



# OSAR NEWS

Premiere Issue

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## Contact Information

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## Call Outs and Assists - YTD

Our members have responded to five requests for assistance so far this year with an average of three members attending in each case. We have received requests from the following SAR groups in our region:

Rocky Mountain House SAR - two requests  
Red Deer SAR - two requests  
Didsbury SAR - one request

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## Member Training

Our members have been very active upgrading and maintaining skills needed to complete duties assigned by search managers. Members have completed training in many areas.

SAR Fundamentals	19 members
Map and Compass	12 members
Lost in Woods	11 members
Alzheimers Workshop	9 members
Managing Search Operations	2 members
Reception Centre Operations	3 members
Emergency Operations Centre	2 members
Bone Identification	7 members

## Welcome

This is the first of what we hope will be a quarterly effort designed to keep our friends and associates abreast of happenings within Olds Search and Rescue. The newsletter will be available at our office and on our web site in portable document format (PDF) for viewing and printing using Acrobat Reader.

Some of our training is of a preventative nature such as the Lost in the Woods ( Hug-a-Tree ) program for children of elementary school age. In this case our members have been trained to deliver this program in schools and to youth

groups where they meet. Members have attended two mock exercises in recent months including a night search and a community evacuation.

Schizophrenia Workshop - July 23, 2002 at 19:00 hrs ( 7:00 pm ) at a location to be announced. This workshop will help members and the public better understand some of the behaviours of sufferers.

## Public Relations

### May 11<sup>th</sup> Public Awareness Day

Olds Search and Rescue sponsored and held a public awareness day on Saturday May 11, 2002 at the Olds Legion. The event was well received with 53 persons signing our register. Representatives from all but one region SAR group took part as well as the majority of our team members. Representatives of Alberta Disaster Services, Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Mountain View Regional Emergency Services, RCMP and Olds Fire Department were also on hand to help explain how we all work together in times of need.

Didsbury SAR Fun Weekend - August 31 and September 1 a fun filled long weekend at Elkton Campground. This promises to be a fun filled weekend including search practice and other SAR related programs.

Nitchi Nicker Endurance Ride - August 31, 2002 in the Bergen area south of Sundre. This will be an all day event which will see international level competitors riding in support of area programs for handicapped individuals.

Probability of Detection and Paint ball activity - October 19, 2002 at the Weekend Warriors Paint ball range south west of Olds. This will be a training event followed by a fun social get together on the paint ball range.

Several video presentations were made during the day and members presented the Hug-a-Tree program and KidzPrintz to all the children attending.

Check our web site for updates on these and other events as they are planned. You can also email our training co-ordinator Rebecca Atkin at [rebeccaatkin@hotmail.com](mailto:rebeccaatkin@hotmail.com)

We also made the draw for our spring raffle of a limited edition RCMP print with the winning ticket belonging to Bowden resident Gary Anderson. We had printed 500 tickets and sold out earlier in the day. It is through events like these that we increase public awareness and generate the needed support to help fund our programs and activities.

## Upcoming Events

## Membership Information

Olds Search and Rescue currently has 24 members as follows:

- 12 regular members
- 6 new members
- 1 RCMP liaison
- 4 affiliate Olds Fire Department members
- 1 affiliate EMS member

Membership applications are available at our office during regular meetings at 19:00 hours on the first Wednesday of each month or by contacting the following members of our executive :

Jack Humphries Chief (403)556-6775  
 Rick Astle Sec/Treas (403)556-8121  
 Shelley Maschke Membership (403)556-3514

## SAR Fundamentals

As part of each newsletter we will try to include a review of some part of the SAR Fundamentals manual.

### The Ideal SAR Worker

In the teamwork environment of the SAR worker there are a few words that do not fit. These words include I, Me, My, Fault and Professional as they are not consistent with the mission and spirit that drives people to search for and rescue people they don't even know. Most searchers are volunteers and as such can not be considered professionals. The word fault suggests someone made a mistake and as such has negative implications and fosters bad feelings.

SAR workers should remember a few key

guidelines and the acronym "PHACKS" should help us remember these simple guidelines.

**"P"** - Proficiency. Performing with expert correctness and competency.

**"H"** - Humble. Showing awareness of one's shortcomings.

**"A"** - Able. Capable of performing, both physically and mentally.

**"C"** - Competent. Properly qualified: adequate for a purpose.

**"K"** - Knowledgeable. Familiarity, awareness, or understanding gained through experience and study.

**"S"** - Solicitous. Concerned: attentive, eager.

**The P.H.A.C.K.S.** - What SAR leaders expect from SAR workers.

In all SAR work the attitude of safety ( risk vs. benefit ) must always be considered. Before an action is undertaken, the risks involved should be compared to the benefits that will come. In each situation the priorities in SAR should be considered and for most of us these are:

1. **Self** - You are of no value to the team or the casualty if you become lost or injured.
2. **Companions** - If a member of your team becomes lost or injured the value of the team is lost.
3. **Victim** - The casualty after all is the reason you are here.

The "Weak Link Theory" applies to SAR work

just as it applies in all of life's endeavours and can have catastrophic as well as legal implications in the field. Know your limitations and do not accept an assignment you have not trained for.

**“Knowledge of one’s own personal limitations is probably the number one lifesaver in rescue today. Correspondingly, lack of**

**knowledge is probably the number one killer.”**

This is just a part of the information contained in the first few pages of chapter 2 of the SAR Fundamentals manual and a review of this chapter may be in order to provide a complete refresher.

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## Our Mission Statement

Olds Search and Rescue will train for and respond in a professional manner to, the RCMP's request for assistance in handling, search and rescue emergencies, and be a resource to the Town of Olds, County of Mountain View and the Province of Alberta.

This mission will be carried out in the following ways:

**Mitigation** - Identifying hazardous areas, activities or situations and assisting in educating the public about these hazards and ways to avoid, minimize or even eliminate them when practical to do so.

**Preparedness** - Training all search and rescue team members in basic SAR skills and supporting special training for more technically demanding emergencies. Development of resources and training activities which will strengthen and support our group skills in the SAR effort in our area.

**Response Guidelines** - Responding to calls for assistance in searching for lost or missing persons and rescuing persons in distress within the training and performance capabilities of the individuals in our group.

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Thank you to all who have helped by providing input for OSAR NEWS.

Have a great summer filled with fun and as few searches as possible.

OSAR NEWS Editor: Rick Astle