

From: Gary Mechtel
Date: 5/1/87
Phone: (h)301-381-2593, (w)301-765-6142
Subj: Draft Pre-plan, version II

To: James Lipko (DER)
Ken Boyles (DER)

cc ASRC Board of Directors
Chuck Hemple (ASRC-AMRG)

This is the revised draft of the pre-plan. I have used your comments to help revise the document. Please review this document again and let me know if any further changes are necessary.

The ASRC accepted the previous draft version as an interim working document. I hope that all your major concerns have been addressed in this updated version and that we can both consider this to be at least a working document, if not the final version.

The ASRC Board of Directors also has appointed an official delegate to the Penn. SAR Co.--Kevin Parkes. His phone numbers are: (H) 301-428-1853, (W) 301-921-9008, and his address is 20121 Laurel Hill Way, Germantown Md., 20874.

Attached is a copy of the invitation I am sending to your departments requesting your presence at the July twenty-fifth Virginia SAR Council meeting. Let me know ASAP if the letters should be changed before I send them in. If you like, you can spend Friday and/or Saturday night(s) at my home in Columbia. Then, we could car pool down to Virginia on Saturday morning. Till then, take care.

Gary Mechtel
301-381-2593 (H)
301-765-6142 (W)

ASRC-Pennsylvania DER Pre-plan
First Edition
DRAFT 5/1/87

1.0 Purpose

This document provides a general outline of the procedures used when the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources (DER) and the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference (ASRC) participate in a SAR incident together.

2.0 Scope

This edition of the ASRC-DER preplan outlines the principles that govern an ASRC response to a DER SAR incident. It shall be enforced whenever the ASRC participates on an incident within Pennsylvania where DER has legal jurisdiction or holds incident command.

3.0 Authority

The ASRC recognizes DER as the legal authority (responsible agent) or the legal authority's representative when the ASRC responds to any DER request. As such, DER has the authority to accept or reject any ASRC participation at any time during the incident.

4.0 Applicability

This document, along with the ASRC Search and Operations Plan (SAROP), provides for all levels of ASRC participation in SAR incidents that are conducted under the authority of DER.

5.0 Alert Procedures

The alerting procedures are described in section 5.0 of the Third Edition of the ASRC SAROP (see appendix B).

The ASRC SAROP states that the Conference recognizes three states of involvement:

- NOTIFICATION - A SAR incident is in progress but ASRC resources are not yet requested.
- ALERT - A SAR incident is in progress and ASRC involvement is probable.
- CALLOUT - The ASRC has been requested or is actively involved in an incident.

The method for contacting the ASRC is to call the Virginia Department of Emergency Services (Operations Center) at 804-323-2300. Give a brief description of the incident, your phone number, and request that the ASRC call your agency immediately.

An ASRC Alert Officer will contact you and advise you of the ASRC's capabilities and discuss the incident's urgency. You and the ASRC Alert Officer will decide upon an appropriate response will be sent to you from the ASRC. These responses include:

- QRT - A Quick Response Team. This has two functions: (1) a fast response to a rescue, or (2) fulfilling a simple request for a manpower need. E.g., a request for 5 field team leaders.
- OVERHEAD TEAM - A team of about three individuals who are trained in helping to manage an incident.
- FULL CALLOUT - Anything beyond the above responses. This is tailored to the specific needs of the incident.

Dispatching of specific groups to an incident depends upon time and urgency constraints at the time of the callout. Due to extreme distances in Pennsylvania the dispatching of certain teams will often depend solely on the incident location. Appendix A describes which ASRC groups will usually respond first to an incident.

6.0 Operational Procedures

The ASRC will conform with DER's operational procedures on every incident where DER is the responsible authority. The ASRC will often be one of many agencies working for DER at any one incident. The most efficient use of all available resources is a paramount consideration for best helping the patient(s). Therefore, the ASRC response leader, or his designate, should be considered as a staff aide to help indicate the best use of the ASRC resources within the context of the incident.

The ASRC reserves the right to withdraw from any incident if the operation is deemed to be outside the normal operational constraints of the ASRC; this includes searching for an at-large criminal, an extremely dangerous incident, or an incident beyond the training or scope of the ASRC.

7.0 Call-down Procedures

If the ASRC is responding to a SAR incident at the request of DER, and the incident is resolved prior to the ASRC's arrival, DER shall contact the ASRC dispatch and inform them of the incident's status. DER's call-down of the ASRC dispatch shall be done in a timely manner.

8.0 Maintaining the Pre-plan

This document should be periodically re-evaluated and revised to ensure a rapid, efficient, safe, and effective ASRC response to DER's SAR needs.

Appendix A

The initial ASRC response to most incidents in the western portion of Pennsylvania will be provided by the Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group out of Pittsburgh. In the eastern portion of the state, Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group (National Capital area) or the Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group (Charlottesville) will most often respond. The approximate dividing line is given on the attached map, the first attached document.

Appendix B

The second attachment is the ASRC's SAROP (Search And Rescue Operating Procedures)

May 20, 1987

Richard Thorpe
Forester, Bureau of State Forestry
P.O. Box 1467
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Dear Mr. Thorpe:

I represent the Virginia Search and Rescue Council. The Council would like to invite a member of your office, Jim Lipko, to attend our next SAR Council meeting. The meeting will be held at the Virginia Department of Emergency Services headquarters in Richmond Virginia, on Saturday, July 25 at 10:30 in the morning.

