



# PCSAR Rescue Reporter

## Quarterly Feature

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On September 20<sup>th</sup>, Pennington County Search and Rescue held our 25<sup>th</sup> annual Open House. We began serving lunch at noon and served over 300 people. During the Open House we had several activities running at the same time including: knot tying, vertical rescue demonstrations, several displays, and the climbing wall for the kids. We demonstrated a vehicle extrication on a vehicle that was tipped on its side, the demonstration was as close as you will see to the real thing, without being involved in the accident yourself.



All of our team members had a blast welcoming our community into our station and showing off what it is that we do. We are extremely proud that we are 100% volunteer, and a lot of people don't realize that. The Open House gives us a chance to show people who we are, and educate them about the services we provide our community. We are marking this year's Open House down as another success and would like to thank the community for their continued support and our team members for making the Open House possible. It takes countless hours to organize this event and we could not do it if our team wasn't made up of the awesome members that we have!



**Team Goals**

The following goals have been set for 2014:

- Complete a replacement plan for Rescue 1
- 100% compliance on check sheets
- Maintain 50% of new recruits
- Establish a building replacement/addition plan
- Create working agreements with several agencies for mutual responses

**Team Leader's Corner**



Rounding out a busy summer, team members are getting ready for the upcoming snow season. We acquired a "new" snowcat this summer at no cost to the county through a Federal Surplus program. Sylvester is being outfitted for our needs and will be a great addition to the team (it's first appearance with the team was during the 2013 Winter Storm Atlas). In addition, we are making sure Taz and Tweety are ready to go by checking the tracks, doing routine maintenance, and making sure all of our equipment is loaded. We are also continuing the work on replacing Rescue 1, our truck used for vehicle and machinery extrication. We plan to have the chassis purchased this fall and will purchase a box in 2015, with the new truck in service by summer of 2015. This will allow our team quicker response with a vehicle that is safer and fits our ever-changing needs.

Lastly, I would like to send out a big thank you to our team for all their hard work putting together our Open House and 2014 Fundraiser. Their excellent planning and dedication made it a success

*~Tammy Stadel  
Team Leader*

**Events and Training**

**October**

- 7<sup>th</sup> – Business Meeting
- 14<sup>th</sup> – Trench Rescue Class
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Trench Rescue Practical
- 28<sup>th</sup> – Extrication Check Sheet

**November**

- 4<sup>th</sup> – Business Meeting
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Building Shoring Class
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Building Shoring Practical
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Driving Simulator

**December**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Business Meeting
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Party

Call Review		
Type	July - Sept	YTD
Cancelled	14	40
Extrication	4	14
Fire	1	6
Rescue	3	6
Search	1	3
Vertical	1	3
Water	-	1
Other	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>75</b>

## Operations Update

As summer was winding down, PCSAR was continuing to prepare, repair, and train. The last quarter brought us another snowcat courtesy of SD Wildland Fire - bringing our fleet to three. We are continuing to make repairs from damage sustained last winter during our record snowcat runs - they will be fully operational before the snow starts falling this winter. In between all the repair work, we finished painting our bays which wrapped up many years after construction was completed. Training was fairly light as we focused on some much needed housekeeping and prepared for our annual open house. In the middle of many gallons of paint flying and messy repairs taking place, we held another outstanding open house. This year, like previous, was a success due to the hard work of our team members and the support of the community.

~ Andy Tate

Assistant Team Leader - Operations

## Training Update

The summer is gone. Not sure where it went (sorry we can't find it) but it is gone.

Search and Rescue had a great summer of training and preparing for what might happen. So put the suntan lotion away, and look back with me on what we did.

July - Search and rescue finished up the annual navigation check sheets. I am happy to report that everyone's compass needle was sharp and true and was successful at finding the "lost trail tape". We also found more tape with the use of the GPS receivers. Readiness can be just as important as training time. We spent a night going through the equipment making sure it was mission ready. We also familiarized the newer people with the generators and light towers.

August - The warm month, with the Rally and Fair. We took this time to recharge our own batteries and answer emergency calls.

September- We had some stuff on our 'pallet' to help us move forward, so we had Forklift training. This helped us 'pick up' the station for our annual Open House.

We had a laid back night of running the cot in the back of Medic 1. When we are joined on scene by the Rapid City Fire Department's ambulances, quite often we get to search for something in the back of the medic unit. Medic 1 was nice enough to come over and give us a tour so we could help them out on scene.

We cut to the last Tuesday of training, Advanced Extrication. We practiced one of the more difficult kinds of extrication we do, a car on its roof. Using struts and air bags we stabilized the car and lifted it, as if there was a person trapped under it. Great job to those that were there, the success was uplifting.

Thanks for looking back on all of the training and hard work that the Search and Rescue Team has done. The end of the year is 'closing' in, so we are going to be 'trench rescuing' and 'shoring up' the rest of the year.

~ Jason Dannenbring  
Training Officer

