

**DEL NORTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
SEARCH AND RESCUE**

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2020 revision**

Policies
&
Procedures

“Dedicated to Saving Lives”

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1. INTRODUCTION

This document deals primarily with, but is not limited to, the administrative aspect of Del Norte County Sheriff's Search and Rescue.

1.1. Responsibility. It is the responsibility of the Del Norte County Sheriff to provide search and rescue services to members of the general public within Del Norte County. This responsibility is in accordance with California Government Code Section 26614.

1.2. Definition. Search and Rescue (SAR) is defined as:

- a. Search: Means attempting to locate any person(s) who are overdue or missing. Including, but not limited to, the following examples:
 - (i) Missing deer hunter(s).
 - (ii) Overdue hiker(s).
 - (iii) Alzheimer's subject.
- b. Rescue: Means removing a person(s) from a hazardous situation in a known location. Including, but not limited to, the following examples:
 - (i) Vehicle over an embankment or cliff.
 - (ii) Stranded swimmer or kayaker.
 - (iii) Stranded rock climber.
 - (iv) Person(s) who have become injured due to a fall.
 - (v) Water related accidents where divers are needed.
- c. Miscellaneous duties as assigned by the Sheriff.

2. SAR CAPABILITIES

2.1. Function Capabilities. The Del Norte County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team is capable of performing functions including but not limited to:

- a. Ground Searches. To include ground searchers, mounted units, ATVs, aircraft, and dog teams.
- b. Technical Rescue: Any rescue where ropes and climbing hardware are necessary, including low angle and vertical rescues.
- c. Swiftwater Rescue: Any rescue where swiftwater techniques are necessary.
- d. Dive Rescue: Any rescue where SCUBA divers are needed.

3. DEPARTMENT CHAIN OF COMMAND

3.1. All Search and Rescue personnel will comply with the Del Norte County Sheriff's

Department Chain of Command.

- a. Sheriff.
- b. Undersheriff.
- c. Operations Lieutenant.
- d. SAR Coordinator.
- e. Assistant SAR Coordinator(s).
- f. Team Leaders.
- g. Assistant Team Leaders.
- h. Seniority within the general membership.

4. SELECTION CRITERIA FOR CHAIN OF COMMAND

4.1. The Chain of Command and Team Leaders

- a. SAR Coordinator: Appointed by Sheriff.
- b. Assistant SAR Coordinator(s): Appointed by SAR Coordinator.
- c. Team Leader: Appointed by SAR Coordinator upon Board recommendation.
- d. Considerations used in selecting Team Leaders:
 - (i) Overall knowledge of SAR operations to include:
 - (a) Searches for missing persons.
 - (b) Technical Rope Rescue.
 - (c) Swiftwater Rescue.
 - (d) Incident Command System.
 - (ii) Successful completion of Direction and Control of the Search Function.
 - (iii) Participation in:
 - (a) Assisting with fundraisers.
 - (b) Participation in public relations events.
 - (iv) Understanding and observing:
 - (a) Department Chain of Command.
 - (b) Department Policies and Procedures.
 - (c) SAR Team Policies and Procedures.
 - (v) Always maintaining the “Team Player” concept.
 - (vi) **DEDICATION** to the Del Norte County Sheriff's Department and the Search and Rescue Team.

4.2. Assistant Team Leader: Each Team Leader will select an assistant team leader who will be appointed by the SAR Coordinator.

5. GENERAL CONDUCT

- 5.1. Members of the Search and Rescue program will observe all rules and regulations of the Sheriff's Department, County of Del Norte, and SAR policies.
- 5.2. Search and Rescue (SAR) Team members are **NOT** to discuss outside the department, including social media, any cases, incidents, or information gained through Law Enforcement activities. This includes reports observed, records viewed, or any sources of information. Department information **STAYS** in the department. All information of this nature will remain confidential.
- 5.3. Search and Rescue Team members will not use their status as a member of the Sheriff's Department for the purpose of obtaining special privileges or services for themselves or others.
- 5.4. Search and Rescue members who, in any way, become injured in the course of duty must immediately report the injury to their immediate supervisor.
- 5.5. All orders, assignments, complaints, and requests must follow the chain of command.
- 5.6. All Search and Rescue Team members will be respectful to superiors.

