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David Thompson Search and Rescue Association, Inc. Member's Handbook

Lincoln County Montana



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Chapter 1. About The Organization

About the Name David Thompson

David Thompson Search and Rescue is named after the explorer David Thompson who explored the area around Libby and in Lincoln County. It is named after the explorer and not a founder of the organization or the first person that was rescued as is sometimes thought. The following is a brief description of his life.

Art. I. The Life of David Thompson, by J. & A. Gottfred.

The travels and explorations of this intrepid explorer are recounted.

David Thompson was born in London, England, on April 30, 1770. His parents were Welsh, and of little means. His father died when he was two, and at the tender age of seven, he was enrolled by his mother in the historic 'Grey Coat' charity school near Westminster Abbey.

Having shown an aptitude for mathematics, his education was oriented towards preparing him for life as a midshipman in the Royal Navy. His studies included algebra, trigonometry, geography, and navigation using 'practical astronomy'.

Over the years, the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) made periodic requests to the school for students to be apprenticed to the North American fur trade. Many of these students would later receive training from Philip Turnor, the HBC's first chief surveyor. Among these pupils were Joseph Hansom, George Hudson, John Hodgson, and George Donald.

As Thompson neared the end of his education, the Hudson's Bay Company asked for four more apprentices. Only two were eligible at that time; one of them was the fourteen-year-old David Thompson. In May 1784, he set sail for Hudson's Bay aboard the Prince Rupert. He never saw his mother or England again.

On December 23, 1788, about a mile from Manchester House, the eighteen-year-old Thompson fell down a bank and broke his leg. The break was serious, and the injury life-threatening. William Tomison, who ran Manchester House at that time, bound the leg, and a 24 hour vigil was kept for three weeks before it was deemed safe for Thompson to be alone at night.

Thompson's condition remained grave. Four months after the accident, Tomison noted in his journal that he was afraid Thompson could die. On May 1, 1789 he wrote 'David Thompson's leg I am afraid will turn out to be a mortification as the joint of his ankle has never lowered of the swelling' (Glover, xxiii).

Tomison decided to send Thompson to York Factory that same spring, presumably in an attempt to remove Thompson to better medical care. However, the brigade was forced to leave him at Cumberland House, about two weeks' travel down river from Manchester House. It was another two months before Thompson was again able to sit up in a chair (August 10, 1789). By the end of August, he was taking his first feeble steps with the help of crutches. It took him a full year to recover, but he would limp for the rest of his life.

During his navigational training that winter, Thompson became blind in his right eye, probably due to observing the sun without proper eye protection. (See 'A Theory on the Cause of David Thompson's Blindness', Northwest Journal Vol. II, pp. 23-26)

David Thompson explored mainly in Canada but did venture into the United States. His accounts of these trips are written about in the following:

The following spring (1808), Thompson left Charlotte and the children at Kootanae House, and went south across the portage to the Kootenay River. He named this 'McGillivray's River', perhaps in memory of his old traveling companion, Duncan McGillivray, who died in April 1808 without ever crossing the Rocky Mountains. His plan was to explore the Kootenay River as far as possible, and find the 'Flat Head Indians' [Interior Salish] to invite them to trade. He went down the Kootenay into Montana and Idaho to near the site of today's town of Bonner's Ferry, Idaho.

After twenty-eight years in the Northwest, twenty-two of them as a trained surveyor, he had traveled 55,000 miles, and surveyed 1,900,000 square miles of wilderness. His great exploration of the Northwest was done. He was forty-two years old.

Northwest Journal ISSN 1206-4203".

Mission Statement

- Provide the response for overdue, lost, injured, or stranded people from an emergency incident in diverse environments
- To use available personnel and equipment in a safe manner to locate and retrieve persons in distress, and provide for their initial medical or other needs and deliver them to a place of safety
- Trainings and missions are directed towards the service of others and committed to the ideal that David Thompson Search and Rescue exists “so that others may live”

History

David Thompson Search and Rescue was organized in 1969 after a search for two young girls in the Ross Creek Cedars area of Lincoln County. Those who took part in the search recognized the need for an organized group that could be called up at anytime to conduct searches. This group was the start of what is now David Thompson Search and Rescue. The organization has grown in members, equipment and skills. It continues to grow as needs and funding are identified. The organization has been called upon from its start up in 1969 until now to respond to a variety of rescues and situations.

Structure

David Thompson Search and Rescue is a branch of the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office. We utilize county radio frequencies and repeaters. County funds are used to finance operations and purchase equipment. There are some private donations and grants that help extend our organization. There are no paid positions in the organization and all members are volunteers who donate their time and skills.

The organization is based in Libby and serves all of South Lincoln County, but has been called up by other counties and even other states to assist in their operations.

Can-Am Search and Rescue is the one other search and rescue organization that operates in the county and is based in Eureka. Can-Am handles most of the calls up to the North. We work with them whenever they request and they are available for us as well.

The David Thompson Search and Rescue Organization is under direct control of Lincoln County Sheriff's Office. A Board governs the organization. Board members consist of the elected positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The board also consists of the Sheriff and a representative of the Sheriff's Office, who are appointed by the Sheriff, the past President who sits on the board until replaced, and the unit leader from each of the units. These units are: ATV/Snowmobile Unit, Boat Unit, Canine Unit, Communications Unit, Dive Unit, 4X4 Unit, Junior Unit, Medical Unit, and Mountain Unit. Each unit elects its unit leader. Each board member has a vote on motions brought up before the board. In addition there is a Junior Unit Advisor who is appointed by the board. Unit leaders are nominated by the unit members and approved by the board.

Board meetings are open to the public and members but the business and motions need to be put forth by board members. The board meets once a month to conduct regular business. It does hold special meetings for new member interviews and for unique circumstances.

The David Thompson Search and Rescue operates out of the Search and Rescue (SAR) barn located at 301 City Service Road. It is located next to the river on City Service Road, down stream on the Libby side of the river.

The skills of the members make the organization. This is why a great deal of the emphasis is on training. All members are welcome to take any kind of training that is available. Notices of upcoming trainings are usually mentioned at general meetings or posted in the newsletter and on the notice board.

Requirements

New members are classified as probationary members for up to one year. Probationary members are limited in their roles during operations but not in trainings. This year allows them to learn more about the organization get training and obtain the minimum 40 hours. Full membership can be granted earlier than one year if the probationary member meets the requirements and shows an interest in early completion. All members must maintain appropriate behavior and conduct themselves in the best interest of the organization.

New members are required to complete the following classes and requirements within **one year** of initial membership.

- Successfully complete approved First Aid and CPR classes
- Successfully complete the Lincoln County radio use class
- Successfully complete the SAR TECH 3 class
- 40 Hours per year of training, meetings or approved activities related to DTSR
- Purchase a S&R jacket/shirt for use as a member. *(Available from the organization at cost)*

Adult members must:

- Be 18 years of age and approved by the board for membership
- Maintain their First Aid and CPR classification to stay active in searches
- Continue to acquire 40 hours per year of approved activities

Junior Unit Members must meet the following criteria:

- Apply and be accepted into the DTSAR Junior Unit through their high school
- Maintain a grade point average of 2.0
- Maintain their First Aid and CPR classification to stay active in searches
- Continue to acquire 40 hours per year of approved activities (no school credit)
- Continue to acquire 64 hours per year of approved activities (for school credit)

Members are encouraged to be involved in as many units and trainings as they would like. Most members are involved in a variety of units and use their training to strengthen their skills on incidences. A good example would be a member who is in the Mountain Unit and Medical Unit who uses the training on rescue situations on the side of a mountain.

Rules and Guidelines

The following guidelines and rules are given to members to help maintain the professionalism of the organization. It also acts as a guideline to members for their behavior while representing the organization. It is not meant to be inclusive of all rules that members need to uphold.

David Thompson Search and Rescue is a branch of the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office. Therefore members' actions while in the organization, both at home and in conjunction with DTSAR activities, are subject to review by the board.

Confidentiality is a must when dealing with search and rescue situations. Members are not to give out information learned during an incident to the public. Refer all inquiries to the Public Information Officer or the Sheriff's Office.

Behavior and conduct must be in an appropriate manner while on incidents or when representing the organization.

Uniforms designating you as member are to only be worn while at approved incidents or activities. (Trainings, classes, sponsored events...)

Safety of David Thompson Search and Rescue members is the first priority. Members need to be aware of this and ask if you don't understand situations. The organization goes to great lengths to train and have available the right equipment. Know your personal limits or situations that make you uncomfortable.

