

Pincher Creek Search & Rescue
Operating Profile - Water

This document describes what PCSAR is asked to do and can do in and around water.

Definitions:

The following terms are used in this document:

Optimum Minimum - If we're at this level we can do the job. Below this level, we will be struggling to do the job and there's significant likelihood it will not be accomplished.

Situation:

<i>Situation</i>	<i>Details</i>	
Bank and Shore Activities	<i>Description</i>	In support of other SAR activities, work along river and creek banks and lake shores to water's edge in the region where there's a possibility of someone falling into the water. Search for subjects who may have fallen into water and reached shore. Risks include unstable banks.
	<i>PCSAR experience</i>	Oldman river Lethbridge, Pincher Creek east of town, Blood reserve after fire, mud flats in Blood Reserve
	<i>Forecast</i>	[How many incidents of this type will PCSAR likely see? How long do they last? Are simultaneous incidents likely? Be realistic, but cautious – if uncertain, choose the higher range. E.g. “2 incidents of 1 or 2 op periods every year”] 85% of searches, 3-4/ year 2 situations – streamflows that you evaluate and don't need to take measures, others where you evaluate and do need to take measures.
	<i>Optimum Minimum</i>	Throw bags, PFDs, Swift Water Operations training
	<i>PCSAR role</i>	PCSAR normally provides
	<i>Need met?</i>	[Is PCSAR currently operating at the Optimum Minimum? If not, what is it short on? E.g. “Yes” or “No – short on personnel” or “Yes (not required)”].]

<i>Situation</i>	<i>Details</i>	
Crossing Shallow Water	<i>Description</i>	In support of other SAR activities, cross shallow still or moving water, by foot, quad, snowmobile or off road vehicle.
	<i>PCSAR experience</i>	[How many situations of this type has PCSAR been in over it's history. Have any incidents been simultaneous? If there's not too many, name them. E.g. "Approximately a dozen searches of this type."] Lots
	<i>Forecast</i>	Frequent 2 scenario – shallow slow, shallow rapid
	<i>Optimum Minimum</i>	Training – appropriate depth, time of year, judging flow. Moving stretcher across river. High risk b/c believe we are rescuers.
	<i>PCSAR role</i>	PCSAR normally provides
	<i>Need met?</i>	
Still Water Rescue from Shore	<i>Description</i>	Rescue individuals in still open water from shore. Subject could be member of search team.
	<i>PCSAR experience</i>	Never happened
	<i>Forecast</i>	Hard to see how would arise if not one of our members
	<i>Optimum Minimum</i>	Throw bags, PFDs,
	<i>PCSAR role</i>	PCSAR would provide
	<i>Need met?</i>	
Still Water Surface Activities	<i>Description</i>	Lake response Operate on the surface of still water, in order to perform search, rescue, transport, etc. Access to the surface could be by swimming, kayak, canoe, raft, or boat. Searching shoreline from lake surface. Wind surfer. Boat overturns.
	<i>PCSAR experience</i>	Oldman Reservoir, Beaver Mines Lake
	<i>Forecast</i>	1 / 5 years
	<i>Optimum Minimum</i>	Need boating training. Rescue training with boat. Small boat operator certification. Need equipment: boat. Response time is very slow.
	<i>PCSAR role</i>	PCSAR plans to provide
	<i>Need met?</i>	

<i>Situation</i>	<i>Details</i>	
Swift Water Rescue from Shore	<i>Description</i>	Rescue individuals in moving water from shore. Subject could be member of search team.
	<i>PCSAR experience</i>	Never has happened
	<i>Forecast</i>	1/10 yr
	<i>Optimum Minimum</i>	Swift Water Operations – Level 1, throw bags, PFDs, rope, rigging equipment.
	<i>PCSAR role</i>	PCSAR plans to provide
	<i>Need met?</i>	
Rescue in Swift Water	<i>Description</i>	Rescue individuals in moving water by using techniques that enter the water. Subject could be member of search team.
	<i>PCSAR experience</i>	Lundbreck falls, Cameron Falls
	<i>Forecast</i>	1/10 yr
	<i>Optimum Minimum</i>	Dry or wet suits.
	<i>PCSAR role</i>	Not PCSAR mandate.
	<i>Need met?</i>	
Crossing Ice	<i>Description</i>	In support of other SAR activities, cross solid ice, by foot or snowmobile.
	<i>PCSAR experience</i>	often
	<i>Forecast</i>	1/year
	<i>Optimum Minimum</i>	Ice picks, training on judging safe ice (depth, type, water supplies), PFD or floater jackets; self rescue training
	<i>PCSAR role</i>	PCSAR normally provides
	<i>Need met?</i>	

