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## Search and Rescue Glossary

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The following are definitions of Search and Rescue terminology as used in British Columbia.

<i>Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS)</i>	A system linking a GPS receiver and a portable radio transmitter which transmits field coordinates automatically.
<i>Assembly Area</i>	Location where SAR responders are directed to meet or gather together prior to briefings and assignment. a.k.a. “muster area”.
<i>Assignment</i>	Tasks given to resources to perform within a given operational period, based upon tactical objectives in the Incident Action Plan.
<i>Assignment-Hours</i>	Sum of time spent by searchers carrying-out their assignment, beginning to end. Includes access/egress, breaks, etc.
<i>Attraction</i>	A search tactic involving attempts to signal the subject and get them to travel towards searchers. Techniques include the use of audio and visual signals. Also refers to natural or man-made features that may attract a subject.
<i>Avalanche Professional</i>	A professional member of the Canadian Avalanche Association (CAA) who meets all qualifications recommended by the CAA for conducting qualitative avalanche risk assessments for operations in wilderness settings, and for specifying the contents of active avalanche control plans.
<i>Avalanche Rescue</i>	The locating and extricating of a subject from a snow slide.
<i>Avalanche Risk Assessment</i>	The determination of the characteristics of the terrain in and around a geographic area based on an analysis of topographic variables, the snow climate, the estimated return periods and magnitudes of avalanches, and the type of activity that is to be done in that area.
<i>Avalanche Risk Zone</i>	A geographic area where an avalanche risk assessment has determined that avalanches could pose a risk to personnel and avalanche risk reduction measurers are required to make the area safe for the work to be conducted.
<i>Average Maximum Detection Range (AMDR)</i>	A value that is calculated based on the results of one or more field tests done in the representative search environment, with a representative search object. Replaces “Critical Separation” and for ease of understanding can be described as Enhanced Critical Separation.
<i>Base</i>	Under ICS, the location at which an organization operates from, stores equipment and supplies, operates administrative and logistical functions before and during operations, etc. There is only one Base per response. The Incident Command Post may be co-located or shared with the Base.

<i>BCEMS</i>	The British Columbia Emergency Management System (BCEMS) is a comprehensive management framework that ensures a coordinated and organized provincial response and recovery to any and all emergency incidents. The broad spectrum of components of BCEMS includes operations and control management, qualifications, technology, training and publications.
<i>Best Practices</i>	The continuously evolving strategies, tactics and processes employed by an organization to define the most efficient, effective repeatable and proven methods for meeting an objective.
<i>Bogus Search</i>	A search for a subject who is not in the area.
<i>Camp</i>	Under ICS, a site separate from the ICP, equipped and staffed to provide sleeping, food, water and sanitary services to personnel. There can be more than one camp for a response.
<i>Cave Rescue</i>	Rescue underground, other than from mines. BC Cave Rescue has been delegated the responsibility, through a MOU with EMBC, to provide members and equipment capable to perform rescues from within caves.
<i>Check-In</i>	The process and location on a response where personnel sign in and out. There can be more than one check-in. They can be located at camps, staging areas, ICP.
<i>Chief</i>	The ICS title for individuals responsible for command of functional sections: Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Administration. The term Chief is used at the incident and area command levels.
<i>Class 'D' Fixed Line (CDFL) Human External Cargo System</i>	The practice of moving SAR personnel or SAR subjects suspended below a helicopter. Previously known as helicopter external transport system (HETS) and also sometimes known as helicopter sling rescue system (HSRS - Parks Canada).
<i>Closed Sweep Search (Type III)</i>	A sweep search with track spacing of less than 10 meters. Track spacing usually determined by the size and visibility of objects being searched for.
<i>Clue</i>	An item of evidence, marking or sign, or piece of information useful to planners that serves to reduce the uncertainty with respect to the actions or intentions of a subject.
<i>Command Staff</i>	Consists of the Incident Commander, Information Officer, Safety Officer, and Liaison Officer. The Officers report directly to the Incident Commander.
<i>Containment</i>	The establishment of some form of perimeter around a search area in order to detect a subject leaving the area. May be in the form of spotters, trail blocks, track traps, attractants, etc. Typical locations include trail intersections, bridges, trailheads, etc. Early containment can reduce the requirement of the search area becoming much larger. A.k.a. "confinement".

