

Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference, Inc.

Operations Manual

(very) Rough Draft

November 1985

1. Policies related to Members

- 1.1 There is no requirement for any ASRC member to respond to a mission callout.
- 1.2 All ASRC members responding to a mission, whether by air or ground transport, shall carry food and supplies for up to 48 hours in the field.

2. Policies related to missions

2.1 Alerting and Callout

- 2.1.1 All ASRC Groups shall keep up-to-date Group alerting information filed with the Virginia Department of Emergency Services, and the ASRC Secretary.
- 2.1.2 The Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group will keep an up-to-date Alert Officer List on file with the University of Virginia Emergency Medical Communications Center.
- 2.1.3 Group callouts shall be conducted according to Group procedures; however, when members within a given membership class (Basic, Trainee, etc.) are being called out, attempts will be made to contact all Group members of the given class unless there is a documented need for a more selective callout.
- 2.1.4 The ASRC IC (or ASRC AO) should, in considering the dispatch of an OHT or QR Team, try to dispatch a team from the Group which can provide a qualified team to the incident are the quickest.

2.2 ASRC IC Policies

- 2.2.1 It is the responsibility of the ASRC IC to see that an ASRC IC (or ASRC Command Liaison; see below) is always in command of ASRC personnel on a mission, and that this ASRC IC is always available to the Responsible Agent and to ASRC Members for command decisions.
- 2.2.2 The only exceptions to 2.2.1 shall be when, under written cooperative agreement, the ASRC participates in a unified command structure with the Responsible Agency; in this case, the ASRC IC will become an ASRC Command Liaison and will yield command over ASRC resources except the option to withdraw ASRC resources.
- 2.2.3 The ASRC IC is responsible for seeing that all Group DO's and the Virginia DES are kept up-to-date on the progress of the missions. As per the DES--VSARC cooperative agreement, the other SAR organizations of the VSARC will be notified by DES whenever the ASRC is involved with a mission.
- 2.2.4 The ASRC IC is responsible for mission reporting.

2.3 Dispatch Officers

- 2.3.1 If a Group Dispatch Officer must appoint a replacement DO, this information should be passed to the mission Command Post, to the other Group DO's, or to the DES.

2.4 Medical

- 2.4.1 In multiple-victim incidents, the MEDIC will perform triage as per the current standard of practice for his level of training, and will direct others in necessary medical care. The MEDIC will establish evacuation priorities for the use of the FTL and Rescue Specialist in planning the evacuations.

- 2.4.2 When a victim is found and it is not clear if the victim is alive or dead, only the FTL and MEDIC should approach the immediate area of the victim; other team members should act to protect the potential crime scene.

- 2.4.3 Medical Qualifications

- 2.4.4 Medical Responsibility

When the patient reaches the roadhead or a helispot, the medical responsibility of the ASRC is ended, and the patient should be turned over to the local EMS agency. However, if the current ASRC MEDIC is of higher medical certification than the members of the local EMS agency, the ASRC MEDIC must accompany the patient until an equivalent-level MEDIC is available to accompany the patient, unless permission to turn over the patient is received from a legitimate medical command physician.

2.5 Communications Policies

- 2.5.1 SOP ASRC communications shall be in plain English, with ITU-ICAO phonetic spelling where necessary. Accepted prowords and correct usage, as well as the ASRC victim status code, are described in an ASRC Communications SOP Sheet published by the ASRC Operations Committee.

- 2.5.2 Hardware

2.6 Cave Rescue

3. Operations Committee Policies

- 3.1 The Operations Committee will review the SAROP and Operations Manual and Communications Sheet yearly and present recommendations to the ASRC Annual Meeting.

4. Policies Related to Groups

- 4.1 Minimum Group Membership
- 4.2 Minimum Group Equipment
- 4.3 Minimum Group Capabilities

5. The Standard ASRC Operations Kit (OPSKIT)

6. Cooperative Agreements