<i>Situation</i>	<i>Details</i>	
Ice Rescue from Shore	<i>Description</i>	From shore, rescue individuals who have fallen through ice. Subject could be member of search team.
	<i>PCSAR experience</i>	Stauffer
	<i>Forecast</i>	1/10 year
	<i>Optimum Minimum</i>	Throw bags, ballast, rope launcher. PFD
	<i>PCSAR role</i>	PCSAR would provide
	<i>Need met?</i>	
Ice Rescue from Surface	<i>Description</i>	From the frozen and unfrozen surface, rescue individuals who have fallen through ice. Subject could be member of search team.
	<i>PCSAR experience</i>	Stauffer
	<i>Forecast</i>	1/10 year
	<i>Optimum Minimum</i>	
	<i>PCSAR role</i>	Not PCSAR mandate.
	<i>Need met?</i>	
Dive Response	<i>Description</i>	In support of other SAR activities, work beneath the surface of water. Always a recovery; not a rescue.
	<i>PCSAR experience</i>	
	<i>Forecast</i>	
	<i>Optimum Minimum</i>	
	<i>PCSAR role</i>	Not PCSAR mandate.
	<i>Need met?</i>	

Personnel Required (for above situations):

<i>Skill</i>	<i>Details</i>	
Swiftwater Operations Certification	<i>Description</i>	NFPA training in swiftwater suited for non-entry shore-based operations.
	<i>Optimum Minimum</i>	[Which situation makes the greatest demand on this skill? How many people are needed for how long? What is the likely response rate? (be conservative). How many people do we need on a roster of members and non-member with this skill? If appropriate create a roster or resource list as part of a separate preplan document. E.g. “6 responding sledders for worst case role (2 op periods of Wilderness Search). Assuming a 50% availability of a sledder at any given time, a roster of 12 expert-level sledders is needed.”]
	<i>Need Met?</i>	[Does PCSAR along with identified outside resources currently meet this need? If not, what is the gap? Include recommendation to the board on what additional training, recruitment or arrangements with other organizations is needed. In the Roles section, mark the situations that hindered by the shortage of skills. E.g.: “No – 10 expert-level sledders currently on roster. Recommendation to Board: Approach other SAR groups: CNP, Sparwood, Fernie.”]
Swiftwater Tech 1 Certification	<i>Description</i>	NFPA training in swiftwater suited for entering the water.
	<i>Optimum Minimum</i>	
	<i>Need Met?</i>	
Swiftwater Tech 2 Certification	<i>Description</i>	NFPA training suited for leading a swiftwater rescue team.
	<i>Optimum Minimum</i>	
	<i>Need Met?</i>	

<i>Skill</i>	<i>Details</i>	
Perform rescue operations from boat	<i>Description</i>	<p>[Describe the skill in sufficient detail that a Search Manager who doesn't have that skill will be able to know whether they're dealing with the appropriately skilled people. Outline implications of using the skill that may not be obvious.</p> <p>E.g. "Achieve their skill by aggressively riding off-trail in mountains on a regular basis for at least five years. There is no formal training or certification available. Expert sledders can only be recognized by other expert sledders. Such recognition may require that they be seen operating in the field. Many sledders over-estimate their own skills or under-estimate the terrain. In mountainous heavy snow conditions, 3 sledders need to work together in order to be able to dig out their machines as they become stuck."]</p>
	<i>Optimum</i>	
	<i>Minimum</i>	
	<i>Need Met?</i>	
Rescue boat driving	<i>Description</i>	
	<i>Optimum</i>	
	<i>Minimum</i>	
	<i>Need Met?</i>	

Equipment Required (for above roles):

<i>Equipment</i>	<i>Details</i>	
Personal Floation Devices	<i>Description</i>	[Describe the equipment in way that an unfamiliar Search Manager, or Board Member can delegate the gathering of appropriate equipment. E.g. “A mountain-ready sled with helmet, for each sledder.”]
	<i>Optimum Minimum</i>	[Which situation requires the most equipment of this type? How much? If the equipment is not always available, what is the availability? How large of a roster do we need. E.g. “6 sleds” or “A pair of snowshoes for each sledder (6 – Rural Search).” or “Not required. Nice to have.”]
	<i>Need Met?</i>	[Does PCSAR including outside resources, meet the Optimum Minimum? If appropriate, include details of where to access equipment in the separate preplan document. If not, include recommendation to the board to purchase, seek donation or make arrangements to access appropriate equipment. In the Roles section, mark the situations that hindered by the shortage of equipment. E.g. “Yes, sledder supplied” “No Recommendation to Board: Build list of members that have extra transceivers. Ask for donations. Arrange to borrow from ski hill or dealership.” “Yes (because not required)”]
Throw Bags	<i>Description</i>	
	<i>Optimum Minimum</i>	
	<i>Need Met?</i>	
Dry Suits	<i>Description</i>	
	<i>Optimum Minimum</i>	
	<i>Need Met?</i>	
Wet Suits	<i>Description</i>	
	<i>Optimum Minimum</i>	
	<i>Need Met?</i>	

<i>Equipment</i>	<i>Details</i>	
River shoes, neoprene socks, gloves	<i>Description</i>	
	<i>Optimum Minimum</i>	
	<i>Need Met?</i>	
Helmets	<i>Description</i>	
	<i>Optimum Minimum</i>	
	<i>Need Met?</i>	
Ice Picks	<i>Description</i>	
	<i>Optimum Minimum</i>	
	<i>Need Met?</i>	
Rigging equipment	<i>Description</i>	
	<i>Optimum Minimum</i>	
	<i>Need Met?</i>	
[Equipment 9]	<i>Description</i>	
	<i>Optimum Minimum</i>	
	<i>Need Met?</i>	