

Crook County
SEARCH AND RESCUE PLAN
(Last Revision: 08-12-2008)

Risk Assessment and Hazard Analysis

Crook County is a central Oregon county of approximately 3,000 square miles. Its topography is quite varied, ranging from the forested mountains in the east to the more arid high desert country to south and west. Prineville is Crook County's only incorporated municipality. There are also the unincorporated communities of Post, Paulina and Powell Butte. Crook County's last population estimate was 25,585. With Central Oregon being a major tourism destination, and with the numerous recreational opportunities available locally, it is not uncommon, during a major holiday weekend, for there to be an additional 10,000 to 20,000 additional people to be in Crook County.

There are numerous lakes within Crook County, of varying sizes, as well as the Crooked River. The Crooked River below Bowman dam contains a number of rapids and irrigation diversion structures.

The Ochoco National Forest, which also includes the Mill Creek Wilderness area, covers approximately 1 million acres of land, mostly in the eastern part of the county. BLM lands, in the southern region of the county, account for approximately 750,000 acres.

Within Crook County, there are many recreational opportunities, varied enough that SAR calls are possible 365 days of the year. These opportunities include, but are not limited to, camping, mountain biking, hiking, horseback riding, ATV/motorcycle riding, skiing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, swimming, kayaking, rafting, boating, hunting and fishing. There are also numerous caves and mines located within the county.

Crook County is bordered to the north by Jefferson County, to the east by Wheeler County, and Grant County, to the south by Harney County, and Deschutes County to the west and south.

I. PURPOSE:

This plan is issued pursuant to ORS 401.573 and is in accordance with ORS 401.355 through ORS 401.580. Its purpose is to:

- Establish local Search and Rescue policies;
- Describe procedures;
- List and describe materials, equipment and personnel;
- Define local Search and Rescue activity;

- Identify volunteer organizations and the procedure for contacting them;
- Identify outside resources and procedures for contacting them for assistance;
- Establish and maintain minimum standards for Search and Rescue personnel.

Use of this plan will provide guidance for the response to local Search and Rescue incidents and enhance the effectiveness, efficiency and safety of local Search and Rescue operations.

II. AUTHORITY:

- ORS 401.560 provides that the Sheriff of Crook County is responsible for Search and Rescue activities within Crook County. The Sheriff has delegated that authority to the Commander of the Special Services Division, hereafter referred to as the **SAR Coordinator**. That authority can be further delegated to one of the three other paid and volunteer "assistant" coordinator staff within the Special Services Division on a rotational "on call" basis.
- The SAR Coordinator may create policies and procedures governing the appointment, training, certification and deployment of personnel, the use of facilities, and the purchase, care and use of equipment.
- The SAR Coordinator or his designee may respond to mutual aid requests as necessary, notifying the Sheriff or Undersheriff as soon as possible.
- The SAR Coordinator may enter into informal agreements with other counties and agencies, but formal memorandums of understandings must be approved by the Sheriff.

Crook County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization with 501 (c) (3) status that accepts contributions and purchases materials and services for the volunteer members of CCSOSAR. All other vehicles, equipment and the SAR Center facility are the property of Crook County.

III. SITUATION:

ORS 401.615: Assumption of risk of wilderness travel or mountain climbing

This statute provides that, "*An individual who engages in wilderness travel or mountain climbing accepts and assumes the inherent risks...*". People may become lost, and/or injured, or find themselves in need of rescue from remote and inaccessible areas or from natural and man-made hazards. Crook County has numerous recreational and hazardous venues that present frequent opportunities for people to require Search and Rescue services. Those venues include mountains, cliffs, snow, glaciers, forests, canyons, rivers, lakes, caves, lava fields and deserts. Fire evacuation and body recoveries from remote and inaccessible areas are also SAR responsibilities.

