

# **HOPE VOLUNTEER SEARCH AND RESCUE**



**May 2018**

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## INTRODUCTION

Hope Volunteer Search and Rescue Team Society is a registered non-profit organization operating out of the town of Hope, British Columbia. Its primary function is that of a community resource to assist the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in a variety of search and rescue functions.

Although operating under guidelines set out by the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP), Hope Volunteer Search and Rescue (HSAR) is manned solely by volunteers. Of these volunteers (an average of 25), 25 members are on call 24 hours through the use of pagers. Call-outs are usually initiated by the local detachment of the RCMP which contacts one of the volunteers through the Fraser Valley Fire Dispatch and briefs them regarding the operation to be carried out.

Volunteers are called to the base where a briefing is given and resources are deployed. A call is placed to the PEP duty officer in Victoria to obtain a task number which is used to reclaim expenses (meals and mileage) on the completion of the task. In some cases the designated search and rescue (SAR) leader will request other resources such as neighbouring SAR teams or aerial support (RCMP or local private helicopter services). It is important that volunteers respond promptly and are properly equipped, as valuable time can be lost at the outset of an operation.

HSAR's resources include one Chev crew cab 3500 trucks and one 3 ton International 4x4 equipped with a comprehensive array of rope rescue, medical and ground search equipment, a full complement of auto extrication tools. (On both trucks), two 2006 Bombardier snowmobiles and two 2006 Polaris Sportsman 500 quads and one 22 foot Storm Jet Boat. The volunteers are requested to spend approximately \$1000.00 of their own money to ensure that they are properly equipped (The group is willing to assist with supplying the minimum needed for those members who are financially unable). All clothing is the responsibility of the volunteers who are requested to spend up to \$1,000.00 of their own money to ensure that they are properly equipped.

In 2017 Hope Search and Rescue performed 1560 hours of operational service (incident responses) and 1808 hours of documented training.

**Calculations show that, because most personal expense reimbursements are donated back to the team, it actually COSTS volunteers over \$4 for each hour that they participate in tasks.**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Hope Search and Rescue is a volunteer organization**, much like the volunteer Fire Department except that **volunteers do not receive any payment for call-outs**. With the current funding arrangement, the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) only provides funding for training and reimbursement of expenses incurred during call-outs. The volunteers donate most of the expense reimbursements back to the team.

In 2017, an annual operating budget of \$8200.00 was secured from the Fraser Valley Regional District. This operating budget is used to cover telephone costs, BC Hydro, Vehicle/Equipment insurance. It is not enough to cover our operating expenses, as insurance alone is \$10,000. Therefore outside funding is needed to keep to group operating. EMIL Anderson, Envision Credit Unions, the Lions Club, Rotary, Eagles, Home Restaurant, Teresan, Duke Energy and BC Gaming have provided critical funding over the last three decades.

During our 2017 operational year, GSAR members attended 93 tasks resulting in 1,560 volunteer hours, Table (1) summarizes these calls –outs and their associated volunteer hours based on the types of rescue services that were provided. The Values recorded below summarize a typical year for HSAR. These extreme high calls out volumes make HSAR one of the busiest volunteer rescue organizations in the province.

All of the hours put into operational activities by our members are on a strictly volunteer basis. If compared to a professional rescuer making \$30.00 per hour. It could be stated that **our rescuers donated an additional \$ 46,800.000** to the operation of our organization during 2017. This figure does not include the thousands of training and administrative hours that our members provide each year to ensure a well-trained crew and efficient operation of our rescue operation. Once again the dedication of our volunteer members is what truly makes up the backbone of the Hope.

Service	Callouts 2017	Volunteer hours
MVA 'S	55	742
Searches	14	285
Water Rescue / Recoveries	10	122
Rescues	18	411
Misc Calls	0	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>1,560 Volunteer Hours</b>

HOPE SEARCH AND RESCUE 10 YEAR CALL STATS											ANNEX B RISK 10 YEAR CALL VOLUME STATS
CALL TYPE	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
MVA	81	43	38	50	37	63	61	51	52	59	
SEARCH	17	6	14	15	20	7	23	16	17	15	
BOAT	7	1	5	10	9	7	2	3	4	5	
RESCUE	4	5	9	15	14	18	8	10	20	10	
AIRCRAFT											
ROPE		1	4	8		5	4				
DISASTER/ RECOVERY	1	1							5	3	
CALL TOTAL	110	57	70	98	80	100	98	85	98	93	