David Thompson Search and Rescue encompasses and maintains a wide variety of equipment. This equipment needs to be readily available in life saving situations. Members are encouraged to learn and practice with the equipment but they must always be aware that it could be needed at anytime. The equipment must be kept in proper working order and all deficiencies need to be addressed and corrected as soon as possible. Therefore, DTSAR equipment is to be used only in approved activities and trainings. Not for personal benefit. Members need to sign out equipment if used.

Situations in S&R are by their nature dangerous and life threatening. Members might find themselves in dangerous situations and need to consider this before

initiating any actions. Do not take on assignments or place yourself at risk if you are not prepared or trained to do so. Training is provided. Use it.

Situations can be complex in nature and members need to be flexible in assignments and work within their assignments in a professional manner.

Working in an incident requires all members to be in good physical and mental condition. Members not fit for such assignments should excuse themselves before hand. No alcohol or drug altered conditions will be tolerated. It goes without saying that all laws of the state and county will be in affect.

Search Guidelines

Callout for searches or requests for assistance are sent out over pagers to members by the Sheriff's Office dispatch. When there is a page out or an active search going on make sure you bring your personal equipment with you, food and water for 10 hours and are ready to go. Make your plans to cover your absence for up to 24 hours.

Members need to sign in on the sheet at the back counter of the S&R Barn. Then go to the front of the room and take both of their magnetic nametags off the member's list side and **place their two nametags, one in each column**, in the available box to the right. Then check their gear and get ready for their assignment.

One of your tags will be pulled off the board and taken into the Incident Command Office where it will be incorporated into the planning. Once the plan has been made your remaining tag on the outside board will be moved to the assignment area of the board and you will be briefed on your assignment.

Work within your group or assignment until it is completed or reassigned. Your nametags will be on the available or assigned areas of the board until you are no longer needed such as the end of the incident or search. Before you leave or if you have to leave early make sure both nametags are moved back to the members list. This is one way we can account for you on incidents.

Responding to a Search

Safety of rescue personnel is the primary concern – assure personal safety, be prepared and help fellow members.

The secondary concern is protecting the victim from further injury.

Rescue personnel are to approach each rescue with a personal evaluation of the mental, physical and skill performance necessary to carry out the operation.

The selection of personnel of each specific rescue will be determined with the evaluation of team objectives, rescue situations, individual skills and personal preparedness.

Keep an exact log of the rescue (where, what, times, happenings) and designate who is responsible for completing the log – a clipboard will be in each rescue vehicle.

Keep family members and public from the scene. Give them reassurance. Sheriff's officials will update them with information.

Don't disturb a scene – secure it – if you find a body, don't go near it, leave everything as is.

Prevent DTSAR family members from coming to missions.

Meetings

General Meetings

General meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM at the SAR barn.

Every successful applicant becomes a member of David Thompson Search and Rescue. General meetings are held for all members to attend and each general meeting is set up to introduce the members to new training areas. Once you are a member it is up to you see which unit or units you would like to become specialized in.

Unit Meetings

Each unit has specific roles and training to match the roles or assignments on incidences. Each unit has different days of the month set aside for their training, which makes it possible to attend as many as you would like. It is encouraged for members to cross train with different units and attend meetings to better understand their function in the organization. Attending unit meetings gives you a chance to see what the unit does and how much commitment it will require from you. Some units have added requirements and certifications for its members. Each unit is set up to train its members. If you want to learn, you will get all the training we can provide.

Credit Hours for Meetings and Training

Members need to sign in on the sheet at the back counter when they arrive to get credit for the hours. This sheet also gives us a way to track total hours DTSAR has committed for the year, which helps in acquiring funding from the county. Remember we have had calls come in during meetings so it helps to be prepared.

Personal Equipment Use

The following information pertains to members who are willing to use their own equipment on Search and Rescue Operations.

1. David Thompson Search and Rescue/Sheriff's Office will provide reimbursement for your gas and or oil used for the search but cannot cover any damage or breakdowns of the equipment as per our By-laws. Use your equipment at your own risk. Do not use it if you are not willing to accept this risk.
2. Those who make their equipment available will be in charge of its operation and maintenance. Only those designated by the owner will be allowed to operate it.
3. The equipment needs to be in dependable and safe condition for call outs. Members need to be able to transport the equipment from its location to the area needed or make arrangements before hand. Equipment needs to be ready to go into operation when it arrives on location. (Gas and oil full, personal safety equipment on board, lights working, etc...) The equipment needs to be checked in and inspected with the IC Team before it goes into use on a search.

4. Equipment that is needed include snowmobiles, four wheelers, boats and 4-wheel drive vehicles. Any other specialty equipment can also be added.
5. Take a form and fill in the information that is appropriate for the equipment that you are willing to make available. The completed form can be returned and dropped into the Vice President's Box on the back wall above the sign in counter.

DTSAR Patch Placement for Clothing

DTSAR Patch – Placed on both sleeves 1/2” down from shoulder seam. Deputies – one patch on right sleeve.

Cloth Name Tag – Centered on top of right breast pocket. Ends folded under so not to fray.

S&R Cloth Tag – Centered on top of left breast pocket. Ends folded under so not to fray.

Search & Rescue – Silk Screened on the back of all shirts, coats and jumpsuits.

Specialty Patches – (Optional) Limited to one First Aid patch on left sleeve 1/2” below should patch. Other specialty patches added at the discretion of the DTSAR Board.

Deputies Only

Lincoln County Patch – one patch on left sleeve 1/2” down from shoulder seam.

Sheriff's Department Cloth Tag – Centered on top of left Breast pocket. Ends folded under so not to fray.

Sheriff Search & Rescue – Silk screened on the back of all shirts, coats, and jumpsuits used for DTSAR.

Proper Placement of Name Tags and large Search and Rescue Patch



Where To Obtain DTSAR Clothing

T-shirts – the first one is provide by DTSAR.

Long sleeve shirts – they can be purchased at the general meetings, many size and types are in stock.

Coats – they can be purchased at the general meetings, many sizes and types are in stock.

Hasty Team Coats – these are ordered by the individual by phone 1-877-461-3473 or via the internet at www.fireauthority.com item #U-JA011.

Name tags – two are provided by DTSAR along with the SAR tag and DTSAR patch.

Various other clothing items and packs are ordered at different times.

Contact Susan Ague

Clothing and Personal Protection

Exposure is the number 1 killer in outdoor emergencies. The body loses heat 25 times faster in water than in air.

Natural Fiber Clothing Material

Cotton - Warm when dry; burns easily but does not melt; poor insulating when wet and can freeze solid; dries slowly

Wool - Burns slowly; good insulating when wet; moderate water repellency

Silk - Light weight, good insulating; absorb and transport moisture away from the skin; stains easily and holds odors; acids, hot iron, sunlight, perspiration, strong soaps and alkaline substances can damage silk; melts easily

Synthetic Fiber Clothing Material

Nylon - Stronger than cotton; quick drying; traps perspiration

Polypropylene - Excellent under garment material; dries rapidly and repels moisture away from the skin to the outer layer of clothing; melts easily and retains body odor

Breathable, Micropore Laminates - Gortex, Entrant, Klimate; excellent outer layer; keeps water out and allows some perspiration to pass

Natural Fiber Insulation

Down -No other insulation has the amount of dead air space pound for pound; light weight, but needs extra baffles to hold in place; absorbs moisture and loses nearly all of its insulation when wet

Synthetic Fiber Insulation: Polyester Materials

PolarGuard

Dacron Hallofil

Quallofil

Thinsulite

Dress in Layers

Underwear Layer - Some insulation; mostly controls moisture

Clothing Layer - Shirt, pants, sweater, gloves and hat; provides some insulation and absorbs moisture from the underwear layer; should not be too tight and able to unbutton or zip; blue jeans and cotton shirts are not acceptable for rescue personnel.

Insulating Layer - Quilted liners, sweaters, insulating vests, fiber pile jackets are adding layers between clothing and shell; with very little exception, thickness means warmth

Shell Layer - Water and wind resistant. Nylon/Gortex can keep you 50 degrees warmer in windy conditions; should have openings to allow excess moisture to escape

Other Protective Items

Gators - Keeps snow and water from wetting pants and boots

Sun Glasses or Goggles - Can protect eyes from the sun and wind

Face Mask or Neck Gator - Protects neck and face from freezing wind

Cold Weather Survival Tips on Clothing

1. When your feet are cold, put on a hat.
2. Do not overheat so that clothing becomes wet by perspiration.
3. Use the layer system.
4. When sleeping in harsh cold conditions, arrange dry spare clothing around the neck and shoulders with padding and insulation added to each kidney region. These areas are more susceptible to cold. Also wear a knit stocking cap (if your head is warm, chances are your feet will be to).
5. If a person falls in very cold water, roll in snow to blot out moisture immediately. Wiggle toes and get into dry clothing as soon as possible.
6. Dry wet clothing by allowing to freeze and beating ice crystals from fabric.
7. Wear darker clothing in winter to absorb sun energy.
8. Clean clothing allows proper ventilation through clothing layers. Dirty clothing inhibits ventilation and causes moisture buildup on clothing layers.