<i>Convergent Volunteer</i>	A volunteer from the public. Such volunteers may have certain skills of value or may be completely untrained and unskilled. In SAR, such volunteers may include friends and family of the subject.
<i>COSPAS-SARSAT</i>	A satellite-aided search and rescue system based on low-altitude near-polar-orbiting satellites designed to locate distress beacons transmitting at 406 Mhz
<i>Crevasse Rescue</i>	The extrication of a subject from a glacier crevasse, moat or bergshrund.
<i>Debriefing</i>	The exchange of information, usually at the close of a situation, that conveys important knowledge and experience. In critical incident stress management, a meeting between those involved and a trained peer after a stressful encounter at which techniques of review are used to defuse the effects of psychological stress.
<i>Declination</i>	The difference in degrees between magnetic north (the direction the magnetic needle on a compass points) and true or geographic north.
<i>Demobilization</i>	Occurs at the end of a SAR response and includes sign-out procedures, return of equipment, debriefings as well as the reorganization of personal gear for the next response.
<i>Distress Alerting</i>	The reporting of a distress incident to a unit which can provide or coordinate assistance.
<i>Ditching</i>	The forced landing of an aircraft on water.
<i>Dive Rescue</i>	Rescue techniques involving the use of SCUBA equipment for underwater search and rescue/recovery.
<i>Documentation Unit</i>	Unit within the Planning section responsible for collecting, recording and safeguarding all documents relevant to the response.
<i>Dog Team</i>	One dog and its handler during a search.
<i>Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT)</i>	Aeronautical radio distress beacon for alerting and enabling rescue units to locate the scene of the distress.
<i>Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)</i>	Overall local command centre for a civil emergency response, such as forest fire, flood, evacuation, etc. separate from and above the Incident Command Post in the command structure. See also Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre.
<i>Evidence</i>	Something legally acceptable before a court, such as an object or a witness, which bears on or establishes an issue. In tracking, evidence is divided into physical and incorporeal.
<i>First Operational Period</i>	The initial period of a SAR response primarily comprised of Initial Response Team assignments and is considered the first day's or night's effort. It usually ends at 6 am or 6 pm depending upon when the incident began.

<i>Flat Ice Rescue</i>	Rescue techniques used for the rescue of subjects on large bodies of frozen water, primarily lakes.
<i>Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR)</i>	A video camera that can image the infrared portion of the light spectrum that can be mounted on a helicopter or fixed wing aircraft. Objects that emit heat in the form of infrared energy, such as humans or animals, can be seen by the camera when they contrast with a cooler background.
<i>Geographic Information System (GIS)</i>	Technology which processes, stores, manipulates and displays geographic data in map form. A GIS system links geographic data with descriptive and image data. By layering information, complex analysis is easily performed.
<i>Geomatics</i>	The discipline of gathering, storing, processing, and delivering of geographic information, or spatially referenced information.
<i>Global Positioning System (GPS)</i>	A system created by the US military, consisting of at least 24 satellites supported by ground stations that transmit signals to GPS receivers. A GPS receiver receives signals from a number of GPS satellites and calculates its position by measuring the distance between itself and three or more of those satellites. The GPS receiver can display coordinates or geographic reference.
<i>Grid Location</i>	Most maps used in search and rescue have a grid superimposed to aid in describing the location of particular points. The square grid runs approximately north-south and east-west. A point on the map can be described by its position relative to the grid.
<i>Ground Search Team</i>	A SAR team sent out in the field on a specific mission during a ground search operation, and operating under the direction of a Ground Search Team Leader.
<i>Ground Search Team Leader</i>	The SAR Team Leader of a Ground Search Team.
<i>Hasty Search</i>	See Initial Response search
<i>Helicopter External Transport System (HETS)</i>	See "Class 'D' Fixed Line (CDFL) Human External Cargo" system. HETS was also previously known as HFRS.
<i>Helicopter Rescue</i>	Rescue techniques involving the use of helicopters.
<i>Helispot</i>	Any designated location where a helicopter can safely take off and land. Some helicopters may be used for loading and unloading of supplies, equipment, personnel, and medical evacuation.
<i>Human Trackers</i>	Human trackers have training to identify and follow the route taken from Last Known Position by locating tracks and other "sign" left by subject.
<i>Incident Action Plan</i>	The plan for the response including the objectives. Must be flexible, updated, and the only one. The plan may include a number of forms. (e.g. incident objectives, organizational chart, defined operational periods, team assignments, subject profile, communication plan, transportation plan, medical plan, etc.)

