

2.17 SEARCH AND RESCUE

2.17.1 Policy

1. PEP is responsible for facilitating the maintenance of a provincial land and inland water SAR capability and assisting in coordinating the operational response of local SAR volunteers/volunteer groups when requested by the police, BC Ambulance Service (BCAS), Department of National Defence (DND) or other agencies.

2.17.2 Conditions

1. PEP support, limited by the program's operational budget, is provided on a continuing basis for SAR activities in the following manner although additional support, equipment and/or supplies may periodically be made available on a one-time basis:
 - a. **Standards.** Development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for both training and operational tasks.
 - b. **Training.**

PEP Academy. Provides hands-on training in a number of SAR activities as well as training manuals (basic SAR and SAR instructor) to enable groups to learn the essentials in a standard format at their own pace.

Regional/Local Level.

 - MAY pay instructor or enrolment fees for registered volunteers at specialist training courses, such as first aid, tracking and rope rescue; and
 - reimburses volunteers/volunteer groups for meals and vehicle use while on approved training tasks, at pre-established rates.
 - c. **Emergency Operations - Response Costs.** Reimburses volunteers/volunteer groups for meals, vehicle use and out-of-pocket expenses while on approved emergency response tasks.
 - d. **Emergency Response Coordination**
 - Regional Managers review and assess local response operations to

ensure the necessary resources are deployed and arrange for additional support when required.

- Pays costs for hiring extraordinary resources when required and pre-approved.
 - e. **Equipment.** Replaces/repairs equipment lost or damaged on authorized emergency tasks.
 - f. **Insurance.** The following coverage is provided for volunteers on authorized training and operational tasks:
 - Workers' Compensation Board (WCB); and
 - third party liability insurance
 - g. **Advice and Administrative Support.** PEP regional staff provide advice and administrative assistance to volunteers wishing to establish an operational group.
2. All volunteers must be registered with PEP to participate in SAR operations and be employed only within the scope of their qualifications/training and experience.
 3. The tasks detailed in the following table have been identified as requiring special training and are not to be conducted by volunteers:

Tasks Performed with Certification¹	Prohibited Tasks (Contractor Only)²
Avalanche Rescue	Helicopter Sling Rescue System (HSRS)
Swiftwater Rescue	Mountain Rescue
Cave Rescue	Lead Climbing
Rope Rescue	Hazardous Body Recovery
Search Dog Handler	Dive Rescue/Underwater Recovery

¹Certification of specialist training which is either granted or recognized by the Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC) PEP Academy.

²It is recognized that there may be SAR volunteers with appropriate qualifications and experience who may participate with the written pre-approval of the appropriate Regional Manager.

2.17.3 Procedures

1. Requests for SAR assistance should be received from the RCMP or municipal police force having jurisdiction, BCAS or DND.
2. Requests from the general public should be referred to the police force having jurisdiction in the case of a lost person, BCAS for rescue/extrication of an injured person from a vehicle, or Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC) for an aircraft or off-shore marine incident.
3. Decisions on commitment of resources in support of an authorized request from police forces, BCAS or DND will be made by the either a Regional Manager or the PEP Headquarters Duty Manager or Manager of Operations.