

The Outrider

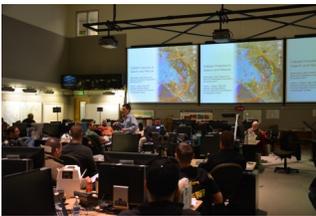


Volume 1, Issue 1

WASHINGTON STATE SAR COORDINATORS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

01/01/2015

Annual Training for WSSARCA Coordinators



WSSARCA Training/Meeting
November 20th at Camp Murray

For the past two years, in connection with our annual meeting, WSSARCA has sponsored training that is available free to our members.

The training is designed for the commissioned SAR Coordinators throughout Washington State but is open to others involved in Search and Rescue.

In 2014, we had Justin Ogden from the AFRCC come in

to talk about Cell Phone Forensics and tracking. The turnout was great with 40+ people from 19 different agencies in attendance.

The training was held in the State EOC on Camp Murray and also included discussions on GEOS SAR insurance and the requesting of air resources in Washington State.

In 2013, Tom Miner who is team leader from the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency's White Incident Support Team, presented on "Catastrophic Incident Search and Rescue Lessons from the Colorado Floods". The training was well attended and provided some valuable information in regards to large scale incident responses.

Our goal is to improve on the training each year offering something unique to the commissioned SAR coordinators that isn't normally offered at the annual SAR Conference.

We hope to eventually turn the event into a symposium or a conference that is geared towards the commissioned SAR coordinators throughout the State and region.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for next years training, let us know.



Cell Phone Tracking

With everyone carrying cell phones nowadays, it only makes sense that we should rely on the data they transmit in finding lost subjects.

Cell phones are small, often survive harsh conditions, and can provide real time and historical data.

Phones are prevalent and highly likely to be on a missing aircraft or missing person.

Results of reviewing cell tower locations, sector information, coverage maps, distance data and more will typically show areas where a subject can "most likely"

be located.

If you have a search mission and the subject has a cell phone, encourage the person (if possible) to call 911 to assist in pinpointing their location. Then contact the AFRCC for assistance and further guidance.

2015 Meeting Dates

- THURSDAY FEBRUARY 26TH AT CAMP MURRAY. 1000 HRS
- SATURDAY, MAY 16TH AT THE WA. STATE SAR CONFERENCE. 1300 HRS
- THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, AT CAMP MURRAY. 1000 HRS
- THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12 (ANNUAL MEETING/TRAINING), AT CAMP MURRAY 1000HRS

Inside this issue:

AIR RESOURCES IN WASHINGTON STATE	2
GEOS SAR INSURANCE	2
STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY DIVERS	3
2015 WASHINGTON STATE SAR CONFERENCE	3
SARVAC CORE COMPETENCY PROJECT	3
WHO IS WSSARCA	4
FROM THE PRESIDENT OF WSSARCA	4

The Outrider

Air Resources in Washington State



NAS Whidbey Island HH-60 Jayhawk demonstrating a lift during the 2011 WA SAR Conference

“IT TAKES TIME TO GET A LAUNCH, AND IT’S EASY TO TURN IT OFF IF YOU END UP NOT NEEDING THE AIR RESOURCE, SO ASK THE STATE EOC AS SOON AS YOU SUSPECT YOU NEED AIR RESOURCES.”



“For additional necessary and reasonable search and rescue (SAR) expenses”

Everyone knows the value of air resources but not everybody is familiar with the procedures when calling for air resources. So to help avoid confusion, and to expedite your mission, here are some tips on how to get the help you need during a search.

In Washington State, all air resource requests need to go through the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC). These requests are then coordinated with the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC). The reason for this is so that in case of a major incident, both the State and the AFRCC know where all of the available air resources are at.

Understand that it takes time to get a launch, and it’s easy to turn it off if you end up not needing the air resource, so ask the State EOC as soon as you suspect you need air resources. The EOC will attempt to make the proper contacts freeing you up to concentrate on your mission.

If you have air resources

near you and have a working relationship with them, pre-coordination with that particular unit is okay but you still need to contact the EOC.

Once you call the EOC, there are some very specific questions that need answers prior to getting an air resource so be ready. Here is what they will ask you:

1. Requesting Agency
2. Nature of Mission __Law Enforcement, __SAR, __Fire, __Other
3. Number of Passengers / Size Weight Cargo
4. Patient Transport? Medic available? BLS or ALS Protocols?
5. Location / LAT LONG DD MM.MMDatum NAD27 / WGS84
6. Location of IC
7. Location of Landing Zone
8. Nearest Fuel: AVGAS/Jet-A
9. Radio Freq on Scene Alternate Freq

10. Radio Contact on Scene-Call sign

11. Helispot Manager

12. Name of Requestor and contact Number

There are also some Federal air resources. They will typically fly for life, limb or eyesight. However, if there is anything criminal they won’t fly.

There are roughly 90 air resources available throughout the State of Washington. The best way to go about requesting one is contacting the EOC and let them do the work.



