

Information Package



Next recruitment class is: **2009**

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I. Organization Outline

Edmonton Regional Search and Rescue Association (ERSARA) was formed in 1996, as a 100% volunteer, non-profit charitable organization registered through both the Alberta Societies Act and the Charities Division of Taxation Canada. Our services are tasked only by law enforcement agencies, and on average we respond to about 20 searches a year.

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. ERSARA has members who teach these courses, but we also welcome any skilled professionals who wish to enhance our training. We are constantly striving to improve and it is often with new input and perspective that we are able to do so.

Being a volunteer organization that deals with the public, ERSARA is accountable for its members, therefore **all applicants must be at least 18 years of age and have a clean criminal record**. There is also a security and interview process required before being accepted. Please keep in mind that we normally only recruit in the fall to ensure new members are fully trained before accepting another recruitment class. 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, give 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 okayed by our Board of Directors, an interview must take place along with a security clearance.

ERSARA has some restrictions on people currently employed in the public safety field who wish to apply, such as (but not limited to), police, fire, EMR, and military. Persons employed in the public safety field must be voted in and cannot hold any Executive position. This is to prevent any conflicts of interest (any questions regarding this, please contact our office).

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 required only, but can at any time increase training to become a SAR Provider.

SAR PROVIDER: This member is an active searcher and will also have Basic Training, 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 be recommended by the Board of Directors and Training Committee.

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 a volunteer 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
- 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. Please remember that we have many volunteer positions within our organization that do not require the physical demand of searching, and we are always looking for enthusiastic volunteers.

If you have any questions regarding this information package, or any other aspect of Search and Rescue, please contact our office at 780-440-1710. Thanks again, and we hope to hear from you soon!