6. DISCIPLINE

- 6.1. If any member by his/her act, willfully conducts himself/herself in a manner contrary to the interest of the Del Norte County Sheriff's Search and Rescue organization, its Policies and Procedures, the Policies and Procedures of the Del Norte County Sheriff's Department, or exhibits conduct unsavory to a public officer, he/she will be dealt with through the discipline process as outlined in the Del Norte County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Policies and Procedures.

7. TERMINATION/SUSPENSION

- 7.1. The terminating authority of this organization shall be the Board of Directors. Any action for termination shall follow the chain of command as presented in Section 3.1 and as outlined below.

- a. For termination of a team leader, the SAR Coordinator will present factual information to the Board supporting the recommendation for removal.
 - b. For termination of an assistant team leader, the team leader will present factual information first to the SAR Coordinator.
 - c. For termination involving a team member, factual information will be presented to the Board by the team leader and the SAR Coordinator.
- 7.2. A termination notice shall be sent by mail, prepaid, return receipt requested, to the most recent address of the member as shown on Search and Rescue records.
- a. The member being terminated shall be given an opportunity to be heard, either orally or in writing, at a hearing to be held at the regular Board of Directors meeting closest to the effective date of termination.
 - (i) The hearing will be held by the Board of Directors.
 - (ii) The time and date of the hearing will be indicated on the termination notice sent to the member.
 - (iii) If no response is received from the member being terminated by the date of the hearing, that member will have no further recourse.
 - b. Following the hearing, the Board of Directors shall decide whether or not the member should be terminated, suspended, or sanctioned in some other way.
- 7.3. The SAR Coordinator and the Operations Commander or Sheriff shall have the authority to terminate, suspend, or place the member on inactive status in matters that require immediate action.
- 7.4. The Sheriff will have final authority in terminating, suspending, or sanctioning any team member.

8. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

- 8.1. Any member of the Search and Rescue Team may request a leave of absence.
- a. A request for leave of absence must be written and presented to any member of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors must act on the request for Leave of Absence at the next regularly scheduled board meeting.
 - b. The maximum time a Leave of Absence may be granted is for six (6) months.
 - c. A maximum of three (3) Leaves of Absence may be granted in any five (5) year period, beginning from the time of the first Leave of Absence.
 - d. The SAR Coordinator shall have final approval on any requests for Leaves of Absence that do not follow the above procedures.

9. REQUIREMENTS FOR ACTIVE STATUS

9.1. Ground and Mounted Teams

- a. To remain on active status, team members must attend at least fifty percent (50%) of the scheduled training sessions. Eleven (11) Saturday training dates will be scheduled during the course of one (1) year, each set for the third Saturday of the month, with no training in the month of December. To maintain fifty percent (50%) attendance, team members must attend a minimum of six (6) Saturday trainings.

9.2. Dive Team

- a. Eight (8) training sessions will be scheduled during the course of one (1) year. Dive Team members must attend a minimum of four (4) of the eight (8) scheduled trainings to remain on the active list.

9.3. Dog Teams

- a. Twenty-Four (24) training sessions will be scheduled during the course of one (1) year. Dog Team Handlers must attend a minimum of twelve (12) of the twenty-four (24).

9.4. Outside Training

- a. Any search and rescue related training that is sponsored by another agency may count towards the fifty percent (50%) minimum to maintain active status.
- b. Attendance at any outside training as a representative of the Del Norte County Sheriff's Search and Rescue must be approved in advance by the Board of Directors and/or SAR Coordinator.
- c. Any reimbursement or funding for outside training must be approved by the Board of Directors in advance of the training, and if approved will be taken from SAR funds.

