Summer School Student Tours

Students from the Rapid City Regional Hospital Summer School stopped in to our facility in June. Over the course of four days, students from Kindergarten through 5th grade participated in the Hug-A-Tree program and toured the facility. The Hug-A-Tree program teaches children to stay in place if lost so they will be easier to find and some basic skills to help them survive.

Making a foil cast of their shoe print for identification

One use for a garbage bag is a poncho for protection

How rescues are made on water or ice with an open ended Rapid Deployment Craft

Demonstration of airbags for lifting during vehicle extrications

Our snowcats are a favorite for most everyone. The kids take turns “driving” and preparing for a rescue with the tools stored on board

Awesome thank you poster received from the school!
Events and Training

Check Sheets
July-Aug – Navigation
September – Extrication

July
5th – Business Meeting
9th – Fundraiser
12th – GPS receivers
19th – Vertical Equipment
26th – No Training

August
2nd – Business Meeting
9th – No Training
16th – No Training
20th – Airport Open House
30th – No Training

September
6th – Business Meeting
10th – Day in the Life of SAR
11th – EM Disaster Awareness
13th – No Training
20th – Trench Rescue Classroom
27th – Trench Rescue Practical

Team Goals
The following goals have been set for 2016:

- Complete the replacement plan for vehicles, including to have a new Rescue 1 by 2017
- 100% compliance with checksheet completion
- Maintain a minimum of 25 trained and active members
- Have at least six members attend training outside the department, including the Homeland Security Conference and Instructor Training

Team Leader’s Corner
As the summer temps and activities warm up, the team has been busy. We are reaching the season where we will be at several public events and supporting many outdoor races, such as the Black Hills Fat Tire Festival where we helped Rapid City Fire in providing rescue standby.

We are also preparing for fire season. We currently have our large generator and one of our tow vehicles supporting a fire in Colorado. This is through a contract with SD Wildland Fire and brings funds back in to the county. These funds are used for purchasing and maintaining the equipment we use throughout the year. While we cannot count on this income annually, it is a nice supplement when available.

The team also assisted the Pine Ridge Agency with a recovery in May. Team members went down to mentor the command staff for a large-scale search and, two weeks later, when the vehicle and subjects were located, assisted with a technical rescue. The subjects had gone over an embankment and were trapped in the vehicle. The team lowered extrication equipment to the bottom of the ravine, removed the doors and seats, and did a low-angle scree to get the bodies and equipment to the top. While we were saddened by the outcome, we are always excited to provide technical services to other agencies. These agreements save money for all agencies involved by reducing the amount of duplication and, therefore, costs.

~Tammy Stadel
Team Leader

Call Review

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Training Update

Well, the last quarter has gone by fast. Finished up the ERT (Emergency Rescue Technician) Class and the State Fire Marshal came and gave the test to the class. Everyone survived and passed the test. Congratulations class!!!

Been working on the navigation check sheets, it is a nice time of year to be out hiking and using the GPS receivers and compasses.

There have been a lot of demos on how we cut cars apart in a motor vehicle accident. This has provided trainees and team members an opportunity to keep up on their skills. It is always nice to cut on cars and get our hands on the tools. But it is even more exhilarating when we can educate the public on what we do and show them our skills. Thanks to everyone that has stepped up and demonstrated our skills.

Looking forward at the calendar for the rest of the year there are some great hands-on training coming up. It is also very shocking on how little is left of the year, so hope we can make the best of the upcoming training. And for those of you that receive and read the training report, if you want to see some of the exciting training we do, come and see for yourself the hard work that this group of volunteers puts in.

~ Jason “JD” Dannenbring
Training Officer
Lost Person Search

For our annual team and family picnic we tried something new – pizza grilling!

Due to severe weather coming in, the picnic was moved to our barn.

PCSAR and PCSO planning during night operations.

Coordinating field activities.

Morning briefing before searchers head out to their assigned areas.

Black Hills Life Flight joins the search between their own calls for service.

Happy ending with the family and many agencies that participated in the search.

Fundraiser: sponsored by Blaze Pizza

There was a terrific turnout for the fundraiser at Blaze Pizza this year – near double of last year! Thank you to everyone who helped make a great event.

Saying good-bye to Andy after nine years of service to the community.

Team Member Levi and family.

Editor: Ellen, Assistant Team Leader - Administration

PCSAR Newsletter