



APPALACHIAN SEARCH & RESCUE

CONFERENCE, INC.

FACT SHEET

updated: May, 1979

THE ORGANIZATION

The Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference, Inc. (ASRC) is a volunteer land search and rescue organization dedicated to saving lives in the outdoors through search and rescue operations and outdoor safety education. Its activities include land search for lost victims, and evacuation of the injured or dead from hiking or hunting accidents, from aircraft accidents, or from vehicle accidents off mountain roads when the victims are inaccessible by other means. It also provides certain specialized expertise, such as rescue in cliff areas.

ALERTING

The ASRC is available on short notice, 24 hours a day, for assistance in outdoors emergencies regardless of terrain or weather. The ASRC is alerted through the University of Virginia Police Department.

EMERGENCY ALERT: (804)-924-7166

The Conference maintains two of its experienced members on a pager alert system at all times, therefore the caller should remain at the telephone, for an ASRC Alert Officer will contact him in a matter of minutes. The ASRC Alert Officer will determine the nature of the situation and institute a general callout or immediately dispatch a Quick Response Team.

RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY

The ASRC expects to work under the control of and at the pleasure of the local authority-- Sheriff, Civil Air Patrol Mission Coordinator, Emergency Services Coordinator, Park Superintendent, etc.

SERVICES

An ASRC Quick Response Team can be mobilized within 45 minutes of the initial call. It is self-sufficient for 48 hours and carries field-portable medical, communications and technical rescue gear to

--Stabilize and provide for the evacuation of a patient

--Initiate the coordination and execution of a large-scale search.

The ASRC has experienced operational leadership and tested procedures and is prepared to either assume on-scene direction of an operation, or to act in an advisory capacity, as requested by the local authority. The ASRC welcomes the opportunity to train related organizations in rescue and survival techniques. It also provides speakers and programs for the general public. In the past these have included topics such as "Avoiding the Wilderness Emergency" and "Wilderness First Aid" as well as general introductory programs on the ASRC.

(more...)

SERVICE AREA

The ASRC will provide a Quick Response to any location within a 2 hour drive of Charlottesville, Va. or Washington D.C. The ASRC will also respond to calls from other parts of Virginia, West Virginia or Maryland, as well as other parts of the Eastern U.S. In some cases the ASRC may request air transport to avoid travel time and fatigue.

EXCLUDED ACTIVITIES

The organization is not equipped, nor does it have the inclination to replace the normal services of established Rescue Squads, Fire Departments or law enforcement agencies. It provides a specialized service, that of search and rescue in wooded or rugged terrain, and considers its mission completed at the highway or edge of town. Although it will assist law enforcement agencies with certain tasks, such as collection of evidence or search and recovery of crime victims in the outdoors, it will not be involved in the direct apprehension of criminals.

EXPENSES AND FIELD SUPPORT

The ASRC is entirely a volunteer organization supported by contributions and makes no charges for its services. All members carry in their packs food and equipment to be self-sufficient for 48 hours. For more extended operations, the members would appreciate shelter, water and warm food, if possible.

PRESS

All ASRC members are instructed to discuss the details of an operation only with personnel authorized to work on the mission by the local authority. The Conference may ask the consent of the local authority to release to the press information regarding the extent of its involvement.

MEMBERSHIP

Although the ASRC's membership is diverse, all field personnel are experienced outdoorsmen with extensive mountain rescue, navigation, survival and medical training. This training must meet ASRC standards, and an Emergency Medical Technician certificate or the equivalent is a minimum requirement for Basic level field certification. The field effort is supported by medical, communications and administrative personnel. Membership inquiries are welcomed from anyone interested in participating in ASRC activities both in and out of the field.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information regarding the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference's meetings, training programs and membership categories, please write to us:

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