9.5. Training Compensation Time

- a. Volunteer hours for Search and Rescue that are outside of training or on call time can count towards completion of the 50% training attendance requirement at a 3:1 ratio.
- b. Volunteer tasks may include, but are not limited to the following: fundraising, public promotion, inventories, clean up, security details, maintenance or other activities deemed necessary for the support of Del Norte County Search and Rescue.
- c. Volunteer hours must be approved in advance if possible by the Board of Directors and/or SAR Assistant Coordinator(s) or Coordinator.
- d. Volunteer hours should not be used as a substitute for training hours, but as a tool to allow for some flexibility with training attendance.

9.6. Notification

- a. Training records will be monitored quarterly by the Board of Directors. Team leaders will be responsible for talking to members who are not meeting training attendance standards.
- b. Training records will be evaluated at the end of each fiscal year by the Board of Directors. Any team member with less than fifty percent (50%) attendance will be sent a Membership Status letter as a notice of intent to place their name on the inactive list ([see Attachment 8](#)). Any team member who receives a Notice of Intent must respond, either in writing or by verbal notification, to any Board member. The response must be received prior to the board meeting following receipt of the notice. If a response is received, the team member must attend two (2) consecutive trainings to remain active. If no response is received, the team member will be placed on Inactive Status. ([see Attachment 9](#))

10. CALL-OUTS

All team members must respond to a minimum of twenty percent (20%) of call-outs each year to remain active. Call-out attendance records will be evaluated at the end of each fiscal year. Exceptions may be granted by the Board on a case-by-case basis.

11. INACTIVE STATUS:

- 11.1. Notification: Any team member placed on Inactive Status will be notified in writing by mail. After notification of being placed on Inactive Status, the team member's name will be removed from the call-out list and any issued equipment and I.D. Cards must be turned in to a team leader or board member. ([see Attachment 9](#))
- 11.2. Regaining Active Status: Team members who have been placed on Inactive Status must attend three (3) consecutive trainings to return to active status. After verification by the Training Coordinator or Assistant SAR Coordinator that the requirement has been met, the team member's name will be placed back on Active Status and returned to the call-out list.
- 11.3. Time Limit: After being placed on Inactive Status, the team member will have one (1) year from time of notification to fulfill the requirement to be placed back on active status. If the team member does not meet the requirement to be placed on active status within the one (1) year time period, he/she will be dropped from the Search and Rescue Team.

- 11.4. Time Extension: If the team member is unable to meet the requirements to regain Active Status due to illness, family, or work related problems, the time period requirements to regain Active Status may be extended by the Board of Directors. The request to extend the time requirements must be made in writing or made orally at a Board of Directors meeting. The request to extend the time requirements must be made before the team member is terminated.

12. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

12.1. Board Positions

- a. SAR Coordinator
- b. 2 Assistant SAR Coordinator(s)
- c. President
- d. Vice President
- e. Secretary
- f. Treasurer
- g. Ground Team Leaders
- h. Auxiliary Team Leader(s)
- i. Training Coordinator

12.2. Elected Board Members

- a. President
- b. Vice President
- c. Secretary
- d. Treasurer

- 12.3. Nominations: Elected board members are nominated from the active membership. Notice of pending nominations and elections will be sent out in the form of an email in May. The election will be held during the June meeting. Only members who are on Active Status may vote.

- 12.4. Appointed Board Members: Appointed board positions are by recommendation of the Board of Directors with appointment by the SAR Coordinator. Criteria used in the selection of appointed positions will be the same as that in Section 4.

