[handwritten top:] ISSUE: LOSS OF CISM TRAINING. REGIONAL CISM RESOURCE. WILL VOTH.

[handwritten left:] CRITIQUE. WHAT WAS YOUR CONFIDENCE IN THE OVERHEAD TEAM.

This document summarizes Pincher Creek Search and Rescue as a resource supporting Tasking Agencies (police, emergency services) and other SAR organizations.

Contact Information

Emergency: +1 403 627-2262 (answered by STARS Link Centre); **+1 403 627-5804** (Manager)

Administration:

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Fire Hall, +1 403 627-5333   Box 1705, Pincher Creek, AB, T0K 1W0
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Typical Operational Activities

[handwritten:] TYPICAL OPERATIONAL AREAS ARE GROUND AND INLAND WATER INCIDENTS.

- mountains summer (e.g. injured biker, hiker, hunter)
- mountains winter (e.g. lost snowmobilers)
- avalanche search/recovery
- rural ~~agricultural~~ (e.g. despondent)
- water edges and banks
- urban (e.g. lost child, Alzheimer)
- low-angle rescue (e.g. steep slopes)

In support of other organizations, PC SAR is typically willing to undertake any activity to aid public safety or survival. PC SAR can provide a cohesive group that is organized, disciplined, self supporting, equipped with its own communications, and able to work in adverse conditions.

- high-angle support (e.g. cliffs)
- evidence search, urban/rural (e.g. for RCMP)
- ~~extreme weather support~~/civil emergency response (e.g. tornado, wild fire) *read along)*
- logistical support
- overhead team support
- ~~critical incident stress management~~ support

[handwritten left margin:] SEARCH IS AN EMERGENCY. THE SOONER YOU CALL US THE BETTER. CAN HELP MAKE DECISION WHETHER IT IS SEARCH ISSUE. ONLY NON PERSONAL IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.

The time from first notification until first resources in the field is typically 45 minutes plus travel time. The initial 45 minutes includes:

- call to emergency number by requesting party
- contacting team search manager
- search manager gathers information and determines response level
- members are notified
- first members arrive, are briefed, and sent into the field.

[handwritten:] AT LEAST

Combining with other SAR teams, a response effort can be sustained for ~~a continuous~~ 96 hours.

Structure and Relationships

[handwritten:] FOUNDED IN 1995

PC SAR is registered under the Alberta Societies Act as the "Pincher Creek Search and Rescue Society". ~~PC SAR is a voluntary auxiliary operating under the umbrella of Pincher Creek Emergency Services (fire, ambulance, etc.), established by the municipalities.~~ *[handwritten:] VOLUNTEER. RELATIONSHIP WITH PCES.*

PC SAR has a good working relationship with the Pincher Creek RCMP detachment. The RCMP typically calls in PC SAR as soon as they have information of a lost person. RCMP members act as liaisons and attend board meetings. *[handwritten:] NIAGARA*

PC SAR has a good working relationship with its neighboring volunteer SAR groups: Lethbridge ~~RCMP~~ CSDA (dog group), LASAR (Lethbridge ground SAR), Crowsnest Pass SAR (semi-active), Foothills SAR (South of Calgary), Calgary SAR, SEASAR (Medicine Hat). Several volunteers are members of both PC SAR and a neighboring group. We share training and rely on each other for organizational ideas. PC SAR's standard operating procedure is to give its neighbors a heads-up when a search is happening, and to ask its neighbors to be prepared to act in its core area if a second simultaneous search were to happen. Similarly, PC SAR expects most of the resources for a second

[handwritten bottom:] SUGGEST: HAVE EVERY MEMBER ROTATE ONCE AS MEMBER OF OVERHEAD TEAM.

[handwritten right:] ASSIST FIRE OP.

operational period will be drawn from its neighbors.

