



*"Proudly Serving PA, NJ, DE, and MD since 1979"*

# RESCUE ME

*"That others may learn"*

Fall 2001

Volume 4, Issue 2



## 9-11-2001

***Our heartfelt sorrow goes out to everyone that suffered a loss as a result of the brutal and cowardly attacks of September 11, 2001.***

***While there is nothing we can do to change that which has happened let us take it upon ourselves to be the most pre-***



***pared we can to respond to the acts of these cowards should we be called to do so in the future.***

***Let us live and act so that we honor the memories of the innocent that fell on that faithful day. They deserve nothing less.***

***Thank you***

9-11-2001

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## Editorial—Lessons from tragedy

**W**e are trained to respond. It's difficult not to. We don't wait very well by nature. Some of us have had to during these tragic events of the 9-11-01. As we watch at the ready we try to learn and understand. Sometimes it is harder than others.

It's been extremely hard recently. We need to learn lessons from this horrible thing so that we can better respond in the future. Sometimes you have to break the code and admit things are wrong to learn from them.

While this tragedy took an incredible toll on the Emergency Services community it's frightening to think about the future toll of the incident.

In one, two, five, or ten years we'll see the results of the stress on the ES community. Many of the people working on the pile at

ground zero have been there from the beginning. It wasn't until recently that people were forced to rotate out. This is not good.

We go in and work on adrenalin. We can do it for days. When it's over we crash and get back up and do it again. This time is different. The horror is so vast and the shock so great that many people will bury it for years.

Don't be one of those people. Talk with your peers about it. Rest, eat well, exercise. You're having a normal reaction to an abnormal situation.

We're looking into hosting a informal Critical Incident Stress chat before the holidays. No rank, no judgments. Just peers talking to each other.

If you're interested let us know by contacting us at [cism@gpsar.org](mailto:cism@gpsar.org).

## Willow Grove Air Show

GPSAR was invited to attend the annual Willow Grove Air Show.

The show included a diverse mix of aircraft with a special performance by the world famous Blue Angels.

It was a real treat to be able to sit back and enjoy an event of this quality.

The weather held out and we got a good showing of

people interested in knowing more about what we do and some wanted to know how they could get involved.



We've already got a few new very qualified members from this event and are looking forward to more in the near future.

Thanks to all that participated and helped to make this a memorable event.

## Protecting Our Gear—Aquapac

We carry some expensive stuff in the field. It used to be that the radio was the only electronics we had. Now we have digital cameras, GPS's, PDA's and other things that costs lots of money. It's not unusual to have \$1000 worth of electronics on you. What do you do to protect it.



Even if you're fortunate to work for a department that supplies your gear you know you'll catch all hell if you damage a \$500 radio. How does this happen. We tend to work in a dirty environment. One rule of thumb that I've found for survival is that if I need to find water all I have to do is drop a piece of sensitive electronics and it will find it for me. That's where Aquapac products come in.

For a modest fee you can buy insurance against water damage to your gear. Even the gear that we have that is "weather resistant" doesn't float if it goes over. This mean we get to watch money sink. Aquapac allows the items it contains to float as well as remain water tight.

Prices are around \$25 to 45 dollars depending on item and size. It's cheap protecting that is low tech and won't fail you.

Check into it at <http://www.aquapac.net/>

## DEALING WITH A SURGE OF VOLUNTEERS

With recent events we have seen a surge of applicants for membership. While we appreciate all offers to help we do not take members on a single event basis. Our members must train and work together routinely so that in times of crisis we work and act as one.

While we are sure that everyone is well intentioned we've found that many of the people don't realize what kind of potential commitment is expected of them. With this in mind we've taken to pre-screening and educating potential members on what is expected.

Hopefully the end result will be a dedicated long term SAR team member.

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## Training

We've been busy with trainings recently but not as busy as we could be. We're working on a late Fall mock and an early Spring one.

Bikes have been training and will soon change over to rope work for the late part of the Fall.

We've got the following coming up:

Public Relations

Communications

Patient Packaging

Call Out Qualified

First Aid / CPR

Ice Rescue

Bike Maintenance

Map and Compass

If you're interested in anything please contact us at [training@gpsar.org](mailto:training@gpsar.org)



## Freelancing

**GPSAR will respond to any reasonable call for service within our response area. We've even gone out of our area on occasion. One thing will not do is freelance (respond without being officially contacted through channels). We don't just go to help.**

**As much as we might want to help we don't just go. It adds to the confusion and shows a lack of respect for the chain of command that is in place.**

**So if you need us feel free to call. We'll come if needed but we need you to call first.**

**GPSAR**