- 12.5. Duties of Board Members: duties may include but are not limited to the following:
- a. **President**: An elected position. Open the meeting, announce the business and order it is to be acted on. Vote only to break a tie. Responsible for signing all correspondence and will be a signer on the bank account. Is authorized to approve

expenditures up to \$1,000 if it is deemed an emergency, and will then notify any available board member of this action.

b. **Vice President:** An elected position. Serve in the absence of the president to conduct Board meetings. Maintain the training and events calendar. Facilitate information flow from the Board, which may take the form of print, social media or email. Will be a signer on the bank account.

c. **Secretary:** An elected position. Take minutes and keep a record of the board meetings, record actions taken by the board, record attendance of all present at board meetings. Arrange interviews for prospective member applicants. Monitor email correspondence. Maintain inventories and training records. Keep contact information current, and obtain information of new members. Keep the call-out list current. Will be a signer on the bank account.

d. **Treasurer:** An elected position. Keep all financial records, pay bills as directed by the Board, make deposits, and give a financial report at board meetings. Expend funds at the direction of the Board. Treasurer to be responsible for checkbook and debit card. Treasurer does not sign checks, although they are a signer on the account. File an annual report to the IRS.

e. **Training Coordinator:** Appointed by SAR Coordinator. Provide a training plan for advanced approval by the SAR Coordinator. Plan monthly training, and secure the instructors and site for training. Notify the vice president of the training schedule and possible changes. Send notification reminders of training one week prior to training. Auxiliary Team training records shall be kept by the individual Auxiliary Team Leaders and a copy given to the Training Coordinator. Will be a signer on the account.

f. **Team Leaders:** Appointed by SAR Coordinator. Participate in Board meetings. Make regular contact with team members.

g. **SAR Coordinator:** Appointed by Sheriff. Participate in Board meetings, liaison between Board and Department.

h. **Assistant SAR Coordinator(s):** Appointed by SAR Coordinator. Serves as SAR Coordinator in their absence. Will be a signer on the bank account.

12.6. Quorum: A quorum will exist when five (5) Board members are present.

12.7. Proxies: Every Board member shall be entitled to vote at a board meeting. This vote may be in person or by written proxy.

a. The written or emailed proxy must be signed by the Board member and delivered to another Board member prior to the meeting.

12.8. Funds: All expenditure of funds will be done by a simple majority vote of the board. Any person authorized as a check signer may not sign a check that is payable to them.

13. ELECTION POLICIES

- 13.1. Term of Office: Each elected office is held for a two (2) year term. Should an office be vacant for any reason before the end of a term, the position will be filled for the remainder of the term by Board appointment.
- 13.2. Annual Elections: President and Treasurer positions are elected in even numbered years; Vice President and Secretary in odd numbered years.
- 13.3. Nominating Committee: A nominating committee will be formed prior to the May board meeting to prepare a ballot for the board positions to be filled for that year. The ballot will be presented to the membership and nominations taken from the membership present. Voting will be done during the June Training/Business session by the membership present. Absentee ballots will be made available upon request to the Secretary. No names will be placed on the ballot without the nominee's consent.

14. MEETINGS

- 14.1. Board Meeting: Board of Directors meetings will be held on the first Thursday evening of each month, prior to the first Friday regular training, at the Del Norte County SAR Station. Board meetings will be called to order and conducted by the President.
- 14.2. Training Meetings:
 - a. Regular Training meetings will be held on the first and third Friday evenings and the Saturday morning after the third Friday training of each month as scheduled. Trainings will be held at a predetermined location, generally the DN SAR station. Any variations from this schedule will be posted on the training calendar.
 - b. Auxiliary Team training will be held as scheduled.
 - c. Dog trainings will be held as scheduled.
- 14.3. Business Meetings: Business meetings will be held during the first half hour of the regular Saturday training meeting.
- 14.4. Special Meetings: Special meetings of the Board of Directors for any purpose may be called at any time by any Board member.
 - a. The member calling the special meeting shall notify the other Board members by any method available.

- (i) Phone
- (ii) In person verbally
- (iii) In writing
- (iv) By email
- (v) By paging SAR tone (all) if the nature of the special meeting is very urgent.

