

Who is PCSAR?

Pennington County Search and Rescue (PCSAR) is a non-profit, all-volunteer organization with a focus of saving lives within Pennington County and the surrounding communities. Team members are dedicated individuals from within the community and train to respond to various hazards as rescue professionals.

Formed after the devastating flood of 1972, PCSAR has responded to thousands of rescues from Black Hills to the Badlands. PCSAR team members are trained in vehicle and machinery extrication, vertical rescue, search, wilderness rescue, mass casualty, trench rescue, emergency building shoring, winter rescue, and fire and dive support. We are on call 24-hours a day, 365 days a year and respond to an average of 80 calls per year.

As an all-volunteer organization, many of our team members have careers and cannot respond to each and every call. We do not require team members to be available at specific times but rather to respond when their schedule allows. We meet on Tuesday evenings each week with the first Tuesday of the month being our business meeting and the subsequent Tuesday's being used for training.

Support Search and Rescue...

GET LOST!

Why join PCSAR?

There are many benefits of being a member of Pennington County Search and Rescue. Our team members are very dedicated rescue professionals serving the community at a moment's notice. Not only are we an elite rescue team, but our team members become a family and work next to other agencies from around the region.

- As a member of PCSAR, you will learn how to assist those during their time of need.
- You will learn life skills such as leadership and team work.
- You will receive state and national certifications and have opportunities to attend courses such as those offered by the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Maryland.
- You will become friends with people sharing similar interests and hobbies.
- You will be part of the emergency services family.

PCSAR hosts an annual search dog exercise where you get to work alongside some of the most talented K-9 search teams in the nation.

PCSAR has an annual winter campout where you will have the opportunity to operate our winter operations equipment such as Snowcats and Mattracks.

And, when you become a team member, you get a free PCSAR polo shirt!

Pennington County Search and Rescue...

*A non-profit, professional,
volunteer organization
dedicated to training for and
providing search and rescue
services...*

So that others may live.

Recruitment Information



140 E Main North
PO Box 391
Rapid City, SD 57701

605.394.2185

www.pc-sar.com
penncosar@gmail.com

How to join...

1. Meet our team – Come down to our station and meet our team on a Tuesday evening. The first Tuesday of the month is the best night but you are welcome to come down on any Tuesday. We will give you a tour of our facility, show you our equipment, and answer any questions you may have.
2. Fill out an application – It only takes a few minutes and can be taken with you or filled out on the spot. After we get your application, we will run a background check as per county requirements. At this point, you will be added to our roster as a new recruit and can start training with us.
3. Come train with us! – This is the fun part where you learn to do what we do. Trainings are posted on the calendar on our website and are updated regularly. Emails are sent out with updates and any pertinent information (so make sure you add penncosar@gmail.com to your “safe” list!). Because this is a volunteer organization, we understand you may not be able to make every training and will do our best to accommodate make-up classes. We do ask you to make every attempt to be in attendance during the hands-on classes, as they are difficult to make up.
4. Compete your training – After you have completed all of the necessary training, you will have a three-month probationary period to complete skills check sheets.
5. Become a team member – Upon completion of your skills check sheets, you will be voted on the team as a full member. You will receive a PCSAR polo shirt and will have full voting privileges.

All trainings are completed in-house on Tuesday evenings with an occasional weekend class. Upon completion, PCSAR new recruits will have the necessary skills to work on an emergency scene.

FUNSAR

The Fundamentals of Search and Rescue course is designed by NASAR (the National Association of Search and Rescue) and is taught to the national level by experienced PCSAR personnel. This course covers topics such as search management and search tactics. During the FUNSAR class, students will learn navigation skills necessary for search and will learn the necessary items to carry in their packs for wilderness survival.



RESCUE TECHNICIAN

The South Dakota Rescue Technician course is a hands-on course designed to teach students the fundamentals of technical rescue, including vehicle extrication, vertical rescue, trench rescue, and emergency building shoring. Students will complete several rescue practicals where they will learn the skills necessary to perform these technical rescues, including wearing the proper personal protective equipment and how to use a wide variety of tools and equipment.

MISCELLANEOUS CLASSES

EVOC – The emergency vehicle operations course is designed to familiarize students with how the PCSAR vehicles drive and feel as well as to educate students on the laws for driving emergency vehicles and response protocols.

Helicopter Operations – This class is taught by Black Hills Lifeflight and teaches safety while working around helicopters, loading patients, and landing zone guidelines.

Communications – This class includes hands-on use of emergency service radios, discussion of proper radio protocol, and a tour of the Rapid City/Pennington County Dispatch Center.