

Training Standards for New Recruits

Expectations

As a new recruit with Pennington County Search and Rescue, you are expected to:

- Represent PCSAR in a profession and respectful manner
- Actively participate in trainings
- Be on time for training to begin and return after breaks
- Attend business meetings when available
- Attend advanced trainings and participating in workdays, other activities, and cleanup as time allows

Upon completion of training, team members are expected to:

- Represent PCSAR in a professional and respectful manner
- Actively participate in trainings
- Be on time for training to begin and return after breaks
- Attend business meetings
- Respond to calls when available
- Participate in other activities, including parades and county meetings, as time allows

Training Requirements

All PCSAR new recruits are required to complete the classes listed below before they are voted on the team as a probationary team member. During this three-month probationary period, probationary members are required to complete three skills check sheets; if the check sheets are not complete in that three month period, but the member has been actively participating, they will be issued an extension. If no attempt has been made to complete the check sheets, the member will meet with the officer's and determine the best course of action.

- Complete an interview with the team (either the officers or a selected committee)
- Complete FUNSAR course
- Complete Rescue Technician course and pass the written exam with a 70%
- Complete other required classes
 - Communications
 - Helicopter operations
 - Winter survival
 - Team standards and by-laws
 - Cascade system and operations
 - Emergency vehicle operations course
- Complete three check sheets during probationary period
 - Vertical rescue
 - Vehicle extrication

- Navigation (map and compass and GPS)

Throughout training, new recruits are encouraged to actively participate in other activities and trainings taking place at PCSAR. New recruits will be issued pagers and radios when they have shown a desire to be part of the team by showing up regularly for trainings and actively participating.

Training Standards

PCSAR will train all new recruits to the currently recognized standard as set forth by the State of South Dakota Fire Marshal's Office for the Rescue Technician course. This includes completion of all hands-on practicals and a score of 70% or greater on the written exam.

The Fundamentals of Search and Rescue class will be taught to meet the national standard. There is no written exam required for team members. Any individual who has fully participated in the course and wishes to test for the National Association of Search and Rescue (NASAR) SARTECH II certification shall be properly prepared upon completion of the course taught by PCSAR.

Special Interests

Many people joining PCSAR have a special interest in a specific area of rescue PCSAR performs. All team members are required to be trained to the same standard and to complete the same training; however, there are many opportunities for new recruits and team members to specialize in an area of rescue. There are often classes offered in the area with specialization in Hybrid vehicle extrication, machinery extrication, and grain bin rescue. In addition, PCSAR does advanced level rescue courses in vertical rescue, trench rescue, building collapse, and swiftwater rescue. There are opportunities to become a proficient navigator for search dogs and to work with teams from throughout the area.

If you have a specific interest, the training officer will work with you to try to increase your knowledge in that area.