Tom Peterson is the Emergency Services Coordinator at WSDOT - Aviation

GEOS SAR “Insurance”

GEOS is a global emergency monitoring and response company that supports such devices as SPOT, ISAT Phones, and Iridium. GEOS is offering a SAR membership that is, “available for a very affordable annual fee and can insulate you from significant financial impact should you find yourself in an emer-

gency situation most anywhere in the world.”

While the concept is interesting, the application is suspect and has many caveats.

The way it works is, once the SPOT beacon is activated, it will contact the state EOC and then EOC will call the agency in jurisdiction. So the

company is making the money and utilizing county SAR resources (volunteer) to perform the rescue mission. This may begin to come up on a search so just be aware of it.

For more information, you can go to: www.geosalliance.com

“Standardized Requirements” for Public Safety Divers

Arnie Gonser from Skamania County forwarded some information regarding Dive Team training standards. This information was put out in the PSDiver Monthly, Issue 110.

There is some concern that some of the standards that are proposed would make it nearly impossible for some dive teams to function.

Chris Long, Washington State EMD SAR Coordinator, explained that he wasn't sure

under who's authority the proposed guidelines would come from but they are nothing more than proposals at this point.

Any standardization for dive teams, search and rescue teams, or any other SAR type units in the State of Washington would come from the State Emergency Management Division and FEMA.

In addition, the proposed standards that PSDiver has

published, would not necessarily apply to volunteers in Washington State because the standards are written for paid dive teams.

While not an issue at this point, it is a good to keep in mind that standardization is not necessarily a bad thing. We just need to make sure that the standards don't overwhelm smaller departments that are already struggling.

Again, this is just a proposal.



Volunteer divers preparing to recover evidence.

2015 Washington State SAR Conference



The King County Search and Rescue, in partnership with Washington SARVAC are hosting the 2015 Washington State Search and Rescue Conference.

We're excited to welcome Search and Rescue volunteers from all over Washington

and beyond to learn and socialize together.

The 2015 SAR Conference is going to be unique in that we have a wonderful venue, Girl Scout Camp River Ranch in Carnation WA.

This venue presents some great opportunities for outdoor classes, relaxation, nature walks, horse trails, camp-

fires, and singing songs(!)

An important theme for us in 2015 is connecting — so we've provided three different ways to keep updated (beyond going to the website) : you can email us with questions, sign up for email updates, and also join our Facebook page. For more information go to: <http://wasarcon.org>.

“THE 2015 CONFERENCE IS BEING HELD FRIDAY MAY 15 THROUGH SUNDAY MAY 17 IN CARNATION WASHINGTON.”

SARVAC Core Competency Project

When coordinating a search mission, we've all asked for more volunteers to assist in the search. When that request goes out, you never know what you are going to get in return. That's why there is a genuine need for a set of standards for the volunteers of Search and Rescue.

For the past several years, the Washington State Search and Rescue Advisory Council (SARVAC) has been working on the Core Competency Project, “To provide a standardized set of core competency performance training criteria for Ground/



Land Search and Rescue volunteers in Washington State.”

This has been a daunting task spearheaded by Bill Gillespie, President of SARVAC, and is getting closer to completion. Several counties across the state are running test programs which will provide more information soon.



SAR volunteers working on land navigation skills.



WSSARCA
WASHINGTON STATE
SEARCH AND RESCUE
COORDINATORS ASSOCIATION

Washington State Search and Rescue Coordinators Association

EDUCATION * COMMUNICATION * COORDINATION * COOPERATION

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Washington State Search and Rescue Coordinators Association (WSSARCA) is made up from professional coordinating organizations in the state of Washington involved in the conduct of search and rescue. The Washington State Search and Rescue Coordinators Association provides a statewide forum for communications, coordination, and cooperation among search and rescue coordinators with the purpose of improving our collective ability to respond effectively to life-saving missions. This is carried out by policy recommendations, education, training, mutual aid, and legislative actions affecting search and rescue.

We're on the web!
Check us out at
www.wssarca.com

From the President



Darren Ullmann is a SAR Deputy with the Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office and is the current President of WSSARCA

As we go into 2015, we have to acknowledge the fact that Search and Rescue has begun to shift into a new direction. In the past 10-15 years, technology has progressed exponentially and our response to search missions has begun to change with it.

The Internet has brought forth an avalanche of information (both accurate and inaccurate) that has allowed people access to maps, climbing routes, equipment, rescue techniques, etc. Things that they never had access to previously.

Coupled with that, today's cell phone and GPS technolo-

gy are allowing hikers and hunters the ability to navigate the back country with ease putting them into some precarious situations.

The great equalizer to this technology upswing is the human element. The risk takers, the unprepared hunters, and the overzealous hikers. Not to mention the vulnerable adults and kids that wander.

Because we're all human, there will always be a need for Search and Rescue. When (not if) the unexpected happens, someone will have to go in on foot and bring out the injured hiker, the hunter whose batteries died, the

missing child, or the confused Alzheimer's patient. As commissioned SAR coordinators, it's our job to make that happen.

Through communication, cooperation, and education, WSSARCA is here to help you to be prepared for any situation. With our newsletter, *The Outrider*, and our website WSSARCA.com, we'll keep you updated on what's happening in SAR.

If you have any content you'd like to share, pass it along. We'd love to hear from you.

Be safe.

Da Cullen