



Monterey County Sheriff's Advisory Council SEARCH & RESCUE

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"So That Others May Live"

Letter to Potential Search & Rescue Volunteers

Joining a search and rescue team is a significant step and should be carefully considered. Search and Rescue volunteers need to have a lifestyle that allows them to attend a monthly training, a monthly members meeting, and be available to respond to SAR missions on a 24/7 basis. Members must be in excellent mental and physical condition. Rescues can be physically demanding and lead to stressful situations. The California Office of Emergency Services (OES) has set standards for SAR teams and every member must train to and meet these standards. Prospective members must also pass a Sheriff's Office background check.

New members receive First Responder medical and CPR training. Other training and certification programs include map and compass, wilderness and backcountry skills, man tracking, low & high angle technical rope rescue, basic urban search and rescue, ATV operations, incident command systems, search management, winter search management, swiftwater rescue, communications, predator abductions, and disaster operations. Providing for the safety of our members through team training is our first priority.

Our team is a member of the Mountain Rescue Association (MRA) and we train and test to their standards. This allows us to be called on for OES mutual aid searches and rescues in the mountainous regions of the state.

A typical wilderness search might be for an overdue hiker, while an urban search might involve a missing child or an Alzheimer's patient who has wandered off. Rescues typically involve vehicles over the cliffs on Highway 1 or carrying injured hikers out of the backcountry. Other types of missions the team is called out on are mutual aid calls to surrounding counties, evidence searches for law enforcement, downed aircraft, flood rescues, urban disasters, and body recoveries. We are also asked to participate in community functions such as parades and fairs.

Being a member of a Search and Rescue team requires a significant commitment. It is not for everyone. I would like to personally thank you for your consideration and welcome any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Steve Hershey
Commander of SAR Volunteers

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