15. SEARCH AND RESCUE MEMBER OF THE YEAR

15.1. Each year a Search and Rescue Team member who has demonstrated exemplary behavior will be given the honor of SAR Member of the Year.

a. Criteria

- (i) Member in good standing for a full fiscal year.
- (ii) Be a willing volunteer on extra projects.
- (iii) Above average attendance.
- (iv) Be a “Team Player.”
- (v) Appearance – appropriate uniform.
- (vi) Good call-out attendance.
- (vii) Past SAR members of the Year will be excluded in a runoff situation.

16. UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

16.1. **Formal Dress Uniform (ceremony / events):**

Footwear: Shineable black boots or shoes.

Pants: Black military style BDU's (or similar)

Over Shirt: Red, Dickie’s brand (or similar), long sleeve button up, with uniform patches as follows:

- a. Sheriff’s Department SAR patch on left sleeve.
- b. Name tag, first initial and last name, yellow letters on black, over right pocket.
- c. SAR Star over left pocket.
- d. Team patch on right shoulder (star of life patch for medical team, K9 patch for K9 team, etc).

Under Shirt: Plain black crew neck t-shirt.

* May alternatively be issued a shirt for specific events, such as a security detail.

** Class A Coat permissible in cold weather.

16.2. **Class A (out of area callouts):**

Footwear: Boots or hiking/approach shoes

Pants: Black military style BDU's (or similar)

T-Shirt: SAR issued t-shirt, red or hi-vis yellow

Coat: 5.11 - SAR issued - dual layers, storm shell and fleece. Patch configuration on fleece layer same as Formal Dress Over Shirt - velcroed.

Hat(optional): Black pro-fit cap, SAR Star front and center, last name in yellow letters on back

16.3. Class B (training / in area, hasty call outs)

Footwear: Boots or hiking/approach shoes

Pants: Any color (no shorts)

Overshirt: Long or short sleeved button up, red.

Polo: Red, SAR Star on left breast, first initial and last name on right breast, yellow letters

T-Shirt: Red or Hi-Vis Yellow, plain or SAR issued.

Coat: Red or Hi-Vis Yellow, plain or SAR issued.

Hat: Any style, Black, Red, or Hi-Vis Yellow, plain or SAR issued.

*May integrate anything from Formal Dress or Class A uniforms.

16.4. Other Gear: Hi-Vis Yellow Vest: SAR issued, to be worn on all roadside calls

Helmet: Red: SAR Members, Blue: NorthCoast certified EMT / Paramedic, White: Coordinator

Radio Harness: Black, Tan, or Red

Tactical Vest(optional): For rope rescue / medical, intended to be worn under a full body harness. Black mesh vest - molle compatible, pouches on front to balance weight of a backpack med kit.

Pants: In place of black BDU's, similar styles can be substituted, such as black ACU's w/ knee pads for the ropes team, or black multi-pocket EMS style pants for the medical team.

17. EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS ([see Attachment 13](#))

17.1. Hasty Search Pack:

17.2. Day Search Pack:

17.3. Overnight Search Pack:

18. GROOMING STANDARDS

18.1. All Search and Rescue Team members will abide by Sheriff's Department grooming standards. SAR personnel may wear beards if they are neat, clean looking, and well maintained.

19. REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCEPTANCE

- 19.1. Requirements for acceptance to the Del Norte County Sheriff's Search and Rescue team shall be:
- a. File an application form as provided at the Sheriff's Office. ([see Attachment 1](#))
 - b. At least eighteen (18) years old or older at the time of application.
 - c. Be a citizen or national of the United States; an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, or authorized by the Immigration and Naturalization Service to work in the United States.
 - d. Pass an oral interview. ([See Attachments 2A, 2B, 3, 5](#))
 - e. Pass a background investigation using POST guidelines. ([see Attachment 14, 6](#))
 - f. No felony convictions.
 - g. Attend one (1) Board of Directors meeting.
 - h. Attend two (2) Saturday training meetings, or the equivalent number of Friday trainings with two (2) Friday trainings counting as one (1) Saturday training.
 - i. Unanimous vote of the Board of Directors.
- 19.2. Time Limits: If the prospective member does not fulfill the requirements for acceptance within a five (5) month time period, they will be notified, in writing or verbally, that they must attend the next regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting to state their intentions. If they do not attend the meeting they will be dropped from the application process. ([see Attachment 15](#))
- a. The time period may be extended by the Board of Directors if special circumstances exist.
- 19.3. Acceptance: If the applicant is accepted, his/her name will be added to the active roster following approval by the Sheriff.
- 19.4. Rejection: If the applicant is rejected, he/she will be sent a letter of rejection. ([see Attachment \)](#)
- 19.5. Probation:
- a. The time of probation for all new members will be twelve (12) months.
- 19.6. Notification: All notifications shall be done in a timely manner.
- 19.7. Sheriff: The Sheriff will have the authority to either accept or reject the applicant.

20. AUXILIARY TEAM or NON-DEPARTMENT TEAM MEMBERSHIP

20.1. To qualify as a membership unit (air wing, 4-wheel drive club, explorer post, etc.), a group of members, or applicants for membership, must petition the Board of Directors in writing while complying with the following:

- a. Name of the unit.
- b. Provide a membership roster.
- c. Select among themselves a person to represent the unit at Board meetings.
 - (i) The unit representative will participate in SAR Board meetings, but would not be a voting member of the Search and Rescue Board of Directors.
- d. Provide a statement of "Purpose of Function."
- e. Accept and adhere to the Policies and Procedures of the Del Norte County Sheriff's Search and Rescue and the Policies and Procedures of the Del Norte County Sheriff's Department as they apply to non-department membership.
- f. Provide a list of special skills qualifications for members.

20.2. The Board of Directors shall, upon receiving a petition, act upon it at the first regularly scheduled Board meeting to determine whether to accept or reject the petition.

- a. If the petition is accepted by the Board of Directors, a written memo will be sent to the Sheriff for final approval or rejection.
- b. A notice of the final decision by the Department will be sent by pre-paid mail, return receipt requested, to the address of the member in charge of the petitioning unit as indicated on the petition.
- c. A rejected petition may be resubmitted after any discrepancies have been corrected by the petitioning unit.

21. JOB REQUIREMENTS

21.1. Assistant Coordinators

- a. Meet all requirements for acceptance as outlined in Section 19.1.
- b. Have the skills to oversee any of the teams.
- c. Be able to act in place of the Coordinator.

21.2. Ground Team

- d. Meet all requirements for acceptance as outlined in Section 19.1.
- e. Be able to help move equipment or assist in a material way during search or rescue operations.
- f. Be willing to work at all hours of the day under hazardous conditions, including steep, bushy, and rainy conditions without logistical support.

- g. Must have the ability to secure health and safety items needed for ground search operations as detailed in the SAR Plan. e. Obtain and keep current certification in CPR and Basic First Aid from a recognized training organization.

21.3. Mounted Team ([see Attachment 10](#))

- a. Meet all requirements for acceptance as outlined in Section 19.1.
- b. Meet requirements as listed for the Ground Team.
- c. No one will be considered for membership in the mounted team unless they own or have unlimited access to a horse, horse trailer, and towing vehicle.
- d. No horse will be used in the field until it has been qualified.
- e. No one will be considered for membership in the mounted team unless they are an advanced, or intermediate rider, and anyone who is not physically fit will not be considered.
- f. Exhibit proficient horsemanship and trail manners.
- g. Exhibit the ability to handle a horse trailer or stock truck.
 - (i) Requirements for Vehicle: Pass an inspection for proper lights, brakes, and safety.

