

Deschutes County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Resources

Overview

DCSSAR is a SAR organization with about 80 members, all Oregon State Certified, and with a variety of teams and capabilities. Basically we are a 'one stop shopping' type of organization for SAR activities in our environment.

Our Organization consists of the following teams responsible for different aspects of search and rescue operations:

Overhead Team (Search Management)

- Incident Command
- Search Planning
- Operations
- Logistics
 - Communications Team
 - Our communications team has two Incident Command trailers plus a ACU-1000 (highly sophisticated radio switchbox). This gives us the capability to interlink numerous radio channels for advanced communications amongst many teams in the field. In addition, a few of our communications team members are also members of the State Fire Marshall's Overhead Team and respond to declared major incidents in the Northwest, including Hazmat, Urban SAR, any natural disaster and major wild land fires.

Winter Team

- Alpine and Backcountry Skiers
- Snowmobilers—have 10 machines
- Snowshoers—many advanced for searches in more difficult terrain

Avalanche Capabilities

- 2 DCSSAR members are certified National Ski Patrol Avalanche Instructors
- 5 members certified at Avalanche II level
- Others at Level I

Mountain Rescue Unit

- Fully Certified by Mountain Rescue Association in
 - Rock Rescue
 - Snow Rescue including Avalanche
 - Search Management

Tracking Team

- Advanced Trackers
 - Three Sign Cutters (highest level available—only a handful in US)
 - Two Tracker II's
 - One Track Aware
- Evidence and Crime Scene Search

K9

- One certified Cadaver and Air Scent dog with handler

Dive Team

- 9 divers; 7 are advanced public safety divers

Swift water Team

- Includes 15 members for water rescues, river searches and working in conjunction with other agencies

Horse Team

- 11 well trained members with horses and most with extra horse
- 4 members with packing equipment, experience in body removal

Medical Team

- All SAR members have minimum certification (WFA), many with First Responder certification
- 2 doctors and 14 EMT's consisting of 3 Paramedics, 5 Intermediates, and 6 Basics.

General Search Team

- All SAR members are 'clue aware' and trained in ground search techniques
- Mapping and Team Tracking capabilities
- ATV's
- Mountain Bike
- Road Search with 4 WD's

Fire Evacuation

- Evacuation Planning
- Evacuation Operations

Air Operations Team

- Provides advice on proper air assets to be used, appropriate search areas and patterns, ordering of assets and coordination to all air resources on a mission. Works closely with Air Life, Civil Air Patrol, Oregon State Police Aircraft, Army Guard, and Oregon Emergency Management.
- Member positions include Spotters (trained observers, Nav/Coms (manage communications and navigation for aircraft during searches) and

Air Boss (works for Operations Chief and coordinates all aspects of Air Search.

Additional Information

- Our team is 'Always Ready so Others May Live'
- We search 24/7 year around. Unlike many teams, we believe in night searching and often conduct searches at night.
- Our team is mission ready, physically qualified and any team members we put into the field for any mission are trained in appropriate skills sets including back country search and rescue, survival, navigation, all-weather, etc.
- Each year we are one of the busiest SAR units in the State of Oregon.
- Our experience has been gained in the varied terrain of Central Oregon which includes lakes, rivers, mountains, rock climbing areas, high desert, OHV areas, wilderness, forests, etc.