IV: GENERAL OPERATIONAL POLICIES:

- A. Crook County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue (hereafter referred to as "**CCSOSAR**") will provide and maintain adequate facilities, equipment, personnel, training and an annual budget to meet the mandate of the Sheriff to provide Search and Rescue services in Crook County;
- B. CCSOSAR volunteers will meet the Oregon State Sheriff's Association (OSSA) minimum standards for SAR certification, plus any CCSOSAR training and certification standards that may be "above and beyond" the OSSA standards;
- C. CCSOSAR will be notified on all incidents of lost, missing or overdue persons and those in need of rescue services;
- D. CCSOSAR will maintain open communications with all of the Fire Districts in Crook County to establish responsibilities, authority, policies, procedures and communications;
- E. In cases where a **rescue** call is received within a designated local Fire District, CCSOSAR will establish a joint Incident Command with the lead Fire Incident Commander, and the rescue will be conducted accordingly. This is especially true in Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) scenarios, including confined space rescues, etc.
- F. In cases where a **search** occurs, CCSOSAR will be the lead agency, and will establish a joint Incident Command with any other resources and/or agencies.
- G. CCSOSAR will place a high priority on children who are reported overdue, lost, missing or injured;
- H. CCSOSAR will not knowingly place staff and/or volunteers in positions of unreasonable risks to provide service to those in trouble;
- I. CCSOSAR volunteer members who meet training standards and experience established by the SAR Coordinator may be appointed to act in the capacity of *Volunteer Coordinator*;
- J. CCSO Special Services paid staff and CCSOSAR volunteers will not accept gifts or gratuities personally. Contributions in the form of donated equipment, monetary gifts, etc., which will be adequately documented, may be made to Crook County Sheriff's Search and Rescue, Inc. which has 501 (c) (3) status;
- K. In order to operate a SAR vehicle under emergency response conditions, operators must have completed an initial Crook County Sheriff's Office-approved Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC), along with annual refresher trainings;
- L. Emergency response conditions will be authorized by the either the SAR Coordinator, one of his designees or the duty Watch Commander, and only in life-threatening

situations where time is clearly a life-saving factor;

- M. While CCSOSAR personnel may become involved in urban-interface fire evacuations, those personnel will not be deployed to actively fight fires;
- N. CCSOSAR personnel and assets may be deployed outside Crook County at any time mutual aid is requested;
- O. CCSOSAR will be involved in community education and training, by either conducting community education programs, designing and publishing of informational brochures, or posting information on the Sheriff's website, as time and resources permit;
- P. Reimbursement may be sought by the Sheriff upon recommendation by the SAR Coordinator if the incident meets the standards established by ORS 401.590;
- Q. Suspension of a search for a missing person will be referred to the Sheriff for a decision upon the recommendation of the SAR Coordinator;
- R. CCSOSAR will operate under the NIMS system. All members of Crook County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue will obtain the appropriate NIMS certifications for their position(s) within the organization.

V. PROCEDURES (Generally):

- A. Calls for SAR assistance will generally be received through Prineville/Crook County 911. Upon receipt of a SAR call, 911 personnel will notify both the on-call SAR Coordinator and the on-duty or on-call patrol supervisor.
- B. The SAR Coordinator, his designee or one of the volunteer "assistant" coordinators will make either personal or telephone contact (whichever is more expedient) with the reporting party and determine whether a response is appropriate, when a response is appropriate, what resources need to be deployed and what outside resources are necessary;
- C. Information gathered will include a Search Urgency Report and/or a Missing Persons Report, etc. or any other forms so designated by the SAR Coordinator;
- D. Upon receipt of any or all of that information, the on-duty/on-call Patrol supervisor will be updated by the SAR Coordinator;
- E. If SAR activates or deploys resources, prior to those resources leaving the SAR

Center, the SAR Coordinator, his designee or an assistant coordinator will notify Oregon Emergency Management of the mission and request a state incident number. A Crook County Sheriff's Office Case number will also be assigned;

