



## Information Package

Next recruitment class is **TBA**

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[www.ersara.com](http://www.ersara.com)

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# I. Organization Outline

Edmonton Regional Search and Rescue Association (ERSARA) formed in 1996, as a non-profit charitable organization registered through both the Alberta Societies Act and the Charities Division of Taxation Canada dedicated to SAR. Our services can only be tasked by law enforcement agencies.

We are non-paid, extensively trained, Ground SAR professionals. This means we concentrate most of our time searching for the subject on land, but our training reflects a wide range of SAR. This includes ground search techniques, survival, tracking, navigation, evidence and much more. Most of the training is taught internally, or from other SAR groups.

Members must be at least 18 years of age and have a clean criminal record, as we are often privy to very confidential information. Due to the intense training for new members, ERSARA recruits only every couple of years. Our next class is tentatively planned for the fall of 2012, but this could change at any time.

Members of other SAR groups who wish to join ERSARA, or former members of ERSARA, do not have to wait for a recruitment year and may apply at any time with the appropriate documents (fill out our application, a letter of reference from your former group, your SAR resume and copies of all current training certificates). After this initial information is received and approved by our Board of Directors, an interview must take place, along with a security clearance. Additional training may be required before becoming active as not all groups have the same training.

Due to the searches we participate in, we have to limit the number of our members that come from public safety professions (police, fire, EMS, military). These members have the same training and recruitment requirements, but are voted in by the Regular membership, can not hold an elected position and do not have voting privileges. It may take longer than normal to go through this process. We also ask current ERSARA members to have 2 years with us before applying to a public safety career.

Our mission, **“To Provide Trained Volunteers for Search & Rescue, Emergency Response and Public Safety”** says it all. We work for the subject wherever we are needed. Search and Rescue is becoming more and more recognized as a necessary agency for finding people in distress and there will always be a call for volunteers to fulfill this need.

# II. Training Outline

ERSARA has training requirements that all members must meet and successfully complete before they can be permitted to become involved in a search and rescue mission. Failure to meet our minimum requirements will result in non-operational status until training is

completed, or brought up to date. All courses are provided by ERSARA, and with the exceptions of Basic SAR Skills and First Aid, are of no cost to you. Basic SAR Skills is included with your registration fee of \$75, and First Aid is \$40. This is cost recovery for the materials and room bookings.

### **ERSARA Member Classification:**

All members of ERSARA, whether searchers or non-searchers, must have ERI Basic SAR Skills and Standard First Aid with level C CPR – Basic Training.

**SAR SUPPORT:** This member can provide support functions which may include CISD, administrative tasks, committee work – anything other than actively searching. Basic Training and Standard First Aid are the only requirements, but these members can increase their training to become a SAR Provider at any time.

**SAR PROVIDER:** This member is an active searcher and will also have Basic Training & First Aid, but also requires survival, evidence, navigation (map/compass/GPS), civil emergency response, survival and Wilderness First Aid.

**SAR MANAGER:** This member must have a minimum of 5 yrs and/or 35 active searches as a SAR Provider. Must be an instructor of at least one Basic SAR Skill and is well rounded in all FOGSAR skills. Has good communication and interpersonal skills. Must also be recommended by the Board of Directors.

### **Additional training available for SAR Providers:**

Tracking, Communications, Team Leader, Ice Rescue, Helicopter Safety and Technical Rescue, Media, and various workshops in many areas throughout the year.

## **III. Response Guidelines**

1. Area of response for Edmonton Regional Search and Rescue is:  
**Province of Alberta, or where tasked by law enforcement agency.**
2. ERSARA will respond only to a callout initiated by an official tasking agency.
3. Any individual(s) who responds to an incident without having first been activated by ERSARA, will be acting on his or her own initiative and will function **without the affiliation** of Edmonton Regional SAR, or protection of the WCB.
4. Being an unpaid charitable organization, ERSARA reserves the right to respond to incidents based on availability of adequate resources and/or personnel on a mission to mission basis.

## IV. Services and Capabilities

### Services:

- A mobile, fully equipped command post
- A first response vehicle equipped with communications and medical supplies
- Disaster Response equipment
- One ATV
- 8 search managers
- 7 Basic SAR Skills Instructors
- Complete communications system (repeaters, translators and masts).

### Capabilities:

- Ground Search and Rescue
- Search Managing & Spontaneous Volunteer Management
- Tracking
- Evidence Handling
- Navigation (map & compass, GPS)
- Survival
- Standard and/or Wilderness First Aid & CPR (Level C)
- Casualty Evacuation

### ERSARA:

- Responds to ground searches tasked by appropriate agency, 24/7 based on availability of adequate resources
- Has some advanced First Aid training
- Can be used as navigation for dog teams
- Can be used as aerial spotters from planes or helicopters (including FLIR)
- Can be used as water spotters

Thank you for your interest with ERSARA. If you have any questions regarding this information package, or any other aspect of Search and Rescue, please contact us at 780-440-1710 or via e-mail at [join.ersara@ersara.com](mailto:join.ersara@ersara.com).

Thanks again, and we hope to hear from you soon!