



# Surrey Search and Rescue

C/O 8767 132<sup>nd</sup> Street, Surrey B.C. V3W 4P1

## Information for Applicants to the Surrey Search and Rescue Team

### General Information

Surrey Search and Rescue is comprised of both male and female members, who respond to approximately 20 to 30 calls a year both locally as well as, providing mutual aid to other SAR teams. The Surrey Search and Rescue Team is a registered charitable non-profit society, and is administered by elected Executive Officers for the overall operation of team affairs. These include budgeting, management of accounts, equipment, training, and other key activities. Surrey Search and Rescue takes pride in offering a vital community service and, in addition to its search and rescue activities, participates regularly in a number of community events. The team also presents public information and education programs throughout the year to schools, youth organizations and other interested groups

### Application Procedure

Applications are received throughout the year with interviews carried out in spring. Short listed candidates are interviewed to confirm their qualifications and general suitability as Team members. The team's normal compliment of members is around 40 members. Recruitment of new personnel will generally reflect the need to maintain an adequate strength to fulfill the Team's responsibilities. New members are brought on to the team as (MIT's) Members in Training for a probationary period of one year. During this period MIT's may be called upon to assist with Team operations.

### Applicant Requirements and Skills

Prospective members require a valid OFA level 1 certificate (or higher). You must be physically fit, have good familiarity with the local parks and their trails, have adequate personal equipment that will allow you to operate safely and effectively in all types of weather for at least a 24 hour period. A willingness to purchase equipment you are lacking over a reasonable period of time.

### Time Commitment

This point cannot be emphasized enough. The team will consume a very large portion of your free time. Training is every Thursday evening except for the last one in each month. There is also at least one Saturday or Sunday a month, plus special courses, e.g. Tracking Awareness.

Other requirements are: participation in public education and fundraising. Then, there is the callouts, which can occur anytime, 24 hours a day, 365 days year and in any kind of weather or terrain.

### Training

Team training runs throughout the year. MIT's must complete a one-year probationary period. Upon completion, members who meet the requirements of the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) in Ground Search and Rescue may apply for active membership. All members are expected to attend the Thursday night training sessions and the occasional weekend training session and hold a 60% attendance or loss their membership good standing.

### Surrey Search and Rescue Team Role

The role of the Surrey Search and Rescue Team includes the following:

1. Assisting policing agencies and the BC Ambulance Service in the search and rescue of missing and injured persons;
2. Assisting municipal fire departments in the rescue of trapped or injured persons;
3. Assisting policing agencies and the Provincial Coroner's Service in body recovery operations;
4. Assisting municipal, provincial, and federal agencies in search, rescue, communications, and other roles during civil emergencies;
5. Promoting education in outdoor recreational safety, first aid, and search and rescue techniques.

Although they are volunteers, the life saving service provided by the members of the Surrey Search and Rescue Team requires that they maintain the standards of unpaid professionals in assisting municipal, provincial, and federal agencies.