- F. If the mission's scope or duration goes beyond what local resources can provide for, a request may be made to Oregon Emergency Management for additional outside resources;
- G. The SAR Coordinator, his designee or the Deputy Incident Commander will initiate an call out, identifying the type of mission, the personnel needed, the location of the mission and any special conditions;
- H. The SAR Coordinator, his designee or an assistant coordinator will notify the appropriate outside resources, such as Air Link of Oregon and/or associated Fire Districts that may provide coverage in the area of the mission;
- I. Volunteer Search and Rescue members will respond to the SAR Building at the Fairgrounds or any other designated location determined by the SAR Coordinator, his designee or assistant coordinator for assignment and deployment;
- J. The SAR Coordinator, his designee or the duty on-duty/on-call Patrol Supervisor will be responsible for the incident, including personnel, vehicles, equipment, tactics, and outside resources;
- K. If the response is within the Ochoco National Forest or BLM lands, the appropriate U.S Forest Service or BLM supervisory law enforcement officer will be notified as soon as practical;
- L. If the response is in a designated wilderness area and mechanized equipment is needed, the Ochoco National Forest Supervisor or appropriate BLM supervisor will be notified; concurrent to policies and procedures established in the 2008 MOU between the USFS District Office, Portland and the Oregon State Sheriff's Association.
- M. The NIMS/Incident Command System will be utilized, and Unified Command will be utilized when other agencies are involved;
- N. If the incident appears to be in an area in close proximity to or within a neighboring county's jurisdiction, the appropriate agencies will be notified as soon as possible.
- O. In cases where the missing person may be carrying a cell phone, every attempt will be made to determine information on the phone number and the carrier who provides service for that phone. The appropriate carrier will then be contacted in an attempt to use any current technology they may have that might aid in locating that person.

VI. MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT:

Equipment available for SAR missions is either Crook County Sheriff's Search And Rescue, Inc. or County property. This includes:

- (1) 4-wheel drive Ford Excursion, equipped and designated as a "heavy hauler";
- (1) 4-wheel drive 4-door pickup, equipped/designated as a "heavy hauler";
- (1) Incident Command trailer, equipped with a generator and extra communications equipment including base radios, additional cell phones and FAX capabilities;
- A dedicated Incident Command VAN with specialized equipment for "remote" Incident Command capabilities;
- (4) snowmobiles of various makes, models and capabilities;
- (2) ATV's (quads), of various makes, models and sizes;
- (2) towable rescue sleds for winter operations;
- (1) towable rescue sled, which can either be equipped with skis for winter operations, or wheels for dry terrain operations;
- (1) inflatable raft with associated swift and calmer water equipment;
- Various rope/rock rescue equipment, including ropes and other associated equipment;
- Fire evacuation equipment, to include approved fire line apparel;
- (3) Oregon State Marine Board boats, of various sizes, capacities and capabilities are available for Search and Rescue if needed; three of these boats are powered by jets and one by propeller;
- (1) Personal Watercraft (PWC);
 - (1) Polaris Ranger with Tracks
- (18) high-band portable radios with the state Search and Rescue channel; additional radios, as well as at least portable high-band repeater are available through the CCSO Communications cache.

VII. PERSONNEL: As of August 12, 2008:

A. Designated SAR Coordinator:

- (1) Special Services Coordinator, currently a Commander, who is also the liaison with the Crook County Sheriff's Office Posse;

B. Other Special Services paid staff:

- (1) Office assistant/Assistant Coordinator;

C. Volunteers:

- Approximately 50 volunteers from the general SAR membership.
- (2) senior CCSOSAR volunteers who may act as Coordinators when so assigned.

D. All personnel, paid staff or volunteer, must have attended and passed the Crook County Sheriff's Office SAR Academy and complete a summer or winter survival course.

E. All CCSOSAR members, paid or volunteer, will be NIMS compliant, receiving the certifications established for their particular functional level by the SAR Coordinator and OSSA recommendations.

VIII. MISSIONS:

A. Overdue, missing, and lost persons; these types of calls might not always be in a "backcountry" environment, as CCSOSAR is often called upon to help search in urban environments for missing children, Alzheimer's patients, etc.;

B. Injured or ill persons for medical evacuations not accessible by conventional emergency medical responses;

C. Body recoveries from remote or inaccessible land areas or rivers, lakes and ponds;

D. Fire evacuations of campgrounds and/or residences in urban interface subdivisions;

E. ELT/PLB (aircraft and personal locator beacon) responses, as a back-up to local Civil Air Patrol assets;

F. Public education on backcountry planning and survival, and water safety.

IX. VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS AND CONTACT PROCEDURES:

A. The primary staffing for Search and Rescue activities in Crook County is the general

volunteer membership of Crook County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue.

- B. A number of specialty teams exist within the general SAR membership to address venues such as high-angle rescue, water operations, etc.
- C. See Resource Book for additional organizations, names and numbers.