Regular meetings are the first Tuesday of every month at the fire hall in Pincher Creek. The board meeting begins at 18:00. The general meeting, which is mostly composed of training starts at 19:00 and typically ends by ~~22:00~~. *21:00* There is an open invitation for non-members to attend. Other training is scheduled typically for weekends.

Operational Regions

There has been no formal or informal discussion with Tasking Agencies or other SAR groups about where PC SAR would be considered a primary or secondary SAR responder. PC SAR would be willing to act in either role as requested by a Tasking Agency. *our typical 100% Alberta & SE B.C.*

In the past, PC SAR has acted as primary SAR responder:

- in the mountains South and West of Pincher Creek
- in the southern Flathead, B.C. (by informal arrangement with the RCMP and SAR group of Sparwood; this area is more quickly accessed from Alberta).
- in the agricultural land around Pincher Creek
- on the Peigan Reserve

- in the southern Porcupine Hills (North of Pincher Creek)
- in the Carbondale area (West of Pincher Creek)
- in the town of Pincher Creek and surrounding villages
- in the town of Fort MacLeod
- in the agricultural land around Cardston
- on the Blood Timber Reserve

In the past, PC SAR has supported other SAR groups:

- in the mountains and hills North of the Crowsnest Pass
- in the City of Lethbridge
- in the areas South and North of Lethbridge
- on the Blood Reserve

- in the Nanton area
- in the Medicine Hat area
- at the Pine Lake tornado site near Red Deer

Typically there is a reduced response for travel distances over 2 hours. PC SAR will consider requests to respond anywhere, but may be limited by costs of travel.

Membership

trained in? track aware

- ~~46~~ volunteers (total) *over 40*
- ~~30~~ "active" members (minimum 1 real search or 4 other activities in last year)
- ~~40~~ certified SAR Fundamentals *most*
- 7 certified Track Aware (basic Man-Tracking)

- ~~5~~ certified Search Managers *6*
- 6 in Crowsnest Pass area
- 1 in Cardston area
- 3 in Lethbridge area
- 3 in Calgary area

10 initial response teams.

At a typical local search, PC SAR fields ~~20~~ volunteers and are joined by about 5 people from other organizations and 5 spontaneous volunteers. The numbers are limited by those who can be contacted immediately (tests indicate 30%) and have the specific skills required.

Each member operating in the field has their own ready pack and can be expected to be self-sufficient ~~under any weather conditions~~ for 24 hours. *generalize: map? (of area) first aid*

Equipment

- mobile command post (bus)
- ~~1~~ SAR management kits
- large range of maps
- ~~5~~ portable radios (Tac 9, Mutual Aid, PC Fire & Ambulance), 2 relocatable vehicle radios
- ~~2~~ handheld satellite phones
- ~~5~~ GPSs
- rescue sleigh to be towed by snowmobile

- ~~20~~ avalanche probes
- wilderness stretcher with support wheel
- various rescue stretchers
- rope rescue rigging
- first aid kits
- blankets
- generator
- exterior lighting

hypothermic suits.

Other equipment/resources can be drawn from the community for local needs.

Develope a questionair so a _non_ snowmobiling
search manager can determine the level of
a volunteer snowmobiler's ability

① — Expert-Level mountain snowmobilers

② — Intermediate Level mountain snowmobilers

How many times have you ~~riden in this area and~~ crossed over the high mountain
passes in this area? > 30¢ - Expert 10-30 Intermediate
< 10 Beginer

Do you ~~have~~ carry Beacon, Shovel and Probe - no → beginer

Can you find your way over Middle Kootnai,
   North Kootnai, Font pass, witches nose -
in the dark in bad weather — yes — expert

Do you have a mountain sled.
   Track ≥ 145" long or more   ⎫
   Lugs 2" deep or more   ⎬ Expert
   Power 600 c.c. or more   ⎭

Do you have avalanche awareness training

Do you know where most of the avalanches that
cross these tracks are

Do you have a GPS and know how to use it?
Are you prepared to spend the night outdoors?

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