SAR Tech Type II Personal Equipment List

Every item on this list must be present for the candidate to pass this station, there are no exceptions.

Personal First Aid and Survival Kit

Qty	Item	Qty	Item
4	Antacid tablets	1	Plastic bag, zip lock, qt. size, for kit
2	Antiseptic cleansing pads	4	Acetaminophen or aspirin tablets
1	Antiseptic ointment	2	Quarters for phone call
6	Band aids, various sizes	1	Razor blade, single edge safety type
1	Candle, long burning	1	Roller gauze bandage
2	Cotton swabs, non sterile	2	Safety pins, large
1	Duct tape, 5-10 ft.	1	Splinter forceps, tweezers
1	Leaf bag, large	1	Space type blanket or space type sleeping bag
8	Matches in a waterproof container	1	Towlette, clean
1	Moleskin	1	Whistle

Personal SAR Equipment

Qty	Item	Qty	Item
4	Bags, various sizes, zip locked	1	Mirror, small
1	Bandanna, handkerchief	1	Nylon twine or small rope, 50 feet
1	Cap or other headgear	1	Pack, 1800 cubic inch (minimum)
2	Carabiners (locking)	1	Pad and pencil
1	Clothes bag, waterproof	2	Prusik slings (suitable for 9mm to 11mm rope)
1	Clothing, adequate for climate	1	Rainwear, durable
1	Clothing, extra set, suitable for climate	1	SAR personal identification
1	Compass, orienteering	1	Shelter Material, 8x10 plastic or coated nylon
1	Flagging tape, roll	1	Scissors, multi-purpose
1	Flashlight or lantern	1	Socks, extra pair
1	Flashlight extra, extra batteries and bulb	1	Sunscreen lotion
1	Footwear, sturdy, adequate for climate	1	Tissue papers or baby wipes (recommended)
1	Gloves, durable, even in summer	1	Tracking stick, minimum of 42" long
1	Goggles, or eye protection, suitable for environment	1	Watch
1	Insect repellent	2	Water containers, at least liter size
1	Knife, multi-purpose folding	1	Webbing, 1" tubular – length suitable for harness
1	Lip balm, with sunscreen	1	Wire, 5-10 ft. woven steel
1	Measuring device, 18 in. minimum	8	Wire ties, plastic self locking
1	Metal cup or pot		

Junior Unit Basic Pack

Qty	Item	Qty	Item
1	Backpack	1	Whistle
1	Or more lights, preferably headlights, LED lights last longer	1	Glasses/Contact/Solution
2	Extra batteries for your light	1	Water bottle (make sure it doesn't leak)
1	Basic First Aid Kit Personal Meds – inhaler, prescriptions etc. 3-6 assorted size band aids Pain relievers (Ibuprofin, Tylenol etc.) Antacids Moleskin Emergency Space blanket 4"x4" Gauze	1	Multi-tool with knife blade
1	Fire starting kit/matches/lighter	1	Appropriate clothing for weather
1	5-10 ft Duct Tape	1	Appropriate footwear, ususally not tennis shoes
2	Large Safety Pins	1	Assorted snacks or food as you want
2	Pair of Gloves	1	Roll toilet paper
1	Stocking Cap		

ICS Positions and Duties

Incident Commander (IC): The Incident Commander is the person responsible for all aspects of an emergency response; including quickly developing incident objectives, managing all incident operations, application of resources as well as responsibility for all persons involved. The Incident Commander sets priorities and defines the organization of the incident response teams and the overall Incident Action Plan. The role of Incident Commander may be assumed by Senior or higher Qualified Officers upon their arrival or as the situation dictates. Even if subordinate positions are not assigned, the Incident Commander position will always be designated or assumed. The Incident Commander may, at their own discretion, assign Officers, who may be from the same agency or from assisting agencies, to subordinate or specific positions for the duration of the Emergency. The IC is responsible for maintaining an ICS Form 214 Unit Log.

Status Check In Person: The Status Check In is the person responsible for signing in and out all individuals that respond to the incident using the Status Check In Form. After signing an individual in they are to pull that individual's T-card from the Member's T-card holder and take it into the IC and Plans Chief. When an individual demobs they are to sign out with the Status Check In Person, once this is done the Status Check In Person is to notify the Plans Chief who will then take the individual's T-card from the Incident T-card Holder and return it to the Status Check In Person to place in the Member's T-card Holder.

Planning Section Chief (PSC): The PSC will conduct the General Briefing. The PSC will construct the IAP (Incident Action Plan). The IAP will consist of the subject's personal information and all other components found in the DTSAR IAP. The PSC will maintain resource status (RESTAT) using the Incident T-Card Holder – individuals T-cards will be assigned by Division. The PSC is responsible for maintaining and ICS Form 214 Unit Log. The PSC is responsible for all documentation. When the incident is concluded the PSC will collect all unit logs and any other documentation associated with the incident. The PSC is responsible for the collection and dissemination of information for use at the incident.

Division Group Supervisor (DIVS): The DIVS will conduct a Tactical Briefing to review assignments with their subordinates. The DIVS is in charge of all individuals on their division. The DIVS should inform the PSC of any status changes of resources assigned to their division. The DIVS should coordinate activities with adjacent divisions. The DIVS should monitor and inspect progress and make changes as necessary, resolve tactical assignments and logistic problems with their division and ensure that the assigned individuals get to and from their assignments in a timely and orderly manner. The DIVS should keep the IC informed of any hazardous situations and significant events and maintain a unit log.

Communication Unit Leader (COML): The COML is responsible for establishing which frequency and channels are to be used for the incident. The COML is responsible for checking out all radio equipment.

SAR Barn Base Station Radio Operator (RADO): The RADO is responsible for receiving and transmitting messages within and external to incident. The RADO is responsible for keeping an ICS Form 309 Radio Log.

Individual Resource: An individual responding to an incident upon arrival at the SAR Barn should check in with the Status Check In Person. The individual should help reading the

necessary equipment and supplies. They should then participate in the general and tactical briefings. They should be able to identify the IC and their DIVS and know their assignment. The individual should ensure they have adequate communications with their DIVS and inform them of their progress and any changes. They should brief relief personnel. When demobing from an incident they should first check out with their DIVS and then the Status Check In Person and return any equipment and supplies. They should complete and turn in to the Plans Chief all documentation (Unit Logs, and Vehicle Use Forms).

What To Do When Called Out For A Mission

Be prepared (wear appropriate clothing/footwear), have all necessary equipment readily available, respond to the barn with your personal gear, be ready to spend a day/night out unless otherwise instructed (have enough food and water for 24 hours).

- Upon arriving at the SAR Barn if the Status Check In Sheet has not been started do so by getting a blank one from the holders to the right of the office door(put it on the clip board found there), enter the search information and date then sign in Last Name, First Name and the military time you started; then take your T Card from the Individual Resource T Card Holder that is located to the right of the office door and place it at the bottom of Division D in the Incident T Card Holder located inside of the office to the left of the large bulletin board
- Help get gear ready (radios, rescue equipment, vehicles)
- Identify the Command and General Staff and Division Group Supervisors
- Plans Section Chief will construct and make copies of the Incident Action Plan (IAP)
- Wait for the General briefing (should emphasize all information on first page of IAP and if the location of the Incident Command Post ICP is not the SAR Barn the location of the ICP)
- After General Briefing get with your Division Group Supervisor (DIVS) for your Tactical Briefing which will include individual assignments
- DIVS's, should keep an activity log (get a write in the rain note book for the field and then transfer to official log upon return from the field) and the RADO should keep a communication log found in the holders to the right of the office door
- During the search protect the PLS/LKP, any potential scent articles; do not mess up the scent trail, and any other clues
- Debrief with your DIVS and turn in your unit log when your assignment is complete
- When leaving the incident sign out with your DIVS who will notify the IC and then sign out with the Status Check In Person (may be at the SAR Barn or the ICP)
- Incident Critique – evaluate personal and corporate actions for lesson learned and to improve future incidents

T Card System

Individual Resource Cards are white with the person's last name, first name on them; red text indicates SAR TECH I rating; blue text indicates SAR TECH II rating; green text indicates SAR TECH III rating; black text indicates that there is no SAR TECH rating; brown text indicates that it is a canine.