<i>Incident Command Post (ICP)</i>	The location at which the primary command functions are executed. The ICP may be co-located or shared with the base or other incident facilities such as a helispot, but not a camp.
<i>Incident Command System (ICS)</i>	Standardised incident management system, which is organized around major functional units. Components include: common terminology, modular organization, integrated communications, unified command structure, incident action plan, manageable span of control, designated facilities, and comprehensive resource management.
<i>Incident Commander</i>	The individual responsible for the management of all incident operations at the incident site. The term 'Incident Commander' includes Unified Command. During SAR operations in British Columbia the role of SAR Commander is filled by a representative of the police, BCAS, Coroner or Parks Canada. The other half of the Incident Command is the SAR Manager.
<i>Incident Status</i>	Maintaining current records of the status of all resources involved in a SAR response.
<i>Initial Planning Point (IPP)</i>	A location which serves as the initial focus of the search effort. It may be the PLS or LKP. IPP can be used in the absence of a PLS or LKP. The IPP does not change.
<i>Initial Response Search (a.k.a. Hasty Search, Type I Search)</i>	Search techniques in the early stages of a search directed at high probability areas, which include searching, containment, attraction, reconnaissance and tracking. See also, Initial Response Team.
<i>Initial Response Team (IRT)</i>	The first units to the field made up of trained SAR personnel whose responsibility is to check those areas most likely to contain a subject, assess terrain and conditions, gather and report information, etc. a.k.a. "Hasty Team".
<i>Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC)</i>	Responsible for coordinating the Search and Rescue (SAR) response to air and marine incidents within their respective Search and Rescue Region (SRR) in Canada. Staffed by Canadian Forces and Canadian Coast Guard personnel.
<i>Last Known Position (LKP)</i>	A geographic point used in planning; the last position where the lost subject is known to have been. See also Point Last Seen and Initial Planning Point.
<i>Lessons Learned</i>	Changes in attitude, behaviour and processes that stem from assessed or critically analyzed experience. These changes have consequently improved individual and organizational performance.
<i>Light Urban SAR</i>	The act of searching for and rescuing subjects located in buildings and debris in the immediate aftermath of an earthquake or other disaster where heavy tools and equipment are not required.
<i>Local Authority Emergency Program Coordinator</i>	The person in a municipality, city or regional district who directs the local emergency program and may serve as the official link between the local SAR group and other municipal or regional organizations.

