accountability[7]	Secondary	Tertiary	Primary

---

[1] During SAR operations (and to avoid confusion) Latitude and Longitude should be in one standard format: DD-MM.mm. If required, use up to 2 digits to the right of the decimal. If required, allow 3 digits in the degrees field for longitude (i.e., DDD-MM.mm). Do not use leading zeros to the left of the decimal for degrees or minutes that require fewer than the maximum number of possible digits to express their value. The minimum number of digits is always one, even if it is a zero. (Example: Recommended: 9-0.3N 4-2.45W; Not Recommended: 09-00.300N 004-02.45W).

[2] GARS: Global Area Reference System.

[3] Land SAR responders use U.S. National Grid; however, a good familiarity with latitude and longitude is necessary to ensure effective interface between Land and Aeronautical SAR responders (Note: Land SAR includes SAR on flooded terrain).

[4] Aeronautical SAR responders will use latitude and longitude for SAR response. However, aeronautical SAR responders that work directly with Land SAR responders should understand the U.S. National Grid system for effective Land SAR/Aeronautical SAR interface.

[5] Air space deconfliction will *only* be implemented and managed using latitude and longitude.

[6] Aeronautical SAR responders working with Land SAR responders have the primary responsibility of coordinating SAR using USNG. However both groups must become familiar with both georeference systems.

[7] Describes the requirement for providing situational awareness of SAR operations geographically to Federal, military, state, local and tribal leadership. Provides for quick reference to send SAR resources closest to incident.