Radio/Electronic Equipment Cards are yellow with the equipment number on them. These cards are used during an incident – write the name of the individual the radio is assigned to on the card.

Vehicle/ATV/Snowmobile Cards are orange with the Vehicle/ATV/Snowmobile number on them. There are additional POV (Privately Owned Vehicle) cards POV1 – POV4. Write the name of the individual that is driving the vehicle on the T card.

Water Equipment Cards are blue with the water equipment name on them. Write the name of the operator on the T card.

Individual T Cards are kept in the Individual Resource T card Holder located to the right of the office door. All other T Cards are kept in the office on the large bulletin board.

Incident Organization of T Cards

The Incident T Card Holder is located in the office to the left of the large bulletin board. It is divided into 4 Division A – D.

Place the Vehicle/ATV/Snowmobile orange T Card in the appropriate Division (the name of the driver should be on the card).

Place the Water Equipment blue T Card in the appropriate Division (the name of the operator should be on the card).

Under the Vehicle/ATV/Snowmobile orange T Card place the Individual Resource's white T Card with the driver first followed by any passenger's Individual white T Cards.

Under the Individual Resource white card place the yellow Radio T Card (the name of the person with the radio should be written on the card).

The IC, Plans/Status Check In, SAR Barn Radio Operator and Division Group Supervisors will be noted in the IAP and announced at the General Briefing.

Organizing the Incident T Card holder this way allows at a glance to see where any given resource is located, who the driver/operator is, who the passengers are, and who is assigned to that radio.

The IAP can then be constructed from the Incident T Card Holder.

Example of Incident T Card Organization

Division A	Division B	Division C	Division D
Rescue 1 (with driver Ted Jewell's name written on the card)	ATV 1 (with driver Marty Peltier's name written on the card)		
Jewell, Ted	Peltier, Marty		
Motorola 4301 (with Ted's name on it)	Rhino 2		
Alemeida, Nash	Duckworth		
Whiteman, Stephanie	Comer, Charlie		
Rescue 2 (with driver Bob Parker's name written on it)	Motorola 4305		
Parker, Bob	Ague, Susan		
Motorola 4302 (with Bob's name written on it)			
Raines, Nick			
Raines, Dejon			
POV 1 (with driver Terry Crooks name written on the card)			
Crooks, Terry			
Motorola 4308 (with Terry's name written on it)			
Avie			

Incident Documentation

- Completed Status Check in Sheet
- Completed IAP (Incident Action Plan) filled out by the IC or PSC
- Completed Activity Logs (filled out by DIVS's)
- Completed Communication Log (filled out by the SAR Barn RADO)
- Completed Vehicle Mileage Information Sheet

All documents needed for the final Incident Documentation Package can be found in the holders to the right of the office door. This documentation is essential and should be as complete as possible.

Contacts

David Thompson Search and Rescue Barn

301 City Service Road
PO Box 1552
Libby MT 59923
Phone 293-3556

Sheriff – Coordinator

Roby Bowe
Office Phone 293-4112

Assistant Coordinator

Roger Guches
Office Phone 293-4112

Assistant Coordinator

John Graham
Office Phone 293-4112

President

Kevin Lindgren
Phone 291-0943

Vice-President

Ralph Lippert
Phone 295-5593

Secretary

Valarie Albert
Phone 293-9652

Treasurer

Susan Ague
Phone 293-3801

ATV/Snowmobile Unit Leader

Robert Parker
Phone 293-9853

Boat Unit Leader

John Graham
Phone 293-3879

Canine Unit Leader

Terry Crooks
Phone 293-6629

Communications Unit Leader

Stephanie Whiteman
Phone 283-1421

Dive Unit Leader

Brandon Huff
Phone 293-3855

4 X 4 Unit Leader

Ted Jewell
Phone 293-1165

Junior Unit Advisor

Rod Brossman
Phone 293-3356

Medical Unit Leader

Anita Short
293-4558

Mountain Unit Leader

Joas Miller
Phone 293-6650

Chapter 2. Rescue Units

ATV / Snowmobile Unit

Unit meets on open days as needed. No specific day and time at this point. Riding practices and training take place on the weekends.

Unit Description and Capabilities

The ATV and Snowmobile unit is referred to as the end of the road unit. They start where the road ends. This unit provides searching and transporting capabilities on ATV's and snowmobiles in areas that are not accessible by trucks.

They operate behind Kelly humped roads, on closed and grown in trail systems and can add another dimension of search on standard roads. The emphasis switches from ATV to snowmobiles as the season changes to winter.

Member's Requirements

Members need to be in average physical condition for the various activity levels involved and in good health. Members should be able to lift 125 pounds to assist in rescue situations. There might be situations that arise that require more strenuous activity. Attendance in classroom training and fieldwork is necessary to maintain a proficient level of riding experience. Members are not required to have their own ATV or snowmobile but there are two ATV's and four snowmobiles owned by DTSR.

Specialized Classes

The ATV/Snow unit conducts training in riding and equipment use during the year. These training days are required to stay current in the unit's operational status. Classes in ATV riding and practical skills are geared to member's needs and experiences. Snowmobile classes are more involved and include avalanche awareness and training. Classes will be conducted 4 to 6 times each year.

Equipment Needed By Unit Members

- Personal survival gear.
- Helmet that provides environmental and face protection.
- Wool or cold weather riding clothing.
- Good boots and gloves, both cold and warm weather.
- Weather protected outer clothing.

Equipment in the Unit's Inventory

- Two ATV's (4x4) Honda, Canam
- Four snowmobiles
 - One Skandik wide track, work sled
 - One Trail sled, 2 person
 - Two Ski-Doo Summits
- Two cargo/transport type pull sleds

- Two equipment trailers for hauling ATV's and snowmobiles to the field
- Various operational equipment

Standard Operating Guidelines

1. Be 18 years of age
2. Possess a valid driver's license
3. Not have consumed alcohol 24 hours prior to operating an ATV
4. Wear boots and long pants and a helmet that fits properly – ATV
9. Wear winter boots and warm winter clothing and a helmet that fits properly - snowmobile
5. Show concern for the environment and the rights of others at all times
6. Inspect ATV/snowmobile each time you ride to make sure it is safe
7. When riding turn headlights on
8. Keep both hands on the handlebars and both feet on the foot pegs during operation
9. Always apply parking brake before getting off the ATV/snowmobile
10. Do not operate at excessive speeds - go at a speed that is proper for the terrain, visibility and operating experience
11. Do not attempt wheelies, jumps, etc.
12. Be alert for changes in terrain
13. Do not ride in fast flowing water or deep water
14. Test brakes periodically
15. Two people on the ATV/snowmobile only in an emergency or on a vehicle specifically equipped to do so
16. No unauthorized use of ATVs/snowmobiles
17. Report any damage to the unit leader
18. When out on a mission radio in every 20 minutes
19. Gas up after each use

Boat Unit

Monthly meetings held on the first Tuesday of the month at 1900 at the SAR barn. Other training's will be announced in the monthly news letter and on the bulletin board calendar.

Unit Description and Capabilities

The Boat Unit is comprised of 3 areas.

Boat Team- Safe and effective use of the Jet Boats in the river, navigation of the currents, many obstacles and hazards involved in running the river as well as lake operations. These boats enable us to do our water searches and transport personnel and equipment.

Swift Water Team- This group is trained to enter fast moving water either by means of Swift Water boards to effect a search, or rescue in areas inaccessible by boat. This may include swimming out to victims to affect a rescue. This team is trained to swim in current and rapids. Their tools include rescue boards, ropes, throw bags as well as rope systems.

Ice Rescue- As the name implies, we respond to victims trapped on or that have gone through the ice and are unable to self-rescue.

Member's Requirements

Members should be in at least average physical condition for most duties. However,

Swift Water Rescue is highly physical and members should recognize their limits.

Specialized Classes

Boat- It is recommended to take the on line Boating Safety Course at Boat Safe <http://www.boatsafe.com>

Personal Water Craft – Members must take the on line PWC Safety School Course at Personal Water Craft - <http://pwcsafetyschool.com>

To operate the boat(s) members must go out with a qualified member as per SOG's and demonstrate adequate ability. This is available thru out the year.

To operate the PWCs members must take the PWC course on line, attend the PWC classroom training, and attend the PWC water training.

Swift Water Team- Members must attend a certified Swift Water Training Class.

Classes are set up as needed and will be announced.

Ice Rescue- Classes are held each year when lakes are iced over, date and times will be announced.

