

Event Critique - Pitcher Search 2005-01-17

Event Name: Pitcher Search
Event Date: 2005-01-17
Event Synopsis: see attached Incident Summary
Prepared By: B. Sundberg
Date of Critique: 2005-01-20
Attending: Bryan Sundberg (chair), Brett Wuth, Eric Bruder, Lynn Bruder, Jill Bruder, Russ Bruder, Ron Hann, Neldon Hatch, Heather Bangle, Bob Costa, Janet Costa
Supplying input by other means: none

Pincher Creek SAR routinely performs a critique after a Search and Rescue incident in order to learn what should be done differently or the same in the next similar incident. Critiques are not about criticism but rather about learning. They are normally chaired by a Search Manager that was not involved in the incident. The suggestions that are brought forward through the critique process are presented in this report.

The suggestions are being passed on to the indicated organizations/committees for their consideration. We recognize that not all suggestions may be appropriate, and some may already have been implemented.

| Committee / Organization | Action | Mandate Relevant to Incidents |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| PCSAR Board | Y suggestions identified Y delivered to committee <input type="checkbox"/> evaluated <input type="checkbox"/> completed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall ability of PCSAR to accomplish its mission. Organizational policies Relationships with Tasking Agencies and Fellow Responding Organizations. |
| PCSAR Preplan Committee | Y suggestions identified Y delivered to committee <input type="checkbox"/> evaluated <input type="checkbox"/> completed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expertise in search and rescue. Standard Operating Procedures for incidents. Post incident critique, review and follow-up. |
| PCSAR Equipment Committee | Y suggestions identified <input type="checkbox"/> delivered to committee <input type="checkbox"/> evaluated <input type="checkbox"/> completed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtaining and keeping equipment ready. |
| PCSAR Call-Out Committee | Y suggestions identified <input type="checkbox"/> delivered to committee <input type="checkbox"/> evaluated <input type="checkbox"/> completed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respond to First Call from Tasking Agency Contacting members during an incident. |
| PCSAR Membership Committee | Y suggestions identified <input type="checkbox"/> delivered to committee <input type="checkbox"/> evaluated <input type="checkbox"/> completed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruiting members. Tracking members contact information, skills and equipment. |
| PCSAR Training Committee | Y suggestions identified <input type="checkbox"/> delivered to committee <input type="checkbox"/> evaluated <input type="checkbox"/> completed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training members. |

| <i>Committee / Organization</i> | <i>Action</i> | <i>Mandate Relevant to Incidents</i> |
|--|---|---|
| Tasking Agency | N suggestions identified <input type="checkbox"/> delivered to committee <input type="checkbox"/> evaluated <input type="checkbox"/> completed | • Overall legal responsibility for incident. |
| Fellow Responding Organizations | N suggestions identified <input type="checkbox"/> delivered to committee <input type="checkbox"/> evaluated <input type="checkbox"/> completed | • Response to incident in accordance with their individual mandate and ability. |

Suggestion 1. Not a full call out conducted. Not all managers or snowmobile resources contacted.

Referred to **Call Out:** ☐ Discussed. Rejected / Accepted / Forwarded to / Assigned to: _____

Strategy: _____

Suggestion 2. No outside groups or agencies notified (i.e.: CNP Rescue Squad, Alberta Government Parks, Forestry) At least 10 12 more trained snowmobile searchers with experience in area could have been available)

Referred to **Call Out:** ☐ Discussed. Rejected / Accepted / Forwarded to / Assigned to: _____

Strategy: _____

Referred to **Preplan:** 2005-04-19 Discussed. Rejected / Accepted / Forwarded to / Assigned to: _____

Strategy: Should we put other organizations on stand-by in snowmobile incident? (Need Eric's input). How do we qualify snowmobile searchers that we don't know? (Need Eric's input.) _____

Suggestion 3. Need to Update Resource Manual some individuals listed as having sleds no longer have one

Referred to **Board:** 2005-05-03 Accepted. Assigned to: **Membership Committee** _____

Strategy: _____

Suggestion 4. Recruit more snowmobile resources (from local clubs, ski hill, etc.) so adequate numbers can be tasked when needed

Referred to **Membership Committee:** ☐ Discussed. Rejected / Accepted / Forwarded to / Assigned to: _____

Strategy: _____

Referred to **Board**: 2005-05-03 Accepted. Assigned to: **Eric**_____

Strategy:_____

Suggestion 5. Upgrade voicemail capabilities on callback number, so messages can be left

Referred to **Call-Out**: __ Discussed. Rejected / Accepted / Forwarded to / Assigned to:_____

Strategy:_____

Referred to **Board**: 2005-05-03 Accepted. Assigned to: **Call-Out Committee**_____

Strategy:_____

Suggestion 6. Fuel supplies for snowmobiles need for supply of premium grade fuel available at staging area to refuel sleds as needed. Suggest purchase supply of gas cans for this purpose

Referred to **Equipment**: __ Discussed. Rejected / Accepted / Forwarded to / Assigned to:_____

Strategy:_____

Referred to **Board**: 2005-05-03 Accepted. Assigned to: **Equipment Committee**_____

Strategy:_____

Suggestion 7. Need for better equipment organization. Radio batteries not organized resulting in the wrong spare batteries being issued with radios Was observed and corrected prior to Critique but should be wary with all equipment

