

Search and Rescue Volunteer Association of Canada



Prevention & Emergency Management Programs Rust-Proofing Volunteers

September 27, 2010 • Montreal, QC

sarvac.ca

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Overview

- Volunteer perspective:
 - Programs delivered
 - Program results
- National perspective :
 - Programs offered
 - Program results and their impact
 - Why GSAR volunteers well suited for these roles
- Questions



Volunteer Perspective

Prevention

- Rovers GSAR have primarily delivered the Hug-A-Tree and Survive as well as Transport Canada's Boating Safety Program
- As of fall 2009 – integrated Survive Outside, AdventureSmart program
- Target audience
 - Scout and Guide groups
 - Elementary and primary grades
 - Other service groups and industry



Volunteer Perspective

Prevention

- Typical year 1000+ person hours with a 50/50 split between Hug-A-Tree and Boating Safety
- Approximately 90% of team members are involved in some form of prevention activity
- Resources
 - Partner supplied activity books, video and safety pamphlets
 - Provide groups with supplemental list of emergency supplies
 - Show and tell.



Volunteer Perspective

Emergency Management

- Rovers GSAR have been involved in many civil emergencies
 - 911
 - Floods
 - Large scale fires
 - Exercises
- Involved at the Municipal and Provincial levels.



Volunteer Perspective

Emergency Management

- Typical areas of involvement include:
Security – Command - Logistics
- It is important for SAR Managers and team members to have an understanding of emergency management
- Team brings a command post, radios, medical equipment, generators, 4x4s, and trained personnel who follow a structure.



Program Results

Direct results:

- Bringing awareness for the safe enjoyment of the outdoors as well as providing basic skills
- Develop team members presentation skills
- Provide support and capacity to municipal and regional governments for emergency response
- During times of low callouts – keep the membership engaged, it is an opportunity to contribute



Program Results

Indirect results:

- Opportunity for senior team members to remain involved
- Community exposure
 - Opportunity to network with regional governments, government agencies ,industry and community organizations
 - Opportunity for support that can come in many forms



National Perspective Prevention

- 2009 – SARVAC in conjunction with the NSS began the role out of the AdventureSmart program across Canada
- Core components:

AdventureSmart.ca



Program Results

Prevention

- Since April 2009 program has been delivered to 14,500 Canadians resulting in 1,500 volunteer hours
- Provided basic survival skills to children 5-12 yrs
- Provided awareness to safety in the outdoors
- Provided awareness on the Search and Rescue community in Canada



National Perspective

Emergency Management

- Currently, no formal GSAR coordinated activity for Emergency Management
- SARVAC has begun to investigate GSAR's role in Emergency Management and to work with national stakeholders to promote our capacity and capability
- There is a place for GSAR on the national scene



National Perspective

What does it take to build a national program

- Training
 - Instructors, manuals and support
- Coordination/Administration
 - Web site / data base
- Funding/sponsorship
 - Administration
 - Insurance



Program Results

- Exposure of the Search and Rescue community to:
 - Canadians
 - National stakeholders
- Statistics:
 - Evidence of GSARs reach
 - Evidence of GSARs ability to deliver a national program
 - Cost effective



National Perspective

- GSAR volunteers are a natural fit because:
 - **Capacity** - available in communities across Canada and there exists a defined structure
 - **Capability** - Skilled and trained resources that are experts in the field of outdoor activities and are self-sufficient for 48 hours



Search and Rescue Volunteer Association of Canada



Questions

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