Equipment Needed By Unit Members

Boat Team- Nothing, all gear provided.

Swift Water Team- Members are required to have a good wet suit (at the minimum), or a semi-dry suit (a dry suit would be the best if you can afford one). Also needed are a hood, gloves and boots.

Ice Rescue – Nothing, all gear provided.

Equipment in the Unit's Inventory

- Three boats,
- Inflatable Rubber Raft
- Whitewater Raft
- Two Ski-Doo personal Water Crafts

Canine Unit

Monthly meetings held on the first Saturday of the month at 0900 at the SAR barn. Other training's will be announced in the monthly news letter and on the bulletin board calendar.

Unit Description and Capabilities

The canine unit utilizes trained dogs and handlers to help locate missing persons in search situations including lost or missing persons, avalanche victims, drowning victims or in the recovery of bodies. They are also a critical element in their unique ability to track and detect evidence for investigations dealing with drugs or other articles discarded by suspects. They operate in all weather and conditions.

Member's Requirements

There are specific requirements for members and K-9's. A brief overview would be for handlers or other human members to be SAR Tech II certified, pass pack test at level 2 or better and attend unit meetings. K-9's in the unit need to complete obedience class, maintain current veterinarian records, pass Canine Good Citizens test and be in good physical condition.

Specialized Classes

The unit follows the National Search Dog Alliance guidelines for its certification of handlers and canine's. The trainings or meetings are set up to meet the NSDA requirements. Classes needed for certification that are not available locally will be made available to members as allowed.

Equipment Needed By Unit Members

Members need to obtain equipment listed under SAR Tech Type II Personal Equipment List.

Equipment in the Unit's Inventory

None

Standard Operating Guidelines

All members of the Canine Unit must adhere to DTSAR by-laws

Canine Handlers

1. SAR TECH II or better
2. Regularly attend canine meetings and assist in canine meetings and trainings
3. Pass the pack test at level 2 or better
4. Maintain training documentation/logs as noted below
5. Certify to the NASAR, NSDA or other BOD approved canine SAR standards

Canines

1. Successfully complete an obedience class
2. Maintain current veterinarian records and canine must have all current vaccinations
3. Successfully complete the Canine Good Citizen Test
4. Be in good physical condition
5. Be non-aggressive
6. New canines must meet unit SOG's and be pre-approved by unit leader before attending trainings

Flankers

1. SAR TECT II or better (not required)
2. Regularly attend the Canine Unit meetings
3. Pass the pack test at level 2 or better
4. Junior Unit members in good standing may act as flankers/handler trainees if approved by the unit leader.

Documentation

- Daily training record (minimum of 4 hours per week/16 hours per month)
- Monthly training evaluation
- Handler's personal required certification and documentation
- Canine certifications and documentation
- Canine veterinary records
- All documentation/training logs will be maintained in presentation binder for review

Meetings

- Monthly meetings will be scheduled to best fit schedules
- Special Meetings and trainings will be arranged as needed.

Failure to comply: Any failure to comply with the STSAR by-Laws or the Canine Unit SOG's will result in exclusion from participation in searches.

Communication Unit

Unit Description and Capabilities

The communications unit oversees the communications aspect of DTSAR. The unit is responsible for programming and setting up the communications of the organization. The unit looks into new opportunities in technology and works to incorporate it into the operations. The unit works to keep members informed on the proper use of the radios.

Member's Requirements

Members need to be interested in communications and express an interest in radios and their use.

Specialized Classes

Classes are put on as needed to keep updated on equipment.

Equipment Needed By Unit Members

None

Equipment in the Unit's Inventory

- Handheld radios
- Mobile radios in vehicles
- Base station in SAR Barn

Radio User's Guide

This guide is designed to assist radio users in operating the David Thompson Search and Rescue's radio system, which utilizes Kenwood and Bendix/King Mobile radios, and digital Motorola XTS 1500 hand-held radios that have been programmed to the analog David Thompson Search & Rescue's frequencies. Users will be required to attend annual training to obtain an understanding of how the county's radio system works and how to properly use a radio to communicate. Radio users should read this guide and use it in the field as a reference.

Base Stations

Radio base stations are located at the AR Barn and the Sheriff's Office. They are used for direct communications to the field or to access mountaintop repeaters for additional coverage. Due to the new 911 system some local sheriff offices were required to change their station call sign from a number to a name. For example Libby is now Sheriff Dispatch not 846.

Base stations, mobile and handheld radios are programmed with the same channel plan. (see David Thompson Search & Rescue Radio Menu). All radios; handheld, mobiles, desk remotes and consoles, have an alpha/numeric display, which shows the channel name.

Repeaters (Analog)

Each of the following mountains both have a repeater.

- Pinkham Mountain
- King Mountain
- Baldy Mountain
- Blue Mountain
- Calx Mountain

It is important to be aware of repeater locations so that the closest and most accessible site can be selected. Radios have limited range so their signals can easily be blocked by mountains. Therefore, a repeater may allow you to communicate in places where you would not be able to without using it.

Programming

Due to regulations and licensing restrictions, only the County Emergency Management Coordinator and Sheriff's Office personnel have the legal authority to program radios.

David Thompson Search and Rescue Digital XTS1500 Motorola Radio Menu

Channel #	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C
1	Local Govt – Direct	LCSO - Direct	LCSO – Trunked D1
2	Local Govt – Blue	LCSO – Blue	LCSO – Trunked Ops
3	Local Govt – Pinkham	LCSO – Pinkham	DTSAR Orange
4	Local Govt – King	LCSO – King	Purple
5	Local Govt – Calx	LCSO – Calx	Violet
6	Local Govt – Baldy	LCSO - Baldy	Silver
7	Silver	Sanders CSO – Green	Gold
8	Gold	Sanders CSO – West	Blue Mutual Aid
9	Brown EMA	Boundry SO – Direct	Red
10	Pink EMS	Boundry SO - Rptr	Brown EMA
11	Orange DTSAR	CAN AM – 1	Ruby/Garnet Rptr
12	Purple	CAN AM – 2	State Incident 5
13	Violet	CAN AM - 3	State Incident 4
14	White EMS	Kootenai NF – Direct	County Incident 3
15	Fire	Weather	County Incident 2
16	USCOE	Local Govt - Direct	County Incident 1

Notes: The new digital radios zones replace the old radio groups and are accessed by turning a knob.

Zone C contains the new trunked frequencies and is not as of yet operable.

Zone A, channel 11, Orange DTSAR is used for inter-division personnel communication.

Radio Use Procedures

- ✓ Turn the radio on and turn up the volume.
- ✓ Check to make sure you are using the proper zone - To select a zone, turn the bottom ring of the channel selector to A-B-C.
- ✓ Select a channel - Refer to a map and the DTSAR Radio Menu to determine what channel to use. Use the Channel Selector Knob to select the channel. There are 16 channels on your radio.
- ✓ Use plain text at all times - Plain text means to speak in complete English. Do not use codes or abbreviations.
- ✓ Do not begin a transmission until you are sure there are no other conversations taking place.
- ✓ Speak slowly and hold the radio an inch or so away from your lips - If you hold the microphone too close to your lips, your transmission might sound fuzzy and garbled.
- ✓ Transmit your message - Press and hold the Push-to-talk button (with the new digital radios depress the button and wait three seconds before speaking). Hold the button in throughout the entire message. If your message is too long, the transmit signal will time out and cut you off. Therefore, if you have a long message, you may have to pause and release the PTT button and then press in again to continue. Begin your transmission by stating “SAR Barn or Sheriff Dispatch, this is Jane Smith on Local Govt-Direct.” Use the channel label instead of the channel number to tell the other party what frequency/repeater you are on. Make sure that the answering party is completely finished talking before you respond. Wait until you hear the squelch tail (the hiss) at the end of the transmission. When finished with communications be sure to sign off with your

name, or location and “clear”. For example: “Smith clear”. Even if you do not receive a response, transmit your entire message; someone may be able to hear you, but you may not hear them.

- ✓ Medical Emergency - If you are dealing with an injured person and are requesting medical help, do not give the name of the injured person over the radio. Stick with the facts, stating only the victim's gender, age, and nature of the injury.