<i>Lost Person</i>	A known individual in an unknown location, whose safety may be threatened by conditions related to the environment or other factors. Also the person being tracked or looked for in a SAR incident.
<i>Lost Person Behaviour</i>	The study of behavioural characteristics of persons when lost to reflect certain traits and statistical values. Each lost person is grouped into one of several categories based upon, first: cognitive level (i.e. dementia), then age (if under 15), finally the activity (i.e. hiking).
<i>Mission</i>	[See Assignment.]
<i>Mountain Rescue</i>	A general term used to describe search and rescue in a mountain environment, which may require the use of mountaineering skills to locate, access or evacuate the subject. It may require such specialised skills as rock or ice climbing, snow and ice travel, and crevasse rescue.
<i>Multi-Jurisdictional Incident</i>	An incident requiring action from multiple agencies that have statutory responsibility for incident mitigation. In ICS, these should be managed under unified command.
<i>National Search and Rescue Secretariat (NSS)</i>	Reports to the Lead Minister for SAR (currently the Minister of National Defence), coordinates the National Search and Rescue Program which aims to facilitate SAR prevention and response services of involved agencies, and to maintain a coordinated national perspective on SAR.
<i>Needs Assessment</i>	A process to determine equipment, training, and personnel requirements of a SAR group based on historical events and potential responses (risk analysis).
<i>Notice to Airmen (NOTAM)</i>	Temporary airspace restrictions for non-emergency aircraft in the response area. NOTAMs are established by Transport Canada to ensure aircraft safety.
<i>Open Sweep Search (Type II)</i>	A type of searching which represents a compromise between thoroughness and time. It is comprised of relatively small search teams (3-7 members), which sweep search an area using widely spaced searchers in a sweep line pattern.
<i>Operational Period</i>	The period of time scheduled for execution of a given set of actions as specified in the Incident Action Plan. Operational Periods can be of various lengths, typically 12 hours though usually not over 24 hours in length.
<i>Organized Avalanche Response (OAR)</i>	Training program designed for SAR volunteers for participating in organized avalanche rescues and searching in avalanche risk zones. Certification is for OAR-Team Members and OAR-Team Leaders.
<i>Passive Search Techniques</i>	Can include such procedures as spotters or listening, attractions, track traps, trail blocks, etc. as opposed to active searching.

<i>Point Last Seen (PLS)</i>	The point where some other person, or recording device such as a security camera, last physically saw the subject; often used in planning to focus search efforts.
<i>Pre-plan</i>	A previously prepared document that provides SAR personnel with information such as operational guidelines and technical data required to conduct a SAR response.
<i>Probability of Area (POA)</i>	Represents probability of a subject or object being in the search area.
<i>Probability of Detection (POD)</i>	Represents probability that the subject or clue will be detected by a search resource if it is in the search area. Each subject or object has its own POD based on a number of variables. POD is influenced by the sensor/searcher used to detect the object, the platform the sensor is on, the search object detectability (colour and size) and the environment.
<i>Probability of Success (POS)</i>	Represents the probability of successfully finding the subject or clue ( $POS = POD \times POA$ ).
<i>Probability Density (Pden)</i>	The probability that the lost person is in a given segment, divided by the size of that segment ( $Pden = POA/Area$ ).
<i>Probability of Success Rate (PSR)</i>	The rate at which coverage increases within a search segment. $PSR = Pden \times V \times W$ or $PSR = POS/hours$ .
<i>Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre (PREOC)</i>	EMBC centre during a regional disaster or other emergency. Used to coordinate large-scale operations involving multiple agencies and jurisdictions.
<i>Purposeful Wandering</i>	Searchers roam across the ground in a meandering path to look in places which might conceal a lost person and generally follow the easiest route of travel as a lost subject might.
<i>Rapid Intervention Team (RIT)</i>	A team consisting of a reserve of qualified and competent personnel that are on-site and available to provide rapid technical rescue and/or medical rescue for SAR personnel in the field.
<i>Region</i>	A subset of the search area based only on factors that affect POA (regions may require segmentation prior to searching). Regions are based on probability of the search object's location, not on suitability for assigning search resources. A region may contain searchable segments, or a region, itself, may be a searchable segment. A searchable segment may also contain one or more regions (based on probability) but rarely is the available data good enough to distinguish such small regions in ground search situations.

