



OSAR NEWS

Volume 2

Winter 2003

Issue 1

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Contact Information

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- twenty-five training events to enhance present skills and acquire new skills to help members provide preventative training to community members at large.

- seven public relations events from hosting information booths, providing services to the Olds Fair and Nitchi Nicker Endurance Ride and drive home services at Christmas.

- attendance at monthly regular and executive meetings as well as administration time at the office.

With our current membership levels this translates into about 260 hours from each member each year or about 20 hours each month.

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Congratulations OSAR Members

Member Training

Training of search and rescue personnel is a two sided program requiring members to take training in new techniques and procedures for different search situations as well as refresher training in already acquired skills. Much of this training is scheduled on an as needed basis often with little notice to members and sometimes the training schedule changes due to unforeseen challenges. Olds Search and Rescue tries to keep abreast of this training by posting upcoming courses on our website and in our office with as much detail as we can at the time of posting.

2002 in Review

Members of Olds Search and Rescue provided a substantial 5,276 hours of volunteer service to Olds and area through:

- one initial response for a lost child in Olds
- six mutual aid calls to assist other area search and rescue groups

Regional SAR Teams

We will be adding information to our website which will include the locations of other central region SAR groups. This information will provide group names, meeting nights and times and contact information. Our initial information is shown here in table format.

Name	Meeting	Contact
Sundre SAR	1 st Wednesday each month at 19:30 hrs	(403) 638-3435
Red Deer SAR	2 nd Thursday each month at 19:30 hrs	(403) 341-4788
Didsbury SAR	Last Thursday each month at 19:30 hrs	(403) 637-2688
Rocky SAR	No Info	(403) 844-2834
Olds SAR	2 nd Tuesday each month at 19:30 hrs	(403) 556-5994

Hug-a-Tree and Survive

As part of our ongoing program of public education Olds Search and Rescue will be conducting courses in the widely acclaimed Hug-a-Tree and Survive program which is offered to youth. We have contacted Chinooks Edge School Division to make this program available throughout their schools and other youth oriented groups such as scouting and guiding.

The program is a combination of video, workbook and demonstration which takes about two hours to complete and provides participants with valuable information which can help them stay safe and warm should they become lost while in the woods. They are also taught to respond to searchers and that they will not be in trouble with their parents but that their safe

return is the most important.

Training Schedule

Some dates have been established and others will be confirmed when available.

February

- Hug-A-Tree refresher
- Hug-A-Tree training seminar
- Civil Emergency Response Course
- Ice Rescue Searcher Awareness
- Tracker 1

March

- Basic First Aid scene assessment
- First Aid and CPR and CPR re-certs
- SAR Fundamentals
- MVRES Ambulance tour

April

- Map and Compass/GPS training
- Map and Compass/GPS practical
- Team Table Top scenario #1
- Olds College open house April 5 & 6
- Team Building Exercise

May

- Scene Safety and Preservation of Evidence
- Provincial SAR Day
- OSAR Public Awareness
- SAR Safety Officer Course May 3 & 4
- SAR Safety Officer Inst. Course May 31 - June 1

Training Schedule cont'd

June

- Common Sense for First Responder
- Rope Safety
- Ladder Safety
- Grass Fire Training

July

- Heat and Exhaustion Related 1st Aid
- Extrication Training
- Lifts and Carries Training
- Team Building Exercise

August

- Radio Communications Refresher
- First Aid practical Aug 7 - 10
- Radio and GPS practical Aug 30 & 31

September

- Track Awareness
- Clue Awareness/Evidence Training
- Tracker 1

October

- Search Techniques
- SAR Fundamentals
- Team Building Exercise

November

- Critical Incident Stress Overview
- Team Table Top Scenario #2

December

- Team Building Exercise

C E R

What is CER? CER is short for 'Civil Emergency Response'.

Civil Emergency Response is a marrying of the skills of several highly trained groups of people in responding to tasking agencies associated with emergency services. These groups bring with them skills in communications, discipline, search and rescue, evidence retrieval and much more. Within CER is the general concept of encouraging trained SAR groups in Alberta to be available to respond to an assortment of events. The SAR groups role would be to assist within the scope of their own ability by providing skills and resources to cover communications, search and rescue, high angle and low slope activities as well as crowd and traffic control and the operation of reception centres. Coordination with other groups of volunteers such as amateur radio operators, snowmobile and off road clubs.

Olds Search and Rescue will be hosting a CER training session in the near future and we encourage those who can to check our website under events for details on when and where.

Map and Compass Clue Awareness

On October 19, 2002 11 members of Olds Search and Rescue met at the Weekend Warriors Paintball Range south west of Olds with full equipment to conduct a Map and Compass and Clue Awareness training exercise. This exercise was conducted in three venues to simulate different search environments. Teams searched



a small pasture type setting, a confined space in the dark and a heavily brushed slopping area using hasty teams. Each team carried map and compass, GPS units,

radios and flashlights.

The first area being a small fenced pasture was searched by hasty teams who relayed clue locations by radio to command providing a description and GPS coordinates. Command recorded and confirmed clue description and location for the log.



The second area was in a metal building in the dark and it was found that the GPS units were of little value and clue

locations were again relayed by radio to command estimating distances and directions from various walls of the structure.



The third area began with plotting the teams position using compass bearings to fixed objects and comparing the map coordinates with those of our GPS units. The team then formed on the slope and proceeded to search for clues again radioing location and description to command.

Following the exercise the team gathered at the command vehicle to discuss what went well, what did not and ways we could improve. The GPS units confirmed members were able to use map and compass to determine location coordinates. Some members felt this area needed more work.



Radio communications went reasonably well with some small areas needing further attention.

Overall the effort was

worthwhile and all members attending thought our group would be able to acquit itself favourably in a search situation. More activities are being planned.

SAR Fundamentals

Lost Person Behaviour

By analysing the behaviour of past lost persons in similar situations, we might be able to 'predict' what the subject we are now looking for might do, where he might go or where he might be.

This concept is a search planning tool dealing with generalities not absolutes

There are four general factors that will affect a lost persons behaviour. Any one or combination of these factors can have a positive or negative affect on the persons behaviour.

1. **Biological cycles** - were things going well or poorly.
2. **State of Health** - recent illness, disease, condition or lack of sleep.
3. **Experience** - can this person operate efficiently when out of comfort zone.
4. **Physiological effects of environment** - heat, cold altitude and precipitation

Each of these factors will have an effect on the lost persons ability to seek or build shelter, discard equipment or clothing, do nothing, be detectable and move about.

In order to develop a plan we will find it helpful to find out all we can about the lost person's past and current personality. We will try to put

Lost Person Behaviour cont'd

ourselves in the lost persons shoes and compile a subject profile and study the known and unknown.

There are several commonly used categories of lost persons. Each category exhibits specific traits but there are always exceptions and a good strategy will focus on the most likely.

- There are children up to 3 years of age who are unaware of the concept of being lost.
- We next have children 3 to 6 years who are far more mobile and have been trained not to speak to strangers and therefore will not respond.
- Children 6 to 12 make up the next likely group and they are much more skilled navigators and may have intentionally run off.
- The elderly usually older than 65 years who may be suffering from forms of dementia and have become exhausted and may be hard of hearing.
- There are those with mental disabilities or those who have become despondent and will not usually respond to searchers.
- Our next group are the outdoors people, hikers, hunters, fishermen, climbers and campers who may have had an accident or just overstayed their plans. These people are usually well equipped.

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

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

OSAR NEWS Editor: Rick Astle