Components and functions of the Motorola XTS 1500 Handheld Radio



Trouble Shooting for Radios

- 1) Check the battery:** Make sure the battery in the radio and the replacement battery found in the radio bra are both charged up.
- 2) Check your position:** Make sure you are standing still and holding the radio up right (perpendicular to the ground). This is important because moving the radio around or holding it at different angles will affect the antennae's power and ability to transmit or receive a message.
- 3) Check the repeater:** Even though it looks like the repeater you have chosen is the closest, you may not have a direct line of site to the repeater. For instance, there could be a high mountain peak between you and the repeater. You may need to select a different repeater or move to a higher location.
- 4) Check the zone and channel.**
- 5) Is your radio scanning?** If so, traffic on other channels that are being scanned may be blocking the transmission of the person you want to receive.
- 6) Check the Code Guard/Squelch setting if using a handheld radio.** Make sure it is turned counter-clockwise all the way until it clicks. This activates the receive code guard function of your radio; channels that have receive tones will only receive transmissions on that frequency that contain the appropriate tone.

Components and functions of Bendix/King Base Station and Mobile Radios

Using a Bendix/King base station or mobile radio is similar to using a Bendix/King handheld radio. The functions that are controlled by the 5 buttons located below the display screen are active if a triangle is present in the screen above the button. Functions of the buttons are as follows:

MON The monitor button will cause the radio to produce a constant noise when activated. This may be useful to find a comfortable volume level.

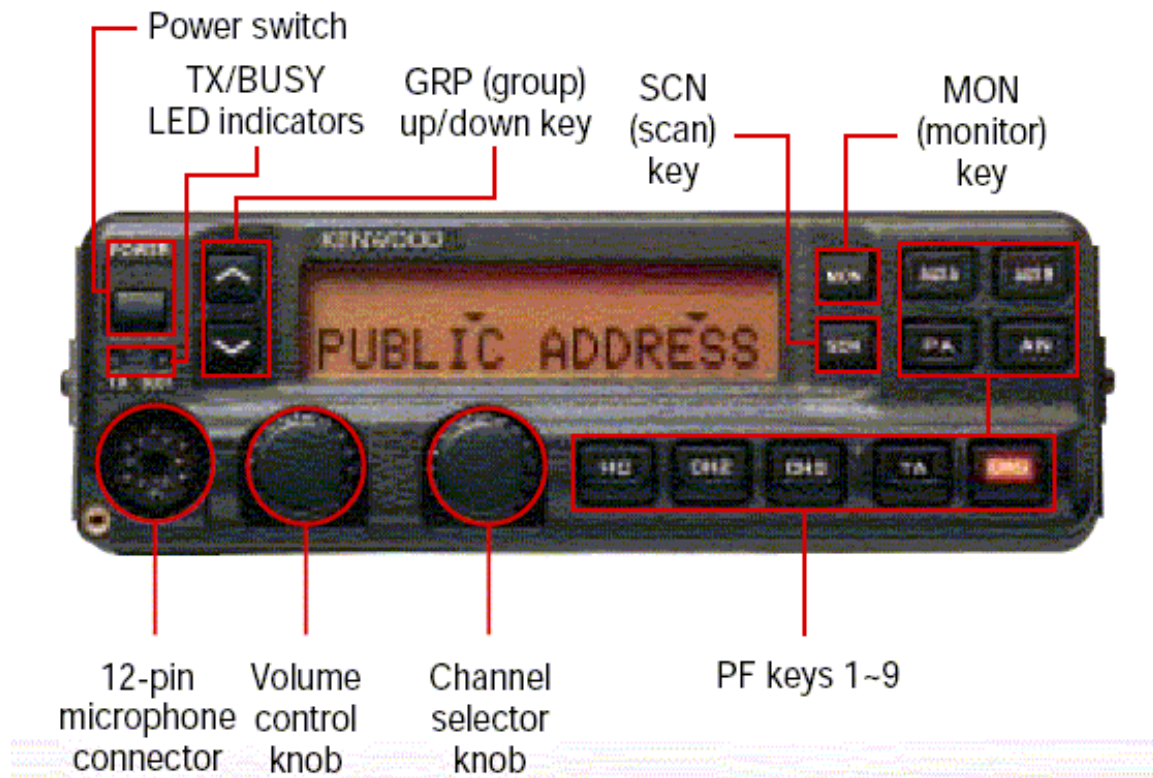
SCN The scan button provides the same function as the scan toggle on a handheld radio. Channels are entered or deleted from the scan bank as described above for handheld radios.

PRI The priority button provides the same function as the priority toggle on a handheld radio. The priority channel is entered using the same method as described above for handheld radios.

GRP The group button is used to change groups. This is done by pushing the group button and turning the channel knob to the desired group.

SQL This button is used to adjust the squelch. This adjustment should be unnecessary. If you feel the squelch needs adjusted on your radio, contact your District Radio Coordinator.

Components and Functions of Kenwood Tk-790 Mobile Radio



Functions of the buttons are as follows:

Group Selection - The up/down arrows used to change groups. The group selected is indicated by the number in the left side of the display screen.

SCN - The scan button activates the scan function of those channels that have been entered into the scan bank as described below for the D/A button. The scanning function is activated when the display screen reads "SCAN".

D/A - This button is used to delete or add channels into the scan bank for that group. A downward pointing arrow on the right side of the display screen indicates a channel is included in the scan list.

DIM - This button is used to adjust the brightness of the display screen.

Radio Terminology

In order to promote interoperability and to comply with NIMS and proper Incident Command System operations, common standard radio terminology is essential. This protocol can be found in ICS-120 and the 2005 Montana Department of Administration Public Safety Radio Communications Program Mutual Aid and Common Frequencies manual.

ICS Clear Text Guide

Affirmative	Yes
At Scene	Used when units arrive at the scene of an incident. Example “Rescue 1 at scene.”
Available	Normally used in conjunction with Clear. Example: “Rescue 1 Clear and Available.”
Can Handle	Used with the amount of equipment needed to handle an incident. Is used a part of the size up and report on conditions.
Cancel	Used to cancel a unit on scene or responding to the scene. <i>The term Stand-down is not an acceptable term and should not be used in place of Cancel.</i>
Clear	Normally used when clearing and incident or event. Used in conjunction with Clear and Available.
Emergency Traffic	Term used to gain control of radio frequency to report an emergency. All other radio users will refrain from using that frequency until cleared for use by the communications dispatch center.
Enroute	Normally used by administrative or staff personnel to designate destinations, no lights, nor sirens, no emergency. <i>Enroute is not a substitute for responding.</i>
Group Supervisors	ICS term used to identify people in charge of specific groups such as law enforcement, fire, ambulance and search and rescue. Example: A Fire Group Supervisor is in charge and responsible for all fire units and personnel responding to the incident. He or she would also be the contact for all fire units and personnel for the incident. Accountability and communication is the primary purpose of a Group Supervisor. A Group Supervisor is directly responsible to the IC. This example is applicable to all law enforcement, fire, ambulance, SAR and any other agency involved in an incident.
In Service	This means a unit is operating. IT is only used when unit had been taken out of service for some reason or is beginning of a shift. <i>In service is not proper response when clearing from a call.</i>
Incident Commander	ICS term used to identify person who coordinates efforts of an incident. Primary contact for all responders. Primary contact for dispatch centers. All communications should be routed through IC to promote radio discipline and reduce radio traffic

with dispatch centers. There can only be one IC per incident at one time.