21.4. Dive Team

- a. Meet all requirements for acceptance as outlined in Section 19.1.
- b. Show proof of certification from a recognized organization.
- c. Maintain dive log book of all dives.
- d. In order to perform Dive Rescue, team members must demonstrate proficiency to the satisfaction of the Dive Team Leader.
- e. Be willing to work at all hours of the day under hazardous conditions, including deep water, poor visibility, and swift water. f. Obtain and keep current certification in CPR and Basic First Aid from a recognized training organization.

21.5. Swiftwater Rescue

- a. Certification from an accredited swiftwater rescue course is recommended.

21.6. Technical Rescue

- a. In order to perform Technical Rope Rescue, team members must demonstrate proficiency in:
 - (i) Knots and Technical Rope Rescue hardware.
 - (ii) Raising and lowering systems.
 - (iii) Anchor systems.
 - (iv) Rappelling.
- b. Possess certificate from an accredited technical rescue course.
 - (i) If the team member does not have a certificate, they must attend technical rope rescue trainings provided by the Del Norte County Sheriff's Search and Rescue and demonstrate proficiency before being able to participate in "over-the-side operations."

(ii) Level of proficiency will be determined by the Technical Rope Instructor and SAR Coordinator.

21.7. Dog Teams (see Attachment 11)

- a. Meet all requirements for acceptance as outlined in Section 19.1.
- b. Maintain a log book of regular trainings.
- c. Maintain sign offs and keep certifications current.

21.8. OHV (see Attachment 12)

- a. Off Highway Vehicle teams would include any off road motorized vehicle used in the search operation. These vehicles would include, but not be limited to: Four Wheel drive vehicles, Motorcycles, All Terrain Vehicles, Snowmobiles, Snow Cats, Dune Buggies, Sand Rails, Military Vehicles and any implement defined under CVC 38006 and 38012.
- b. OHV team members should have at the minimum, the personal gear consistent with the ground searcher.
- c. OHV operation and skill level is vehicle specific. Teams should train regularly in the operation of the equipment assigned to the OHV team. Members should complete an Off Road Vehicle Safety/Operation course and a course specific to the vehicle operated.

21.9. Support Team

- a. Meet all requirements for acceptance as outlined in Section 19.1.
- b. Participate in non- emergency activities such as fundraising, public promotion, inventories, clean up, security details, maintenance or other activities deemed necessary for the support of Del Norte County Search and Rescue.
- c. To remain on active status, team members must attend at least fifty percent (50%) of the scheduled training sessions and/or the equivalent number of training compensation time as outlined in section 9.5. Training compensation hours should be approved in advance by the Board of Directors and/or SAR Coordinator.

22. SAFETY

22.1. The safety of all Search and Rescue volunteers is of the highest priority.

- a. No Search and Rescue member should enter a situation in which their safety is in question or in which they feel they don't have the expertise.
- b. There shall always be a minimum of 2 team members in any deployment situation.
- c. Ropes and associated equipment shall be inspected no less than 2 times per year.
- d. Deficiencies of any inspected Search and Rescue equipment, such as a vehicle, ropes, equipment etc, which could result in a safety issue, should be immediately reported to the Coordinator and its use discontinued until the deficiency is remedied.

- e. Any injury that is incurred during an operational incident or a scheduled and approved training should be immediately reported to the Coordinator.

23. RESPONDING TO CALL OUTS

23.1. Members responding in personal vehicles shall abide by the Vehicle Code. Department vehicles will only run Code 3 when directed to do so, and then only by those personnel that have had EVOC training.

24. DEL NORTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

24.1. The Policies and Procedures in this manual pertain specifically to the Search and Rescue Team. If an item is not covered in this manual, refer to regular department policies and procedures, which are available from the SAR Coordinator upon request.

Search and Rescue

Dedicated to Saving Lives

The Del Norte County Sheriff's Department Search and Rescue Policies and Procedures have been reviewed and accepted by:

Date: _____

Erik Apperson, Sheriff-Coroner

Date: _____

Ed Fleshman, SAR Coordinator

Scanned signature page found in:
[2020 revise SAR Policies](#)