



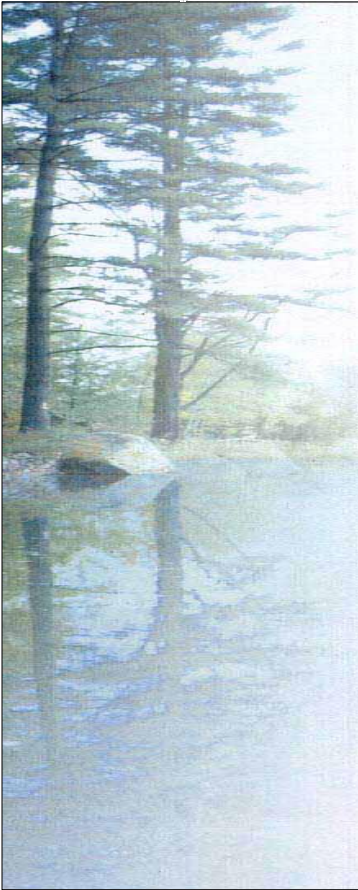
Greater Philadelphia Search & Rescue

RESCUE ME

Serving PA, NJ, DE & MD since 1979

2004

Volume 4, Issue 4



Hatfield Safety Drill

GPSAR participated in a regional safety drill simulating response to various threats over a given time period.

GPSAR completed all tasks assigned them and would like to thank all involved in coordi-

nating the event for a good training day.

We participated in the Hatfield area where the bulk of the scenarios involved extreme weather conditions.



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Right Resources For The Job

Being lost is a terrifying experience. Too often people are ashamed or embarrassed to call for assistance until it's late in the operation.

PD ASAP.
PD needs to contact dispatch for appropriate personnel and equipment.

PLEASE at least get the word out that we are a phone call away if they need any help, assistance or phone consult.

This needs to change.

This is where SAR comes into play.

Please help us help faster!!!

Family needs to contact

If someone is missing

Fire Safety Month

This fire safety month, like all before it, was a busy one. We did all of the old hangouts as well as a couple of new ones.

The canines and the bus went over well.

It's great that we can get out there and bring a different kind of display to our friends in the fire community.

If we can help your department please let us know



Rope Training

One of the things that we do religiously in the fall is have a large rope training.

This year was no different.

The team met up with some of our compatriots in New Jersey and ran a long day of rope training



covering several rope evolutions.

Rope is a complicated technical skill that requires training to reinforce known skills and to develop new skills.

Thanks to everyone that participated in this joint exercise.

MEMO's—What to look for in a team!

Personnel

How many members does the team have?

Too few members and the team won't have enough people to independently function on a search. The team won't be able to have more than one shift or possibly even more than one task team in the field.

Conversely, if the team has many members but only a handful attend trainings and meetings, it may indicate internal problems or that it has more names on paper than bodies in the field.

In either case, a team with too few members is potentially unsafe and ineffectual.

Are members professional?

Is the team a social club or a professionally run emergency service organization? A team doesn't have to be all work and no play, but focusing too much on socializing means it forgot its intended purpose.

Do members get along? Not everyone has to get along all the time, but members should treat each other professionally and respectfully.

Is the membership diverse?

Differences such as background, age and experience often mean interesting growth and evolution. Different people may bring several options to solve a problem, thus increasing the chance of hitting on the safest and most efficient way of performing a task.

Administration

Is the team insured?

Insurance protects the team and its members. A team that uses donated dollars for fancy equipment instead of insuring its members has questionable priorities.

Training

How often does the team train? Anything less than once a month for ground searchers means the team probably exists for the glory and not for the victim.

How organized are the trainings? Do members stand around with no direction? Often there are periods of inactivity, but are members gearing up for the next activity or trying to figure out what to do next? Are trainings long enough to make them worth the effort to attend? An organized training usually means an organized search.

Does the team train on varied terrain and

weather conditions?

All searches don't happen on perfect spring days and rarely in the location where a team trains. Being able to safely adapt to all types of conditions is essential.

Community

Does the team provide community education?

A team that accepts public donations should give back to the public in the form of education. Searches don't happen as often as fires and ambulance calls. The time waiting for a search should be spent preventing a search.

What is the team's relationship to local officials? Local fire and police departments call the SAR teams. A team should be proactive and reach out to public officials. Organized search and rescue techniques are new to most emergency services personnel.

Does the team claim to provide unrealistic services? In other words, a team located in Delaware shouldn't claim to provide avalanche rescue.

For anyone looking for a search and rescue team, the answers to these questions may mean the difference between a successful relationship and a disaster.

Q&A:

What is the best dog for SAR? (Warning...answered by a non canine person)



I hear this question a lot. Over the years I have seen handlers come and go and I finally have an answer to this age old question.

Here I go....

The best dog is the one that comes to us with a smart, alert, capable handler that is willing to devote the time and effort to getting the dog operational so that it performs in a consistent manner over time

Moral of the story....sometimes the leash is on the wrong person! All dogs have the potential of being service dogs...it's the owners than typically holds them back.

How Your Emergency Services Organization Can Reach GPSAR
 1-877-598-5618 for business related items
 gpsar@gpsar.org for email
 911 in Montgomery County for emergencies



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PIC OF THE PERIOD