The Council would like to study and discuss the methods that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources is using in order to provide Search and Rescue (SAR) capabilities throughout its many jurisdictions. In particular, the Virginia SAR Council is interested in learning about and evaluating Pennsylvania's efforts in order to improve Virginia's SAR capabilities. We understand that Ken Boyles and Jim Lipko are organizing and coordinating DER's SAR resources and pre-plans. The Virginia Department of Emergency Services and the Virginia Department of Emergency Medical Services are both members of the Council, and will be attending this meeting.

I would be happy to be of assistance in coordinating Jim's trip to Richmond. Please feel free to contact me if any further assistance is required to help Jim attend our July meeting.

Thank You,

Gary Mechtel
Chairman, Va SAR Co.
301-381-2593 (H)
301-765-6142 (W)
7153 Peace Chimes Ct
Columbia, Md. 21045

May 20, 1987

William C. Forrey
Director, Bureau of State Parks
P.O. Box 1467
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Dear Mr. Forrey:

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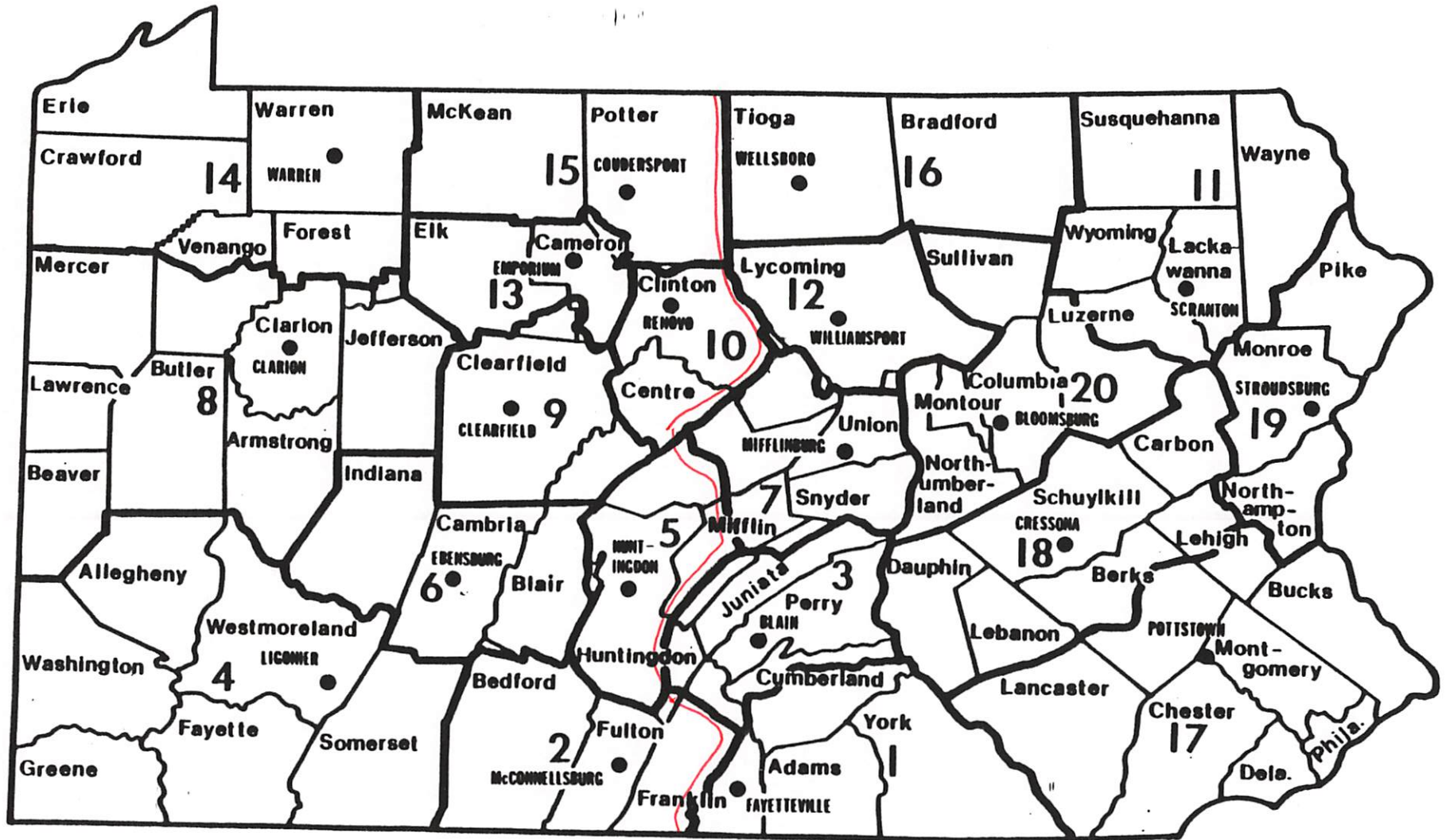
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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES
 BUREAU OF FORESTRY
 STATE FOREST DISTRICTS



● DISTRICT OFFICE