



Pincher Creek Search and Rescue Society
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<http://pcsar.webhop.org>

January 13, 2020

Grant Selection Committee
c/o Grant Administrator
Public Safety Division
Alberta Municipal Affairs
16th Floor, Commerce Place
10155 - 102 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4L4

Dear Committee Members,

Please find enclosed Pincher Creek Search and Rescue Society's (PCSAR) grant application under the Ground Search and Rescue 2019/2020 Training Grant. Also attached is a copy of PCSAR's certificate of incorporation, and letters of support from neighbouring SAR groups.

As requested in the grant guidelines, below we provide a substantiation of the rationale for the courses required.

Background

PCSAR is a volunteer search and rescue group with 20 members. PCSAR has responded to over 220 incidents in its 25 year history. It serves the southwest corner of Alberta, but has responded in mutual aid as far away as Red Deer. Its core response area includes large ranching and farming, small towns, First Nations territory, and heavily used mountainous recreational areas with travel routes into British Columbia and a national park. The Castle Provincial Parks are central to our response area.

Partnerships

PCSAR works closely with nearby organizations, such as Lethbridge Area Search and Rescue, Crowsnest Pass Search and Rescue, Waterton Lakes National Park, Canadian Search Dog Association (Lethbridge chapter), and South Eastern Alberta Search and Rescue (Medicine Hat). Neighbouring SAR groups frequently participate in PCSAR hosted training. All provincially funded courses are advertised across Alberta. We often get participants from far afield, even the other end of the province - such as Peace River SAR (990km) or Fort McMurray SAR (950km). PCSAR also works closely with groups in British Columbia (Sparwood, Fernie).

PCSAR partners with the local fire department (Pincher Creek Emergency Services), Provincial Parks and municipal emergency management organizations. PCSAR is regularly called upon to help in major emergencies and disasters.

Together, Shell Canada and PCSAR developed a novel industry-leading protocol and supporting training program and exercises to use SAR workers on H₂S release incidents.

SAR Search Course

PCSAR regularly runs a Search and Rescue Basics course to bring in new members and maintain the vitality of the organization. Students additionally come from Lethbridge SAR and the Lethbridge chapter of the Canadian Search Dog Association. Instructors are shared between the groups. Another strong participant is the Blood First Nations Reserve which is trying to form a SAR organization.

Training materials and lessons plans are continually being enhanced and are shared with other SAR groups at <http://tinyurl.com/ajwuzvy>

Thank you for considering our application. If there is any additional information we can provide you with, please do not hesitate to contact me at the phone number or address in our letterhead above.

Sincerely,

Brett Wuth
President
Pincher Creek Search and Rescue