Program Objectives

What is the Ground Search and Rescue Program and what does it do?

This program expands and enhances ground search and rescue training.

The objective is to provide an effective and cost-efficient mechanism for increased training capacity that results in greater numbers and competency of trained ground search and rescue and technical rescue personnel.

Key outcomes of this program include:

- Increasing the capability of Alberta's communities to respond to disasters and major emergencies
- Enhancing Alberta's system for managing emergencies

Program Eligibility

Eligible entities include:

All Ground Search and Rescue and technical rescue groups serving Albertans.

Ineligible entities include:

Groups that are not a member of Search and Rescue Association of Alberta (SAR Alberta) or do not have a current proof of registration under the *Alberta Societies Act*. Groups that did not meet previous years' compliance requirements.

What projects are eligible for funding?

See Appendix 1 for eligible courses and activities.

Ineligible project costs:

- Capital or equipment purchases
- Training carried out before the Minister signs the Conditional Grant Agreement

Funding Conditions

What funds are available and how are they allocated?

Ground search and rescue training grants do not have threshold amounts: they are dependent on the course/exercise/workshop being offered, the number of participating stakeholders, and the benefit to the region in terms of improving the safety system.

How are funds distributed?

Funding is made as a lump-sum payment for the eligible course/exercise/workshop.

What requirements must I comply with in order to receive funds?

- You must have met all conditions of any previous grants that your group/organization received.
- Your group/organization has to agree to cover any costs over and above the grant.
- Submit an application form. If successful, your group/organization will get a Conditional Grant Agreement (CGA) to sign. After the Minister or his representative signs the CGA, training can start.

Application Process

How do I apply for funding?

Download or fill in the application form online at www.ofc.alberta.ca

Mail, fax or email the completed application and supporting documents to:

Mail	Grants Coordinator Public Safety Division Alberta Municipal Affairs 16th floor, 10155 – 102 Street Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4L4
Fax	780-427-2538
Email	firecomm@gov.ab.ca

How will my application be evaluated?

Please note there is an emphasis on teams working together in regions (as much as geography allows). Applications that benefit multiple stakeholders and provide maximum benefit to the Alberta public safety system will get priority. Applications will be evaluated on history of past training received, and recommendations made by an evaluation panel established by Public Safety Division (PSD) that comprises PSD staff, members of the general Ground Search and Rescue community, and SAR Alberta personnel. Priority will be given to leadership and management training, including regional tabletop exercises hosted by one team in the region.

How will I know if my application is successful?

Only successful applicants will be notified. If you do not get a notification within six months of the application deadline, assume that you have been unsuccessful.

What if I disagree with the Government of Alberta's decision on my application?

The Minister's decisions regarding grant funding are final.

Reporting Requirements

You must complete the Acknowledgement of Compliance form and submit it by July 31, 2014. Download this form from www.ofc.alberta.ca.

What happens if the scope of my project changes?

Call the Grants Coordinator toll free at 1-866-421-6929 or email firecomm@gov.ab.ca.

Appendix 1—Course Descriptions

SAR Leadership/Management

Course Name	Course Description
2-day Team Leader	SAR-trained and experienced volunteers learn the necessary management skills to lead and conduct the resources during a search.
2-day SAR Search Manager Recertification	This refresher course focusing on initial response is a priority course. Teams in regions are encouraged to train together and to bring in their local police to participate in this course. **Participation is limited to certified Search Managers**.
Tabletop or Live Exercise	Exercises focusing on SAR management in a regional or multi-team participation.
5-day Search Manager	SAR trained and experienced volunteers learn the necessary management skills to lead and conduct a search.
Search and Rescue Basics Train the Trainer	Participants learn to teach the basic entry level search and rescue skills and theory.

SAR Skills

Course Name	Course Description
ATV Course	In accordance with Canada Safety Council Standard
Boating Course	In accordance with Canada Safety Council Standard
Snowmobile Course	In accordance with Canada Safety Council Standard
Man-tracking	Participants learn to use clues and evidence left behind by the missing person(s).
GPS Training	As applicable to course, but application must include an explanation of the course required, number of attendees anticipated, and substantiation of the requirement.
Search and Rescue Basics (40 or 60-hour course)	Participants learn the basic entry-level search and rescue skills and theory.

Rescue Skills

Course Name	Course Description
Wilderness First Aid	Basic and/or advanced course. Wilderness First Aid at the St. John's Ambulance or Red Cross level includes a recertification for Basic First Aid/CPR/AED.
Swift Water Rescue	As applicable to course, but application must include an explanation of the course required, number of attendees anticipated, and substantiation of the requirement.
Rope Rescue	NFPA 1006 or British Columbia Cave Standard. Application must include an explanation of the course required, number of attendees anticipated, and substantiation of the requirement.
Standard First Aid	In accordance with the Red Cross or St. John's Ambulance curriculum. See also Wilderness First Aid above.
Technical or Specialty Training	As applicable to course, but application must include an explanation of the course required, number of attendees anticipated, and substantiation of the requirement.

Appendix 2—Estimated Training Costs

Please fill in one table for **each** of the courses/activities you wish to host (see p 2 of the application form). Submit with the application.

Estimated Cost of Training

Name of Trainer or Business to be Contracted	
Cost of trainer/training	$
Facility	$
Meals and snacks (if provided)	$
Participant lodging	$
Participant mileage	$
Training materials	$
Other costs not outlined above	
	$
	$
	$
	$
	$
Total grant amount you request	$

Appendix 3—FAQ

If I am collaborating with another ground search and rescue group, which group/organization submits the application?

The collaborating ground search and rescue or technical rescue groups involved must decide which group or organization is the project manager for the project. The project manager is responsible for all administrative requirements of the program, such as submitting the grant application on behalf of the collaborating groups and/or organizations and entering into a conditional grant agreement with the Government of Alberta to manage grant funds.

*All supporting groups must provide a letter of support for the application.

When can I start training?

Training can start after the Minister or his representative has signed the Conditional Grant Agreement (CGA). The CGA comes into effect on the date it was signed, as per section 6 of the agreement.

I need to change one of the approved courses. How do I do this?

Email an explanation outlining why you need the change to the Grants Coordinator at firecomm@gov.ab.ca.

How do I apply for an extension?

Email the Grants Coordinator at firecomm@gov.ab.ca. Explain the reason for the extension and when the training will be completed.