Referred to **Equipment**: __ Discussed. Rejected / Accepted / Forwarded to / Assigned to:_____

Strategy:_____

Suggestion 8. Question re: overtaking of snowmobile searchers that responded in Op #1, returning to Op #2 with as little as a few hours sleep. This is hazardous

Referred to **Preplan:** 2005-04-19 Discussed. Accepted: _____

Strategy: New S.O.P.: All searchers attending an incident are expected to be well rested enough to perform for one operational period. Under normal circumstances no searcher should be on duty for two operational periods in a row and searchers will have at least 6 hours sleep before returning to duty. Under exceptional circumstances it is the responsibility of the overhead team to evaluate for each searcher how long it has been since they've rested, how intense has their day been, and how can risks be mitigated. _____

Referred to **Board:** 2005-05-03 Accepted. Forwarded to: **Preplan Committee** _____

Strategy: _____

Suggestion 9. Need more orientation with equipment. Did not know how to work Sat. phone.

Referred to **Training:** ___ Discussed. Rejected / Accepted / Forwarded to / Assigned to: _____

Strategy: _____

Referred to **Preplan:** 2005-04-19 Discussed. Accepted. Assigned to: **Ron, Russell Lee** _____

Strategy: Signage _____

Suggestion 10. Spare supply of ATV / Snowmobile helmets one searcher forgot helmet for 2nd Op period.

Referred to **Equipment:** 2005-05-03 Discussed. Rejected / Accepted / Forwarded to / Assigned to: _____

Strategy: Concern over different sized heads. Tabled for Bruders. _____

Referred to **Board:** ___ Discussed. Rejected / Accepted / Forwarded to / Assigned to: _____

Strategy: _____

Suggestion 11. Extreme ++++ Avalanche hazard during search. One avalanche came down over searchers tracks overnight. When should searchers NOT go out due to these hazards? Was the benefit worth the risk?

Referred to **Preplan:** 2005-04-19 Discussed. Rejected / Accepted / Forwarded to / Assigned to: _____

Strategy: (need Eric's input) _____

Referred to **Board:** 2005-05-03 Discussed. Rejected / Accepted / Forwarded to / Assigned to: _____

Strategy: Tabled for Eric _____

Suggestion 12. Noise makers may have been useful. Should we have a supply of bear bangers, air horns, etc?

Referred to **Preplan:** 2005-04-19 Discussed. Accepted _____

Strategy: Already done. _____

Referred to **Equipment:** __ Discussed. Rejected / Accepted / Forwarded to / Assigned to: _____

Strategy: _____

Suggestion 13. Managers should remember using confinement and attractant techniques these would have been useful and overall are very underused in this area

Referred to **Preplan:** 2005-04-19 Discussed. Accepted / Assigned to: **Ron** _____

Strategy: Magnetic or laminated sign for vehicle driver-side door "You are the subject of a search and rescue operation. Please contact the local police or 911 immediately" _____

Suggestion 14. Contact Numbers (call out, sat phone, common used numbers) should be on laminated cards with large font printing.

Referred to **Preplan:** 2005-04-19 Discussed. Accepted. Assigned to: **Roy** _____

Strategy: List in sheet protector. _____

Suggestion 15. Tire Chains for SARCAR needed, useful?

Referred to **Equipment:** __ Discussed. Rejected / Accepted / Forwarded to / Assigned to: _____

Strategy: _____

Referred to **Board:** 2005-05-03. Rejected _____

Strategy: _____

Suggestion 16. Ice salt supply needed for SARCAR steps, etc. get very slippery

Referred to **Equipment:** ___ Discussed. Rejected / Accepted / Forwarded to / Assigned to: _____

Strategy: _____

Suggestion 17. Comfort items for SARCAR for overnight use ie: Kleenex, water supply, some thing to heat water / hot chocolate / coffee etc.

Referred to **Equipment:** ___ Discussed. Rejected / Accepted / Forwarded to / Assigned to: _____

Strategy: _____

Referred to **Board:** 2005-05-03 Accepted. Assigned to: Equipment Committee _____

Strategy: _____

Suggestion 18. Twice annual email fact check for resource list. Send email out regularly to clarify resources available and equipment available

Referred to **Membership Committee:** ___ Discussed. Rejected / Accepted / Forwarded to / Assigned to: _____

Strategy: _____

Referred to **Preplan:** 2005-04-19 Discussed. Forwarded to: **Membership Committee** _____

Strategy: _____

Suggestion 19. Lack of non-P.C. SAR people. Not using resources available in area. Tendency to fall into a 'do it all ourselves' mentality

Referred to **Board:** 2005-05-03 Discussed. Rejected / Accepted / Forwarded to / Assigned to: _____

Strategy: Tabled for Eric _____

Suggestion 20. Interagency / Group liaison needs work, result of above. If 'outside' resources not notified, used, drives a wedge making maintaining and regaining relationships back more difficult

Referred to **Board:** 2005-05-03 Discussed. Rejected / Accepted / Forwarded to / Assigned to: _____

Strategy: Table for next meeting / Table for Eric _____

Suggestion 21. Thank you letters / letters of appreciation needs to be sent to local businesses / employers that support SAR efforts (possible public advertisement in paper thanking for continued support)

Referred to **Board:** 2005-05-03 Accepted. Assigned to: **Secretary and Treasurer** _____

Strategy: _____