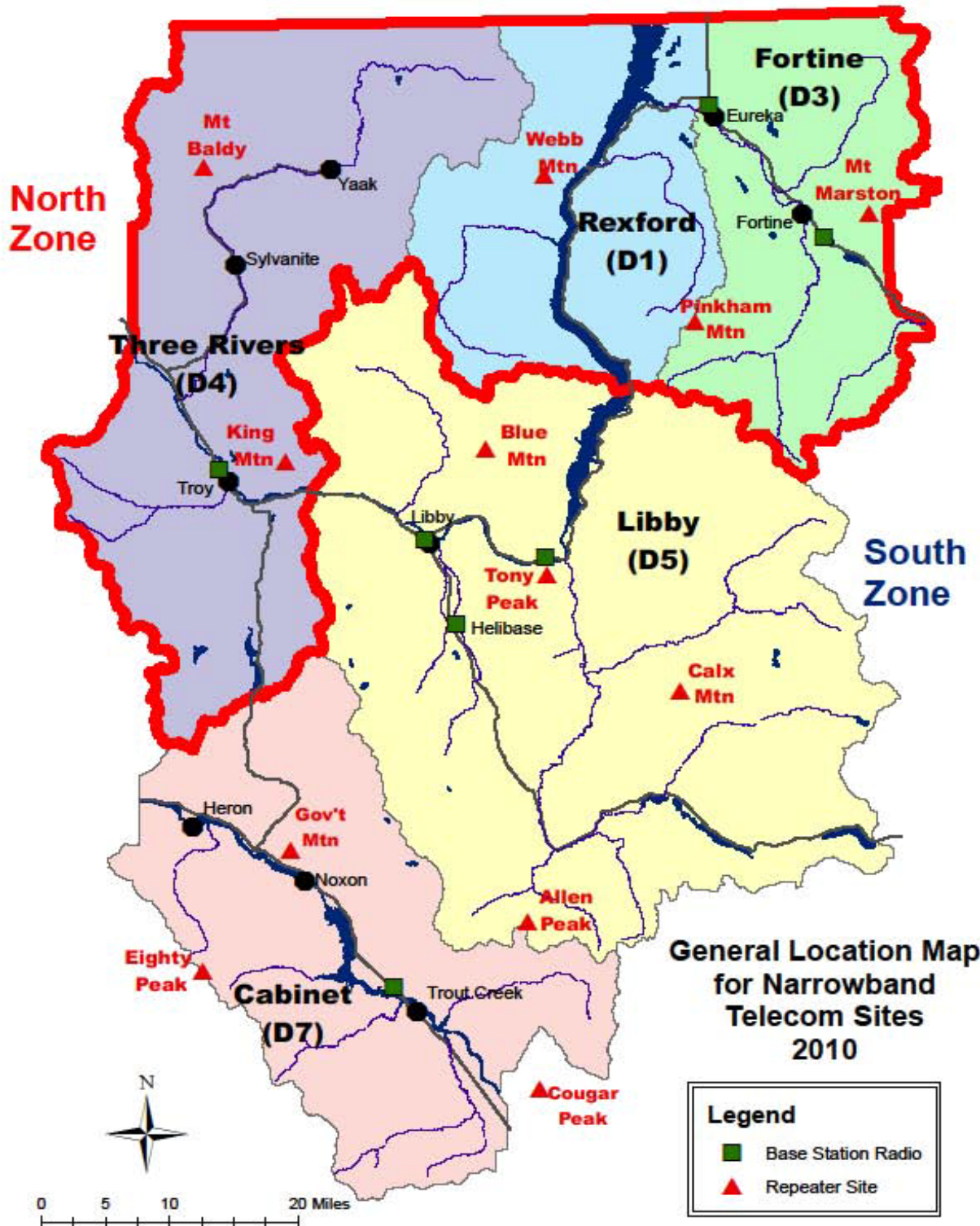
In-Quarters	Proper term for back at the barn. Can include station number and used in conjunction with Available. Example “Rescue 1 back at Quarters and Available.”
Loud and Clear	Used when acknowledging that signal is loud and clear.
Negative	No
NIMS	National Incident Management System. NIMS provides a consistent nationwide template to enable government, law enforcement, fire, EMS, private sector and nongovernmental organizations to work together during both emergency and non-emergency incidents.
Out of Service	Indication a unit is mechanically out of service and will not be available for a period of time.
Repeat	Used when transmission is not understood and it needs to be repeated.
Report on Conditions	Term used to report back to dispatch or other responding units once incident is sized up.
Respond	Used during dispatch – proceed to an incident. Example: “Rescue 1 respond to ABC location.”
Responding	Used during response – proceeding to an incident. Example “Rescue 1 responding to ABC location.”
Size Up	Term used to size up an incident to determine seriousness and if other resources are needed.
Stop Transmitting	Used when channel needs to be cleared for priority transmission.
Unreadable	Used when signal received is not clear. In most cases, try to add the specific trouble. Example: “Unreadable, background noise.”
What is your location	Self explanatory.

Radio User Glossary

Analog Radio	A radio which encodes the audio in a smooth, continuous fashion for transmission.
APCO Project 25 (P25)	An industry standard for digital radio equipment.
Band	Sometimes called a frequency band - is a specific range of frequencies in the radio frequency spectrum, which is divided among ranges. Two commonly used bands are ultra high frequencies (UHF) and very high frequencies (VHF). Each band has a defined upper and lower frequency limit (see below).
Bandwidth	Bandwidth can have several meanings; for this manual bandwidth refers to the amount of radio spectrum that is assigned to a radio channel (see Wideband and Narrowband).
Base Station	A stationary radio (generally in offices) that generally produces 30-50 watts.
Command	A label used for a frequency whose function is for administrative/management purposes.
Digital Radio	A radio which digitizes the audio before transmission.
Handheld Radio	A small convenient radio (generally carried on person) that produces 2-5 watts.
Mobile Radio	A radio mounted in a vehicle that produces 30-50 watts.
Narrowband	A radio channel that is assigned 12.5 KHz of spectrum.
Net	Refers to a radio network. A radio network is a group of base stations and repeaters that are capable of operating together.
Priority	A feature available on radio transceivers that prioritizes a channel during scanning operation. It will allow the priority channel to be heard if simultaneous transmissions are being received.
Radio Protocols	Proper edict and procedures for radio use.
Repeater	A radio which receives a radio signal on one frequency and retransmits on another. Often used to extend the range of a radio system.
Scanning	A feature available on radio transceivers that allows a user to monitor multiple radio channels at the same time.

Tactical/Work	A frequency whose function is for communication to complete assignments, other than administrative/command purposes.
UHF	Ultra High Frequency. Radio frequencies from 300 MHz to 3000 MHz
VHF	Very High Frequency. Radio frequencies from 30 MHz to 300 MHz
Wideband	A radio channel that is assigned 25 KHz of spectrum.

Repeater Locations



Rino 120 Quick Start Guide



Dive Unit

Monthly meetings held on the first Tuesday of the month at 1900 at the SAR barn. Other trainings will be announced in the monthly news letter and on the bulletin board calendar.

Unit Description and Capabilities

The role of the Dive Team, unfortunately, tends to be recovery. Given the time frame involved from time of incident to callouts to on scene deployment, chance of a rescue is low (Golden Hour). In years past, most diver callouts have been in the river, however the area lakes have also claimed victims. When asked, DTSAR will respond to assist neighboring counties. We also recover boats, snowmobiles, vehicles and the occasional airplane.

Member's Requirements

Diving is highly physical and members should recognize their limits. All divers are required to undergo a dive physical to be a member.

Specialized Classes

Classes are set up as needed and will be announced.

Dive Team- Eligibility as per SOG's. New members, regardless of any other certification must complete the Public Safety Diver program. Generally held at least once each year and will be announced.

Equipment Needed By Unit Members

Members are required to have a good wet suit (at the minimum), or a semi dry suit (a dry suit would be the best if you can afford one). Also needed are a hood, gloves, boots, mask, snorkel, fins. and a weight belt. At some point it is suggested that divers purchase their own BCD and regulators with gauges. However, DTSR does have these items for use.

Equipment in the Unit's Inventory

4 complete SCUBA sets, 20+ tanks, 2 dry suits, 2 u/w cameras. 4 lift bags, 2 EXO's with top side comm unit, 4 Carlson boards, 8 sets (helmets, vests, throw bags, Z systems, Churchill fins, 4 Baylor suits, 1 Mustang suit, plus too much more incidental equipment to list

4 x 4 Unit

Monthly meetings held on the second Tuesday of the month at 1900 at the SAR barn.

Unit Description and Capabilities

The 4 X 4 unit is the base for almost all operations. The unit is responsible for transporting personnel and equipment to incidents. The unit also operates the organization's vehicles on searches by covering road systems. They can be called upon to drive and set up the scene command post for remote areas of operation. Members utilize the vehicles and radio systems to act as radio repeaters between those in the field and the dispatch. The unit trailers various equipment behind the vehicles and operates in all weather conditions.

Member's Requirements

Members need to be physically and mentally fit to safely operate vehicles in stressful situations. The members need to be able to lift 50 lbs to aid in loading and unloading gear. Members need to have a clean driver's license. Some minor violations are allowed. Members need to possess a calm disposition when driving and on incidents. Members need to be able to learn or can drive safely in various road conditions including ice, snow and mud. Learn or able to learn trailer backing and driving, winching vehicles, putting on tire chains and driving in off road situations.

Specialized Classes

Classes are generally taught during training and encompass the skills needed to safely operate the organizations fleet of vehicles. Members need to have and keep current their drivers license.

Equipment Needed By Members

- Appropriate clothing for weather conditions.
- Pack containing food, water, and essentials for 8 to 10 hours minimum.

