

# Pennington County Search and Rescue



## About the Team...

The Pennington County Search and Rescue (PCSAR) team was formed in October 1973 in response to a deadly flood that swept through the city of Rapid City, with a mission to save lives and protect property. The team is comprised of volunteers from the community who dedicate their time to training for, and responding to, emergency incidents and calls for service. The team assists volunteer fire departments in and surrounding Pennington County, the Rapid City Fire Department, and various other agencies throughout the community, including the Pennington County Sheriff's Office, the South Dakota Highway Patrol, and the South Dakota Civil Air Patrol. We also work with neighboring county search teams. PCSAR is a non-profit, all-volunteer team available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and responds to an average of 100 calls for service each year.

We provide a variety of services including the following:

- Vehicle extrication
- High angle rescue
- Search
- Mass casualty
- Trench rescue
- Building collapse
- Weather related incidents
- Fire and dive support
- Communications and mobile command for natural disasters, search, fire, etc.

## Our Mission...

PCSAR...

A non-profit, professional, volunteer organization dedicated to training for and providing search and rescue services....

So that others may live.

## Our Vision...

PCSAR is committed to professional and technical excellence in pursuit of our mission obligations. Recognizing the critical nature of our responsibilities, we will maintain the highest standards of training and technical expertise to provide quality, effective, and timely search and rescue services to all in need. We will expand upon our current skills through training and maintaining certifications. We will cooperate with emergency and community service organizations, strive to maintain the public trust and confidence, and make the most effective use of our resources.

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## Our Equipment...

PCSAR has several specialized pieces of equipment, as well as various different vehicles for performing rescues throughout the county.

Rescue 1 is our vehicle extrication truck. It is equipped with power tools, hydraulic tools, and various other tools for accessing a subject trapped in a vehicle or piece of machinery.

Rescue 2 is the vertical and rope rescue truck. It is equipped with a variety of rope rescue tools, including ropes, rope hardware and software, and equipment for performing wilderness rescue.

Rescue 3 is a suburban equipped with Mattracks. This is used primarily in the winter during blizzards and storms but can also be used to get through mud and swampy areas.

Rescue 4 is a support vehicle. They are Suburbans used to transport personnel, equipment, and are used on searches.

Rescue 5 and 7 are flatbed trucks used for pulling our trailers.

Rescue 6 is a mobile cascade system. This is used to support fire departments and the water rescue team.

The Polaris Ranger and a Polaris ATV are used during wilderness rescues and searches. The ATV can pull our Mountain Goat Trailer, which is used to evacuate people from remote areas.

The team has three Snowcats used during winter storms to perform rescues and sweep the interstate during blizzards.

In addition to our "rolling equipment," the team has a mass casualty trailer, a building shoring and trench rescue trailer, and a mobile cascade trailer. The team also has a variety of trailers used to pull the Snowcats, Mattracks, and off-road vehicles.

Pennington County Search and Rescue is an all-volunteer search and rescue team. We are always looking for dedicated volunteers to be part of our team. For more information on how to join, please email us.

As a non-profit organization, we rely on generous donations from throughout the community to continue operating at maximum efficiency. If you would like to donate to PCSAR, you can do so electronically from our website or by mail to our PO Box.

