ASRC Discussion Issues Summary List, Oct 24, 2011

Insurance

- Who is responsible for discussing insurance with our agent ?
- How can we get all of our questions answered in a reasonable time ?
- Clarify the risk – what are the cases in the last 5 -10 years involving SAR activity ?
- Clarify what liability or other insurance RAs provide when requesting resources
  - VDEM
  - Others
- How do we avoid paying for insurance we (as individuals or as a team) don't need ?
- Are we able to be insured only if we are individual members of ASRC ?
- Insurance increases, how to deal with this ? (there is no time to find another quote upon notification, b/c that notification is likely 30 days before)
- Some members/teams don't want to pay extra for insurance b/c they already have it
- Get rid of ASRC-level insurance ?
- What is the "insurance" cover ? Why does a responding member need it ? Why would ASRC and/or a team provide it ? And what is the appropriate amount of coverage ?
  - Liability
    - VFIS "Package" covers Management Liability for ASRC leadership, and General Liability insurance for the Conference
    - VFIS "Auto" Liability for vehicular incidents with other people while conducting ASRC business
  - Equipment loss/damage
  - Workmans comp
  - AD&D
- VFIS constraints as a vendor – all customers must have AD&D through them, AD&D varies by membership, none of the others do

ASRC structure

- How should current ASRC be described in NIMS terms ? (Multi-Agency Coordination System, MAC ?)
- Should ASRC be an operational entity or just an alert/notification/clearinghouse ?
- Why should teams be a member of ASRC ?

- o Insurance ?
- o Mutual aid ?
- o Adopt standards ?
- o Community discussion and sharing of expertise & resources makes us better able to do SAR ?
- Is there an individual membership in ASRC ?
- Keep everything the way it is, but have (some) dues optional
- Differences among ASRC groups
  - o Trains to NASAR standards
  - o Trains to MRA standards
  - o Trains to ASRC standards
  - o Trains & deploys specialized resources for which ASRC does not have a standard (mantracker, dogs, horses, 4x4, NPS fitness test, etc)
  - o Wears own uniform with ASRC patch
  - o Wears ASRC blue shirt uniform
  - o Responds to incidents outside of normal ASRC-type missions (e.g. certain types of police requests)
  - o Requires insurance for training activities (liability, equipment, workmans comp, AD&D)
  - o Requires insurance for admin activities (liability, auto)
  - o Requires insurance for mission response (liability, equipment, workmans comp, AD&D)
  - o Requires members to have personal active auto insurance
  - o Requires members to have personal active health/medical insurance
  - o Requires members to be GTO certified at a certain level in order to respond
- Could ASRC be an organization of just individuals only, rather than of teams ? (to enable people who need insurance to respond as "ASRC" and teams would respond themselves under their own insurance)
- Knowing policy, standards, and following procedures, particularly BOD members and officers
- Not knowing why those standards, policies and procedures were established
- How can we we use both email, teleconference and in person meetings to get BOD work done
- How does ASRC compare to MRA ?
  - o ASRC "better" than MRA
    - Same training standards & certification across teams
    - Same operational procedures across teams
    - We integrate on-scene much faster
    - We tend to all get the callout, thus we travel further to incidents (thus deliver more resources ?)
- How do we determine if the BOD is effective in dealing with issues ?
- What should we do about it if the BOD is not being effective ?

ASRC training

- What is the role of ASRC with regard to "certification" ?
- When is someone certified ? (by issuance of a paper credential, or a vote or a GTO approval)
  - CQ, FTM, FTL
  - IS, IC, AO, CDO
- How does this ASRC training level certification differ from a state EMS or Fire certification ?
- Does certification require insurance and if so what type and how much ?
- What is the role of issuing certificates and/or any other credential ? Should it ?
- Should teams issue a paper certificate or other credential based on GTO passing a team member for a specific ASRC training level ?
- Should there be approved instructors ?
- Should ASRC BOD approve GTOs ?
- need NIMS recognition
- need VA recognition
- need WVA, MD, PA, DEL recognition
- ASRC BOD & GTO's role in certification
- Are GTOs responsible for training and certifying IS and IC ?
- How do we handle members responding and providing specialties that aren't in ASRC standards (signcutter, K9 Cadaver) ?
- Is the IC standard being maintained ? Can anyone still attain IC ?
- Is the IS standard being maintained ? Can anyone still attain IS ?
- Out of state teams not allowed to take VDEM training ?
- Should ASRC train anyone who wants to attend a class, or just ASRC group members ?
- (old question) how do we afford the cost of maintaining certifications ?
- Should certification be contingent on remaining a member in good standing with an ASRC group ?
- How should an ASRC training program be administrated ?
- Should we pay instructors and if so how ?

ASRC Ops

- Lewis County debrief needed
- What are the current EMAC laws ?
- Which states have MOU programs for SAR resources, and do they restrict response to MOU teams ? When can non-MOU teams be requested ?
- Are there any state-to-state recognition of other state's SAR standards ?
- Can VA not call closest resource if that resource is in another state ?
- How does ASRC currently facilitate interstate resource response ?
- Why does the conference not receive calls from VDEM ?
- Why does the conference not receive calls from MD ?

- Who can authorize a mission response ? (ACA, IC, ASRC AO, group AO)
- Who can decide the nature of the ASRC response ? (e.g. why a call back to the RA ?)
- What do we think we should do when the RA request comes for 5 FTLs and 10 FTMs and 2 dogs ?
- Why does it take an ACA, IC to call back hours later ?
- Why are our responses to alerts, and/or people on road delayed ?
- Clarify policy about solicitation to respond when mission on going ?
- Can respond if we can get requested by someone involved, even when there is no clear authority in charge ?
- How to handle callout limited by RA direction ?
- How to handle no single RA or any effective RA at scene ?
- How to handle RA direction for inappropriate use of resources ?
- How to handle RA direction against state (e.g. VDEM dog) resource usage policy ?
- How to handle callout limited by state/county resource standard/approval ?
- Interstate role (?) for ASRC going to go away ?
- Are we effectively debriefing/critiquing missions ? particularly where people hear or see an ASRC IC/IS not cooperating with RA direction or displaying in appropriate representation (ego, unprofessional conduct)
- How to handle requests for a single individual (or don't send xyz)
- Teams responding w/o notifying or requesting the other teams
- Clarify whether ASRC is responding as a "team"
- How can we improve alert/dispatch to make it simpler/faster ?
- Can members of one team manage, direct, or discipline members of another team while on a search ?
- What do we do for the RA if we have to say "there are no resources right now" ?