Equipment in the Unit's Inventory

- (Two) four-wheel drive crew cab pickup trucks with toppers and winch capabilities
- Ram Charger four-wheel drive

Standard Operating Guidelines

1. Driver must have a valid driver's license and be off probation – a full member
2. Driver must not have consumed alcohol or drugs 24 hours prior to operating vehicle
3. Two 4x4 members in each rescue vehicle – one being a senior member
4. Driver fill out checklist of rescue vehicle
5. Have general knowledge of the rescue vehicle and radio system
6. Know how to operate and care for rescue vehicles (service list provided in barn) do not do any maintenance work on vehicles until you are approved by Bob Parker or Ted Jewell
7. One member, if possible, should remain by the rescue vehicle to man the radio and be available to move the rescue vehicle if needed
8. Back up a trailer
9. Report any accidents or problems immediately
10. When the rescue is completed help pack up gear – assure no one is left behind; respond back to barn; help unload rescue vehicle; dispose of garbage; put equipment away
11. Gas up rescue vehicles after each use
12. When driving a rescue vehicle, if you get a ticket you will be on probation for 3 months, second ticket on probations for 6 months – any additional tickets, you will not be able to operate a rescue vehicle
13. Dedicate time for meetings and trainings

Junior Unit

Monthly meetings held on the second Thursday of each month at 19:00 at the SAR barn. Additional trainings will be announced in the calendar.

Unit Description and Capabilities

The junior unit is an introductory apprenticeship unit of DTSAR, formed to provide initial instruction in the operations and tactics of Search and Rescue. This unit's training is based upon each of the DTSAR units, so as to provide experience in all SAR areas for junior members. Unit members can expect trainings in mountain search and rescue, through class trainings and trainings in the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness. Additional trainings will be discussed at the meetings, but will include river navigation on the Kootenai River, avalanche training, medical training and familiarity with all of DTSAR equipment. This unit is crucial to DTSAR as these members are the future of DTSAR in Lincoln County. This unit will give members an inside look at search and rescue and emergency medicine, opening up for careers in; Emergency medical care (EMT, Paramedic, ER Doctor), Mountain guiding (high alpine environments and survival), K-9 training (SAR and Police) as well as communications and team working skills.

Member's Requirements

- Must be between 14 and 18 years of age (once a member is 18, they are considered full adult members).
- Must maintain a 2.0 GPA in school.

Specialized Classes

- All members will have basic first aid / CPR training
- All members are encouraged to attend all DTSAR trainings.

Equipment Needed For Unit Members

- As a Junior Unit, there are no specific equipment needs. As the members progress through the units, they will be advised of equipment needs. A pair of comfortable hiking boots will be required for all Mountain trainings.

Equipment in the Unit's Inventory

- The Junior Unit utilizes equipment from all of the other units of DTSAR.

Medical Unit

Unit meets on open days as needed. No specific day and time at this point.

Unit Description and Capabilities

The medical unit is the core of all medical related responses and trainings. The unit handles all medical training and classes. Members in the medical unit are responsible for recognizing emergency situations; making appropriate decisions and providing proper care to victims. DTSAR has a number of skilled Emergency Medical Technicians and First Responders. They train and are very capable of rendering medical care in all rescue situations. Members are a vital link in providing pre-hospital care in the field. Medical unit members can expect to be included in rescue

teams or staged to quickly respond to any incident. New members can learn and acquire training during meetings and classes to meet any level of training they would like to pursue.

Member's Requirements

- Maintain a life style that will keep you physically and mentally prepared for responses.
- Members need to have Basic First Aid and CPR certification. Classes are put on by DTSR through the medical unit and available at no cost to members.
- Members need to keep current on their certifications once acquired.

Specialized Classes

- CPR re-certified every two years
- First Aid re-certification every two years
- EMT and FR re-certified every two years

Equipment Needed By Unit Members

- First Aid jump kit
- Clothing suitable for all conditions

Equipment in the Unit's Inventory

- Medical supplies for jump kits
- Splints, spine boards, spiders and other medical supplies
- Medical gear suited for backcountry situations

Mountain Unit

Monthly meetings held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 1900 at the SAR barn.

Unit Description and Capabilities

The mountain unit is the ground search unit of the organization. The unit operates in all terrain and weather conditions. Operations conducted in remote and wilderness settings highlight the unit's unique capabilities. The unit is trained in avalanche, technical rescue skills, alpine climbing/rescue, rock climbing and orienteering. The mountain unit also assists and operates in rural and urban settings. Rope rescue and setting up systems in rescue situations are also part of the unit's role.

Member's Requirements

Members need to be physically and mental fit for the units assignments. Wilderness searches and rescue operations demand top physical conditioning and a level 1-pack test qualification is required. Urban searches are set at level 2 pack test qualifications. Members are strongly recommended to have SAR TECH II certification.

Specialized Classes

Trainings and classes are set up to provide the skills and practical applications for the unit's role. Specialized classes are targeted as needed and provided to all members. Classes in setting up

highline rope rescue, steep angle rope work, alpine/snow travel and cross-country orienteering are examples.

Equipment Needed By Unit Members

Personal equipment needed for all Mountain Unit members include rugged boots and clothing suitable for the season. Pack with additional clothing, personal survival equipment, headlamp, food and other personal items including DTSAR orange apparel.

Equipment in the Unit's Inventory

DTSAR equipment inventory includes a limited number of harnesses and helmets. There is a limited supply of mountain rescue equipment designated to accomplish most regional rescue situations.

Standard Operating Guidelines

1. Team oriented
2. Physically and mentally capable to meet the challenges of a given rescue operation
3. Pass the pack test at level 1
4. Disciplined to follow instructions thoroughly
5. Present a professionalism in dress and manner
6. Be able to dedicate the necessary time for training and call-outs
7. Maintain individual rescue skills
8. Keep personal equipment mission ready at all times for immediate response
9. Respond to searches in clothing suitable to the season and rescue situation
10. All personnel on or near vertical rock, etc. will be on belay or properly tied in with proper safety equipment (i.e. harness and helmet)

Chapter 3. Classes and Training

Search and Rescue Technician (SAR TECH) Classes

This is a structured class with a set of standards and skills set up the National Association of Search and Rescue (NASAR). There are different levels with in the certification.

- **Level III** is the base certification and the first level. This requires a written test of basic skills used in Search and Rescue situations. Additionally you need to be First Aid and CPR qualified.
- **Level II** includes the above with addition field-testing of skills in orienteering, search techniques, rope work and tracking.
- **Level I** includes the above but additional skills in rope work and navigation skills. Level I accreditation also includes the successful completion of First Responder Medical training.

The tests for the above classes can be taken on line at:

http://www.nasar.org/nasar/online_exams.php

Medical Classes

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

This is an advanced training in medical practices in field situations. It has a required 120 hours of classroom work, testing and hospital practical work. There are advanced levels of EMT levels that can be obtained with more classes.

First Responder

The class involves 40 hours of classroom work and testing and is a less intense class than EMT classes dealing with medical practices.

Basic First Aid

This is the basic level of certification needed for medical situations by members. The class is a 4-hour class in basic first aid followed by a test.

CPR

This is the basic CPR class needed by all members. The class is a 4-hour class followed by a practical and test.

Incident Command System (ICS)

The organization utilizes the ICS structure for organizing search and rescue operations. This system breaks down the leadership structure and organizes them into divisions and branches. It then delegates assignments and roles to individuals and groups of individuals. There are classes put on to help members understand this system.

Pack Test

Level 1 – complete 3 miles with a 45 lb pack in 45 minutes

Level 2 – complete 2 miles with 25 lb pack in 30 minutes

Level 3 – complete 1 mile no pack in 16 minutes

Lincoln County Radio Use Class

This class may be taken on line at <http://www.lincolncountymt.us/em/Radio%20Test/radiotest.pdf> or at the DTSAR Barn. It is required that you recertify every two years.

Helpful Website Links

National Search and Rescue (NSAR) – <http://www.nasar.org/nasar/>

National Search Dog Alliance - <http://www.n-sda.org/>

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Organization (NOAA) - <http://www.noaa.gov/>

Air Force Rescue Coordination Center - <http://www.1af.acc.af.mil/units/afrc/>

Rescue Training and Resource Guide - <http://www.techrescue.org/smforum/>

Glacier Avalanche Center - <http://www.glacieravalanche.org/>

Avalanche Centers and Organizations - <http://www.avalanche.org/avcenters.htm>

Avalanche Awareness Training - <http://access.jibc.bc.ca/avalancheFirstResponse/index.htm>

Boat Safe - <http://www.boatsafe.com>

Personal Water Craft - <http://pwcsafetyschool.com>

Diver's Alert Network - <http://www.diversalertnetwork.org/>

Animated Knots by Grog - <http://www.animatedknots.com>

Personal Locator Beacons - <http://www.sarsat.noaa.gov/new.html>

CBS story on personal locator beacons - <http://cbs4.com/video/?id=27380@wfor.dayport.com>

Handheld satellite communication and safety device - <http://findmespot.com/en/>