

Search and Rescue Equipment Allowance

Objectives

- To provide PEP-recognized Volunteer Search and Rescue Groups with financial support for use of equipment and its maintenance;
- To create a 15% search and rescue equipment allowance available to all PEP- recognized Volunteer Search and Rescue Groups;
- To increase the financial accountability of PEP-recognized Volunteer Search and Rescue Groups when they are working on a SAR task; and
- To alleviate issues concerning PEP policies on equipment repairs and reimbursement.

Rationale

For years volunteer Search and Rescue groups have expressed concern that PEP support during taskings does not provide adequate compensation for general wear and tear on their equipment and supplies. In many cases this equipment is owned and maintained by the individuals on the SAR teams. This, combined with PEP policies capping equipment repairs and reimbursement to a maximum of \$1,000, has lead many volunteers to reduce their involvement in the search and rescue program. In addition, volunteers often stop using personal equipment and become lax in their tracking and accounting of lost or damaged team equipment. This has lead to a marked increase in reimbursement claims for equipment lost or damaged during tasks.

SAR groups incur expenses and wear and tear during training activities and callout responses that don't generate any formal task expenses.

Policy

PEP will provide a SAR Equipment Allowance equal to 15% of the total dollar value of the task. There will be a minimum allowance of \$100 per SAR Task.

The 15% allowance will not apply to the dollar value of third party contracted services, such as helicopter rental.