<i>Requesting Agency</i>	The agency with the jurisdiction/responsibility for a search and/or rescue. Which agency is the requesting agency depends on the type of search and/or rescue response. In BC these agencies can be Police, BC Ambulance Service, Canadian Forces, Parks Canada, the Coroner, Independent Investigations Office, local authorities or fire departments. These are the agencies that can request the assistance of a SAR group.
<i>Rescue</i>	An operation to retrieve persons in distress, provide for their initial medical or other needs, and deliver them to a place of safety.
<i>Rescue Cache</i>	A pre-established complement of tool equipment and/or supplies stored in a designated location and available for SAR use.
<i>Rescue Leader</i>	Person designated within the Incident Command System as a rescue group/division leader responsible for direct supervision of the operations at the rescue site.
<i>Resource List</i>	An extensive and up to date inventory of SAR and logistical resources complete with contact information, available as a reference during a SAR response.
<i>Response</i>	Where a search and rescue group has been requested to provide assistance by an authorised requesting agency (Police, BCAS, DND, etc.) and a Task number has been generated by Emergency Management BC (EMBC). The response ends when the agency with authority stands the SAR group(s) down and the Task number is closed.
<i>Response Urgency Chart</i>	A form (part of ICS202) used to determine and rate the urgency of response through profiles of the subject, weather, equipment, experience, and known terrain hazards. Used as a planning guideline.
<i>Risk Assessment</i>	An analysis of the situation, weather, terrain, resources, skills of the people involved, the availability and appropriateness of safety equipment, and other extenuating circumstances to determine the probability, exposure, and degree of hazards persons may face. Done as part of the planning phase of SAR responses.
<i>Risk Control</i>	The process of decision-making for managing risk and the implementation, enforcement, and re-evaluation of its effectiveness from time to time, with input from the results of risk assessment.
<i>Risk Management</i>	The complete process of risk management and risk control. A structured, common-sense approach to reducing the frequency and severity of loss events.
<i>Rope Rescue</i>	Access and rescue using ropes that can be conducted from the top down with ascending or descending techniques, where access does not require lead climbing. To be performed by trained and qualified Rope Rescue Team Members led by a Rope Rescue Team Leader. Includes slope rescue, cliff rescue, steep or high-angle rescue, highlines, etc.



<i>Safety Officer</i>	A member responsible for monitoring and assessing safety hazards or unsafe situations, and for developing measures for ensuring personnel safety.
<i>Scenario Lock</i>	Total belief in a single scenario to the point that other possibilities are not even considered and all resources are directed toward that single scenario.
<i>Search</i>	A search involves assembling, coordinating and using the necessary resources to find lost, stranded, trapped, or injured subjects, to save lives or avoid further injury to them.
<i>Search And Rescue (SAR)</i>	The combined activities involved in searching for, rescuing or recovering any persons who become lost, stranded, injured or killed generally while in the out-of-doors.
<i>Search And Rescue Commander</i>	The representative from the agency with ultimate responsibility for the search and/or rescue. This responsibility includes SAR commencement, SAR extent, and SAR suspension or termination. This usually is the RCMP or local police authority but may be BCAS, Coroner, or person from DND.
<i>Search And Rescue Manager</i>	Under the general direction of the SAR Commander, the person who will manage the volunteer SAR response during a SAR response. This person is responsible for getting the right things done at the right time through directing other SAR Volunteers and through the application of SAR management knowledge, skills and abilities.
<i>Search And Rescue Management Team</i>	The management team, led by a SAR Manager, who coordinate and manage a SAR response. Composed of SAR Commander (i.e. Police), SAR Manager, Planning Section chief, Operations Section chief, Logistics Section chief and other persons filling roles as required, such as the Information Officer, Safety Officer, Liaison Officer, etc.
<i>Search And Rescue Phases</i>	The main phases of a SAR response, which should be featured in the Incident Action Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Locate the Subject</li><li>• Access the Subject</li><li>• Stabilise the Subject</li><li>• Transport</li></ul>
<i>Search And Rescue Team</i>	A SAR Team is a number of volunteers (usually 2-7) that are sent out in the field on a specific assignment during a SAR Response and operate under the direction of a Team Leader.
<i>Search And Rescue Team Leader</i>	The leader of a set number of SAR resources of the same kind and type, which have an established minimum number of personnel (search teams, rope rescue teams, avalanche rescue teams, etc.)

