

**CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS
OF THE
CASTLEGAR SOCIETY FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE**

PREAMBLE

The Code of Conduct of the Castlegar Society for Search and Rescue (CSAR) is established and approved by the Board of Directors as a means to foster professionalism within the Society, as well as maintain and protect the credibility of the Society as a representative organization for search and rescue within the Province of British Columbia.

PREFACE

I. Mandatory Compliance

As a condition of membership, each member of the Society will be a signatory party to this Code of Conduct, and shall hereby enter into a covenant to comply with the provisions described within the Code.

II. Withdrawal from Covenants

A member may only withdraw from this covenant and its provisions by forfeiture, i.e., the voluntary or involuntary termination of his/her membership in the Society.

III. Disciplinary Action

Failure to comply with the provisions of this Code will result in disciplinary action by the Board of Directors. Disciplinary actions may include, but are not limited to, termination of membership in the Society.

PROVISIONS

I. Compliance with Code Of Ethics

Each member will recognize and comply, in its entirety, with the provisions contained within the CSAR Code of Ethics as adopted by the CSAR Board of Directors in September 2003.

II. Compliance with Law

Each member will conduct his/her affairs in a manner prescribed by local, provincial, and federal laws and/or regulatory standards.

III. Compliance with Standards

Each member will comply with recognized and accepted standards governing search and rescue training and operations.

IV. Self-Deployment Prohibited

- A.** No member will self-deploy to an emergency incident, i.e., deploy his resources to an incident, respond to the scene of an incident, or conduct training exercises in the vicinity of an incident, without the proper authorization of a SAR manager.
- B.** No member may call and offer his services to an agency or group responsible for the management of an emergency incident, without the proper authorization of a SAR manager.

V. Misrepresentation Prohibited

No member will misrepresent:

- A.** His operational capability or operational readiness to any emergency response organization, group or agency.
- B.** The purpose, objectives, or goals of CSAR or his relationship with the Society.

VI. Professional Conduct

Each member will conduct his administrative and operational affairs in a professional manner consistent with a public emergency services provider. While constructive criticism during a debriefing or critique is appropriate, the public criticism of other members, groups, organizations, or public safety agencies is prohibited.

VII. For-Profit Services Prohibited

No individual member shall provide his services to the public or to a governmental public safety agency for financial profit or material gain. Reimbursement, donations, contributions, gifts, or tips of any kind will not be solicited from the public, agencies requesting services, subjects, or the families of subjects unless prior approval has been received from the Board of Directors.

VIII. Responsibility to Incident Command

- A.** Members will acknowledge and respect the authority of the personnel responsible for management of the incident, i.e., incident command.
- B.** Members will communicate with incident command and other agencies involved in the incident only through the chain of command.

IX. Media Relations

- A.** Members will not contact the media regarding an emergency incident, and will direct all media inquiries regarding the incident to the incident command. Member may communicate with the media regarding an incident only after obtaining permission from incident command.
- B.** Media relations with CSAR will be handled directly through those members of the Board of Directors so designated by the President of the Society. No member is authorized to independently contact the media regarding the affairs of the Society.

X. Personal Appearance and Use of Alcohol and Drugs

- A.** Members shall be neat in appearance, when possible (taking into account the nature of our work) and shall conduct themselves at all times in a manner which will reflect positively on CSAR.

- B.** Members shall not drink alcoholic beverages or use any illegal substances while involved in a Search and Rescue activity, including, but not limited to, training and fundraising; while representing CSAR by virtue of wearing CSAR jackets, shirts, hats or other identifying items; or while in the vicinity of the CSAR facilities or vehicles. The Board of Directors can make certain exemptions, in advance of an event, for the use of alcoholic beverages in limited situations such as social events that are held away from the public. Any member can make application to the Board of Directors for such an exemption by contacting a Board member. The Board member is then responsible for contacting other members of the Board for comments and approval. Under no circumstances will the use of illegal drugs be approved or sanctioned by the Board of Directors.