

Search and Rescue Update - 2018

KCC Law and Justice Committee



Glenn Wallace
President, King County Search and Rescue Association

RCW 38.52.400



RCW Search and rescue activities — Powers and duties of local officials.

(1) **The chief law enforcement officer of each political subdivision shall be responsible for local search and rescue activities.** Operation of search and rescue activities shall be in accordance with state and local operations plans adopted by the elected governing body of each local political subdivision

...

KCSARA King County Search and Rescue Association



King County 4X4 Search and Rescue



King County Search Dogs (KCSD)



King County Explorer Search and Rescue (ESAR)



Seattle Mountain Rescue (SMR)



SAR Incident Support Team (IST)



NW Horseback SAR



Pacific NW Trackers



Ski Patrol Rescue Team (SPART)

All organizations are
501(c)(3) non-profits and
all volunteer.

2017 Mission Statistics

680 volunteers recv'd training ↑ 4% YOY

439 volunteers on missions ↑ 3% YOY

172 missions ↑ 5% YOY

	Mission	Training	Total
Volunteer Hours	22,819 ↑ 6% YOY	45,345	68,165
Personal Vehicle Miles	212,621 ↑ 3% YOY	219,287	431,908

Spotlight : Missing Hiker

Mount Teneriffe, July 31 – August 3



Spotlight: Missing Subject (dementia) Federal Way, October 18



Spotlight: Evidence Search Federal Way, July

- Assisted Federal Way PD in search for human remains
- Cleared and searched a large overgrown area
- Found remains of subject that had been missing for 12 years
- Case is now closed

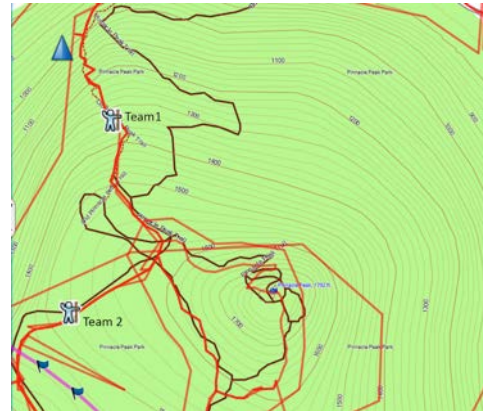
Note: We've conducted 18 evidence searches this year, some for very high profile cases

Update: KCSARA Advisory Board

- Currently 10 members
- Added 6 members in December
- They are all passionate about Search and Rescue and helping us help others
- Goals:
 - Improve our connections with community, business and its leaders
 - Raise awareness of what we do
 - Strategic advice / counsel
 - Expand our fundraising activities (e.g. annual fundraising dinner)

Update: Team Tracking System

- System is now operational
- Improved team safety and reduced radio traffic
- Expanded number of kits:
 - KCSO Van (10)
 - ESAR (5)
 - SMR (5)
- Added new portable antennas



New Initiative – Denny Mt Repeater

- Funded and installed new Denny Mountain repeater at Alpental, Snoqualmie Pass
- Improved coverage for Alpine Lakes and also into Kittitas Co
- Adding new frequency requires massive radio programming effort (600+ volunteers and all SAR vehicles)



KCSARA UAS Program

Initiative Under Analysis

KCSARA UAS Program

- UAS (drones) increasingly used in public safety globally
- Benefits:
 - **Reduces risk to rescuers** - avalanche, water, steep, etc.
 - **Saves lives** – get further, faster and cover more terrain
 - **Safer, cheaper and more available** – ideal complement to helicopters if terrain/weather precludes
- Evaluating a UAS program from a number of perspectives - structural, operational, practical, FAA/legal, liability etc.
- Would be used in rural/remote areas
- Technology Committee Chair has met with FAA, Cowlitz Co, two counties in Colorado, police depts from CA, TX and ND, etc. to discuss best practices

Avalanche Field

Fracture Lines



KCSARA UAS Program

Core principles:

- Follow relevant laws
- Respect privacy, civil rights and civil liberties
(follow ACLU government drone recommendations)
- Ensure public support for SAR use
- Mitigate Risk to lowest possible level
- Embrace a safety oriented philosophy
- Act in the public interest

→ Continue to investigate & discuss with KCSO

SAR Headquarters

A decorative graphic consisting of a solid green horizontal bar that spans the width of the slide. Below this bar, on the right side, there are several horizontal lines of varying lengths and colors, including shades of green and white, creating a layered, modern look.

Current Status

- We have 14 registered vehicles owned by our non-profit units
- 4 of these unit vehicles and two 20ft shipping containers used for storing field, evidence search and medical training equipment are currently located at Eastside Fire and Rescue HQ
- In 2015 ESF-R asked us to find another location as their space needs continue to expand...
- The other vehicles are “scattered around” at people’s houses etc.
- We have no space for meetings, training etc. and are still nomadic.

King County SAR HQ



Snohomish County SAR HQ



Interim HQ Location

- Finalized 2-5 year lease on Snoqualmie Valley Hospital east campus (I-90 Exit 25)
 - Thank you for supporting cost of fencing and other improvements needed to store vehicles and equipment securely
- Finding a long term headquarters location along the I-90 corridor (exit 17-31) is of critical importance to the long term future of SAR in King County**

Thank You

- For continuing to fund Sheriff's Office Air Support Unit and Marine Rescue and Dive Unit!

Recent hoist mission near the pass: would have been 4 hours hike in, 12+ hours to carry subject out!



Upcoming Asks

- Explore moving our 14 non-profit owned unit vehicles to “direct charge” registration/insurance through the county
- Support for unit vehicle fuel and maintenance through county shops – approx \$40k/yr
- Misc spending approximately \$20k/yr including King County Radio shop for work on our repeaters, and 800MHz radios in some of our unit vehicles

→ Could these items be covered through a \$60k annual appropriation added to the sheriff’s office SAR budget?

Questions?



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Web: kingcountysar.org