<i>Searcher-Hours</i>	Sum of time spent by searchers actually searching and not including access and egress time. See also assignment hours.
<i>Search Theory</i>	A branch of mathematics that is used to determine the most efficient way to find something in the most efficient manner.
<i>Second Operational Period</i>	This is normally the first full 12-hour operational period of the SAR response, commonly beginning at 6AM or 6PM and continuing for the next 12 hours.
<i>Segment</i>	A designated subset of the search area or region to be searched by one or more specifically assigned SAR resources. The search planner determines the size of a segment. The boundaries of a segment are based on searchability, not probability.
<i>Shoreline Search Operations</i>	Certification level for skills for safely searching along shorelines of lakes and moving inland water. Performed by qualified members.
<i>Single Resource</i>	The smallest unit which can operate independently (helicopter, dog team, member, etc).
<i>Sign</i>	All evidence of human passage. A term commonly used by the Tracking community.
<i>Slope Rescue</i>	Rope Rescue involving low to steep angle operations where the stretcher is managed by two or more attendants and where some of the load is borne by either a stretcher wheel and/or the attendants standing on the slope. The complexity is dependent not only on slope angle but also slope composition, hazards and changing fall lines.
<i>“SMEAC”</i>	<p>A briefing format used to ensure field team leaders are adequately briefed. Consists of sections for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Situation</li><li>Mission</li><li>Execution</li><li>Administration/Logistics</li><li>Communications</li></ul> <p>Also used in briefing in-coming SAR Management Team members during shift changes at the end of operational periods.</p>
<i>Span of Control</i>	To maintain effective supervisory levels within the command and leadership structure an effective span of control is required. This is the maximum number of units a manager or leader can effectively manage. The range is 3 to 7 with 5 considered being optimal.
<i>Staging Area</i>	Staging Areas are locations set up at a response where resources can be placed, dressed and equipped, while awaiting assignment. Resources staged at a staging area are at a heightened state of readiness and can be quickly mobilized.

<i>Status Map</i>	A large-scale map (1:20,000) is ideal and allows for extensive notations of resources employed in a SAR response. Status map should show what areas have been searched and how and the current location of resources. For planning purposes each operational period should be mapped separately.
<i>Stretcher Bearer</i>	A person who physically manages the stretcher during stretcher evacuations.
<i>Stretcher Captain</i>	The person in slope evacuation who manages the stretcher team and coordinates the stretcher movement with other members of the rescue team. The Stretcher Captain is usually located at the foot end of the stretcher where he/she can observe the entire stretcher.
<i>Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG)</i>	Written documents detailing recommended procedures, equipment staging and maintenance, safety procedures, etc. and designed to guide consistent operations.
<i>Statistical Search Area</i>	Search areas determined by the use of data that reflects the distances other similar subjects have travelled given similar conditions.
<i>Status/Roll Call</i>	A planned call-in of teams in the field to report their status such as their location and how their assignment is progressing. Roll call is to confirm who is on the team as a way to maintain personnel accountability.
<i>Strike Team</i>	Specified combinations of the same kind and type of resources, with common communications and a leader. There should be no more than five of any specified combinations under one leader.
<i>Subject</i>	A lost, stranded, injured or deceased person(s) requiring SAR. See Lost Person.
<i>Subject Profile</i>	Compilation of all information known about the subject including appearance, equipment, behaviour, history, plans, acquaintances, etc. Also refers to the one-page ICS description form used for briefing field teams on this information.
<i>Subjective Search Area</i>	Evaluation of the limiting factors that exist for the specific response and geographic location. Includes lost person behaviour, terrain/ topographic limitations, equipment, etc.
<i>Subsequent Operational Periods</i>	Time frame of a continued SAR response comprised of 12-hour periods of time throughout the rest of the response.
<i>Supporting Agency</i>	The term used in the BC Emergency Response Management System (BCERMS) to designate assisting and cooperating agencies.
<i>Swiftwater/Flood Rescue</i>	Rescue on inland moving water or in flooded areas. Performed only by qualified members. This includes assisting in the evacuation of residents from a flooded area.
<i>Task Force</i>	A combination of single resources assembled for a particular tactical need, with common communications and a leader.