X. OUTSIDE RESOURCES AND CONTACT PROCEDURES:

- A. Assets from the Crook County Fire and Rescue District are either available directly or via 911;
- B. Other counties, including neighboring counties or resources from other counties throughout the state, via existing mutual aid agreements;
- C. Air Link of Oregon, available directly or through 911;
- D. State and/or Federal resources as needed, which are usually requested through OEM;
- E. See Resource Book for additional resources, names and numbers, including information on cell phone carriers who either provide service in the area, or might be a resource in locating a missing person.

XI. MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR PERSONNEL:

A. SAR Coordinator:

- Currently a Commander, OSSA and CCSOSAR certified, assigned by the Sheriff of Crook County;

B. Volunteer Coordinators:

- Minimum of two (2) years with CCSOSAR, OSSA and CCSOSAR certified, assigned by the SAR Coordinator;

C. Overhead Team Officers:

- Minimum of two (2) years with CCSOSAR, OSSA and CCSOSAR certified;
- Any senior member acting as a Volunteer Coordinator must be OSSA certified and meet training and experience guidelines established by the SAR Coordinator.

D. SAR Specialty Teams:

- Certified or in training for OSSA and CCSOSAR certification, completion of minimum team training, passed proficiency demonstrations. Teams include snowmobile, ski and snowshoe, landing zone, Air Operations, dive, swift water,

mountain rescue, rope rescue, man-tracking, horse team, K-9 and general search.

E. General SAR Members:

- Must possess a valid Oregon Driver's license, have passed a background examination, have passed an interview process, completion of an annual SAR Academy focusing on the minimum OSSA SAR standards, completed (or in process of completing) summer survival, Wilderness First Responder or Outdoor Emergency Care courses (or EMT, paramedic, or nurse), winter survival and the certification exam.

F. Special Resources:

- While they must still meet the general OSSA/Crook County SAR standards, these personnel might not participate in actual field missions, instead staffing communications or Overhead Team positions at a fixed or mobile Command Post or serving in other positions as needed.

G. Specialty Medical Team members:

- Members of this team will operate under the guidance and authority of a Physician Advisor, currently a physician on-staff at Pioneer Memorial Hospital. Any Medical Team member with specialty training above and beyond that of a Wilderness First Responder (EMT, Paramedic, nurse, etc.) must obtain and maintain current certification under the appropriate state agency and their related standards.

H. Training Records:

- A personnel file will be kept "in house" for each active SAR volunteer. This will include information such as:
 - i. Emergency contact information for that volunteer;
 - ii. Biographical history and information for that volunteer;
 - iii. Copies/documentation of any CCSO-mandated policy and procedures (sexual harassment, proof of valid driver's license, etc.) that the volunteer was required to complete;
 - iv. Copies/documentation of any certificates issued for specialized courses of study;
 - v. Letters of commendation, or official letters or memos regarding any disciplinary action from the SAR Coordinator to that volunteer;
 - vi. Copies/documentation of any damage to County property, or injuries sustained during a mission;

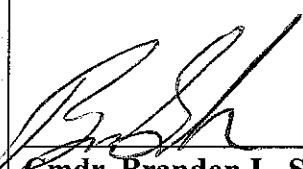

vii. Any other related material as required by the SAR Coordinator.

I. Statistical Records:

- A computerized program is established and will be maintained to address statistical information such as:
 - i. A "bio" of each mission, to include statistical data (number of personnel, mission hours, mileage, fuel, etc.) and a brief narrative of the mission
 - ii. A program to track volunteer hours and mission participation throughout a given calendar year;
 - iii. The appropriate forms and paperwork needed for adequate documentation of the information listed above;
- Completed mission packets will be kept "on site". Necessary information from completed mission packets will be transferred to a Version 6 form, which will then be mailed or transmitted electronically to Oregon Emergency Management.

II. Yearly Promulgation

- This plan is reviewed yearly and will be promulgated yearly by the Sheriff of Crook County.

<u>PREPARED BY:</u>	
 _____	<u>8-12-08</u> _____
Cmdr. Brandon L. Smith Special Services Coordinator	Date
<u>REVIEW AND APPROVAL:</u>	
 _____	<u>8-12-08</u> _____
Rodd Clark Crook County Sheriff	Date