

**CASTLEGAR  
SEARCH AND  
RESCUE**

**NEW MEMBER  
PACKAGE**



## **WELCOME TO CASTLEGAR SEARCH & RESCUE**

We are a volunteer ground and inland water search and rescue team who are called upon by the Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC), other SAR groups or the RCMP to assist in locating and, where necessary, rescuing lost or stranded individuals. We are a non-profit, charitable organization.

Our organization consists of 5 directors who are responsible for the administrative activities of the Society. For 2004, they are as follows:

Craig Gutwald, Roxanne Ismay, Tim Pytel, Kirk Ismay and Nicole Rodrigues.

Operationally, the Society has a number of senior members who are able to make decisions on a search and rescue mission which will be binding on the Society and do not necessarily require the approval of the directors. Examples include purchasing gas or supplies for a search, renting equipment, etc. The senior members include the SAR managers, Craig Gutwald and Kirk Ismay and, in some cases, may include the team leaders such as Tim Pytel.

We charge a \$5.00 membership fee which is paid yearly at the annual general meeting (held in December). This keeps a member in good standing and gives the member voting status. However, as many members donate vehicle and meal money back to the Society, this membership fee is generally waived.

Our group also has membership guidelines, a code of conduct and code of ethics, which we expect all members to follow.

Money raised for training is done so through various means. We may do security for the dances and other functions, solicit money from the regional district, city or local businesses. The money raised is used to buy equipment and pay for training.

We strive to provide free training to all our members. Our training involves map & compass, survival skills, rope rescue, communications, search theory and tactics, swift water rescue and tracking. We try to hold mock searches yearly which involves a weekend. We also go on hikes regularly in order to stay familiar with trails around our area.

We require our members to complete the Ground Search & Rescue course, which is approximately 60 hours long. This course covers a number of areas including the use of a compass & map, search techniques, lost person behaviour and rope work.

## **CASTLEGAR SOCIETY FOR SEARCH & RESCUE MEMBERSHIP**

A person may apply to the Directors for membership in the Society and on payment of the membership fee (if not waived), and acceptance by the Directors, shall become a member.

Every member shall uphold the constitution and comply with the by-laws.

A person shall cease to be a member of the Society by:

- (a) by delivering his/her resignation in writing to the secretary of the Society or by mailing or delivering it to the address of the Society or,
- (b) on his/her death or in the case of a corporation on dissolution or, (c) on being expelled, or
- (c) on having been a member not in good standing for 12 consecutive months

A member may be expelled by a special resolution of the members passed at a General Meeting.

A brief statement of the reason or reasons for the proposed expulsion shall accompany the notice of special resolution for expulsion.

The person(s) who is the subject of the proposed resolution for expulsion shall be given an opportunity to be heard at the General Meeting before the special resolution is put to a vote.

All members are in good standing except a member who has failed to pay his current annual membership fee or any other subscription or debt due and owing by him to the Society and he is not in good standing so long as the debt remains unpaid.

### **1. JOINING QUALIFICATIONS (Trial period)**

- (a) Must be at least eighteen (18) years of age
- (b) Must attend six (6) consecutive meetings/training exercises as an orientation period
- (c) Must contact a Director if not attending
- (d) Upon the decision of the Directors, be placed in the "member in training status" after three (3) months
- (e) Willing to undergo a security check

### **2. MEMBER IN TRAINING STATUS**

Upon completion of the "Trial Period"

- (a) Attend seventy-five percent (75%) of all training sessions unless reasonable excuse (such as work)
- (b) Must contact a Director if not attending
- (c) Upon the decision of the Directors be placed on the active member status after six (6) months
- (d) Register with the Provincial Emergency Program

### **3. ACTIVE MEMBER STATUS**

- (a) Maintain an active role in the SAR group (training and operational activities)
- (b) Keep required certificates up to date
- (c) Non attendance for three (3) consecutive months gives reason to place member back to training status or resource status
- (d) Only members with "active status" may vote

## Castlegar Search & Rescue

One of the most asked questions is "WHAT EQUIPMENT DO I NEED?"

All Search and Rescue Team personnel must have a **READY PACK**.

Whenever you participate in a wilderness search, you should be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least 24 hours, regardless of the conditions. Search and Rescue personnel must keep a ready pack ready to ensure the ability to respond quickly.

The following list of equipment is a must for all people involved in a Search and Rescue. This ready pack must be taken with you on any search and rescue.

The approximate weight of your ready pack should be 4.4 kg (10 lbs) In your pack, you should have at least the following :

Fire starter--matches, lighter, candles, toilet paper

Knife

High energy food

25 ft. of rope or cord

Emergency blanket

A good compass

Whistle

Notebook & pencil

Tin foil (can be used as a cup or pot)

Water

A basic first aid kit

Large orange garbage bag(can be a rain suit or signal device)

Any other items of personal need or desire may be added such as:

duct tape, aspirin, ziploc bags, insect repellent, pencil flare, tarps, allergy medication, etc.