<i>Task Report Form</i>	Used to document the response statistics and details. Submitted to EMBC as part of a Task Report and considered a legal document detailing the SAR response.
<i>Technical Rescue</i>	Rescue where specialised training, equipment and techniques are used to access, stabilize, package and transport one or more subjects from a specific type of environment.
<i>Technical Specialist</i>	Personnel with specialised skills that can be used where required within the ICS organization.
<i>Theoretical Search Area</i>	The theoretical distance that the subject could have travelled in the time elapsed, based on travel speed and time (range). Note: the search area may be reduced by other methods.
<i>Track Spacing</i>	The distance measured between adjacent tracks of a parallel sweep search pattern. Track spacing refers to spacing between search resources generally during a sweep search. A resource can be an aircraft, boat, dog team, individual searcher or a team of searchers following the same path or track.
<i>Unified Command</i>	Unified Command is a team effort, which allows all agencies with jurisdictional responsibility for the response, either geographical or functional, to manage a response by establishing a common set of incident objectives, strategies and action plans.
<i>Urban Search And Rescue (USAR)</i>	Searching and rescuing in urban/industrial areas, typically collapsed structures, etc.
<i>Urban Search</i>	Searching for individuals lost in an urban setting.
<i>Volunteer Search and Rescue Organization (VSO)</i>	An organized group of qualified people, recognized by EMBC and chartered by this Province as a not-for-profit corporation or otherwise existing as a not-for-profit organization whose purpose is to assist authorities in the search, rescue and recovery of lost, injured or deceased persons. VSO's frequently engage in fundraising and other activities. a.k.a. SAR Group.

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## Search and Rescue Acronyms

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AANDC	Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
ASE	Air Services Emergency
APRS	Automatic Positioning Reporting System
ARA	Air Rescue Association
BCAS	British Columbia Ambulance Service
BCCR	British Columbia Cave Rescue
BCSARIS	British Columbia Search and Rescue Information System
CAA	Canadian Avalanche Association
CAC	Canadian Avalanche Centre
CARDA	Canadian Avalanche Rescue Dog Association
CASARA	Civil Air Search and Rescue Association
CDFL	Class 'D' Fixed Line Human External Cargo System
CISM	Critical Incident Stress Management
DND	Department of National Defence
ECC	Emergency Coordination Centre
EMBC	Emergency Management British Columbia (formerly PEP)
EMD	Emergency Management Division (JIBC)
ESS	Emergency Social Services
ETV	Emergency Transport Vehicle
FNESS	First Nations Emergency Services Society
FSLG	Fire Services Liaison Group
GPEG	Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch
GSAR	Ground Search and Rescue

GSARCC	Ground Search and Rescue Council of Canada
GSTL	Ground Search Team Leader
HETS	Helicopter External Transport System (now CDFL)
ICP	Incident Command Post
ICS	Incident Command System
IRT	Initial Response Team
LUSAR	Light Urban Search and Rescue
JIBC	Justice Institute of British Columbia
JRCC	Joint Rescue Coordination Centre
MIT	Member in Training
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MR	Mountain Rescue
MSM	Modified, Simplified Mattson Process
NIF	New Initiative Fund
NSS	National Search and Rescue Secretariat
OAR	Organized Avalanche Response
OH&S	Occupational Health and Safety
ONA	Operational Needs Analysis
PAB	Public Avalanche Bulletin
PEP	Provincial Emergency Program (now EMBC)
PFD	Personal Flotation Device
PREOC	Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre
PRTC	Pacific Regional Training Centre (RCMP)

PSP	Peer Support Person
RCMP	Royal Canadian Mounted Police
RIT	Rapid Intervention Team
RM	Regional Manager
RR	Rope Rescue
SAR	Search and Rescue
SAREX	Search and Rescue Exercise
SARM	Search and Rescue Management
SOG	Standard Operating Guidelines
SRT	Swiftwater Rescue Technician
SSTC	SAR Stakeholders Training Committee
TTT	Train the Trainer
UBCM	Union of British Columbia Municipalities
WCB	Worker's Compensation Board (now WorkSafeBC)

