

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE
PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES
AND
THE APPALACHIAN SEARCH & RESCUE CONFERENCE, INC.**

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to define the operational relationship between the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference, Inc. (ASRC) whenever the ASRC provides volunteer ground search and rescue services to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

2. BASIC GUIDELINES

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is the designated coordinator and responsible agent in Pennsylvania for search and rescue services in Pennsylvania state parks, forest lands, preserves and properties. When the ASRC provides services to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the ASRC comes under the operational control or coordinating management of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. A responsible agent is defined as a governmental official and/or agency having legal responsibility for search and rescue incidents.

3. TERMS OF UNDERSTANDING

A. When the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference is considered a "Department resource," operating under the authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in responding to a search and rescue incident, the following terms and conditions will be recognized.

- (1) When the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference is requested to respond to a search incident by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, or coordinated by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Department will advise the ASRC of the incident number and enter a note in its operations log authorizing the ASRC to respond as a resource of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- (2) If the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference is requested to respond to a lost person or downed aircraft incident in Pennsylvania by anyone other than the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural

Resources, i.e., state police, local or county government authorities, the ASRC will contact the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and advise them of the request. It is understood that the procedure of advising the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources of that request does not constitute any level of authorization by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

- (3) Where volunteer search and rescue resources from the ASRC are used as a Commonwealth resource, those ASRC resources, acting within the scope of a recognized volunteer service are protected by the Pennsylvania _____ to the extent that coverage is provided and subject to any applicable limitations.
- (B) The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources reserves the right to allocate any services to a particular search and rescue incident based on availability, appropriateness and the resources needs of other incidents that may be in progress or that may develop..
- (C) Subject to A(2) above, the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference may provide services to any agency or group to whom it wishes to respond. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania does not assume any responsibility, nor does it exercise any control in situations where a response is not at the Commonwealth's request or with the Commonwealth's authorization.
- (D) When the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference provides services in Pennsylvania, it is understood the Conference will select a representative at the incident site to serve as the Conference's agency representative to the responsible agent.
- (E) This Memorandum does not preclude the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference from participating in ground search and rescue activities for lost persons in which the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is not a participant, and conversely this Memorandum does not require the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to include the ASRC in its search and rescue activities.
- (F) It is understood that information obtained by, or discussed with, ASRC members during a search and rescue operation is confidential, and will not be discussed during or following an incident. Further, it is understood that no ASRC member will discuss information pertinent to an incident with the media. And, it is understood that all media will be referred to appropriate Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources representatives of the Commonwealth.

(G) ASRC organizational contacts for the following purposes are noted below:

24-hour day contact for lost person search and rescue services:

ASRC pager service at (804) 972-7840, enter 100 +
your area code and telephone number

or

Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency
Operations Center at (800) 424-7362 in Pennsylvania
or (717) 651-2001 elsewhere

Note: At first contact by a responsible agent, the ASRC uses the
attached Incident Report Form to acquire basic information on a
search incident.

administrative contact for administrative questions or issue resolution:

Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference
P O Box 440, Newcomb Hall
Charlottesville, Virginia 22904-0440

or

(804) 924-3472 and leave voice mail message

or

ASRC pager service at (804) 972-7840, enter 103 + your area code and
telephone number

4. DURATION

This Memorandum shall remain in effect until superceded or rescinded by either party. It is understood this Memorandum of Understanding will be reviewed in person on an annual basis at a time and place mutually acceptable to representatives of both the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference, Inc.

DATE

SIGNATURES

FOR

Pennsylvania Department
of Conservation and
Natural Resources

FOR

Appalachian Search & Rescue
Conference, Inc.

**ACCREDITED MEMBERS OF THE APPALACHIAN
SEARCH & RESCUE CONFERENCE, Inc.**

Accredited Member Teams	Home Base
Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group	Charlottesville, Virginia
Maryland Search & Rescue Group	Columbia, Maryland
Potomac Valley Search & Rescue Group	College Park, Maryland
Shenandoah Mountain Search & Rescue Group	Vienna, Virginia
Southwest Virginia Mountain Rescue Group	Blacksburg, Virginia
Tidewater Search and Rescue	Norfolk, Virginia

Associate Team

Mountaineer Area Rescue Group	Morgantown, West Virginia
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