



BRITISH
COLUMBIA



EMBC OVERVIEW

Ground Search and Rescue



Emergency
ManagementBC

SAR in BC

Overview

Area

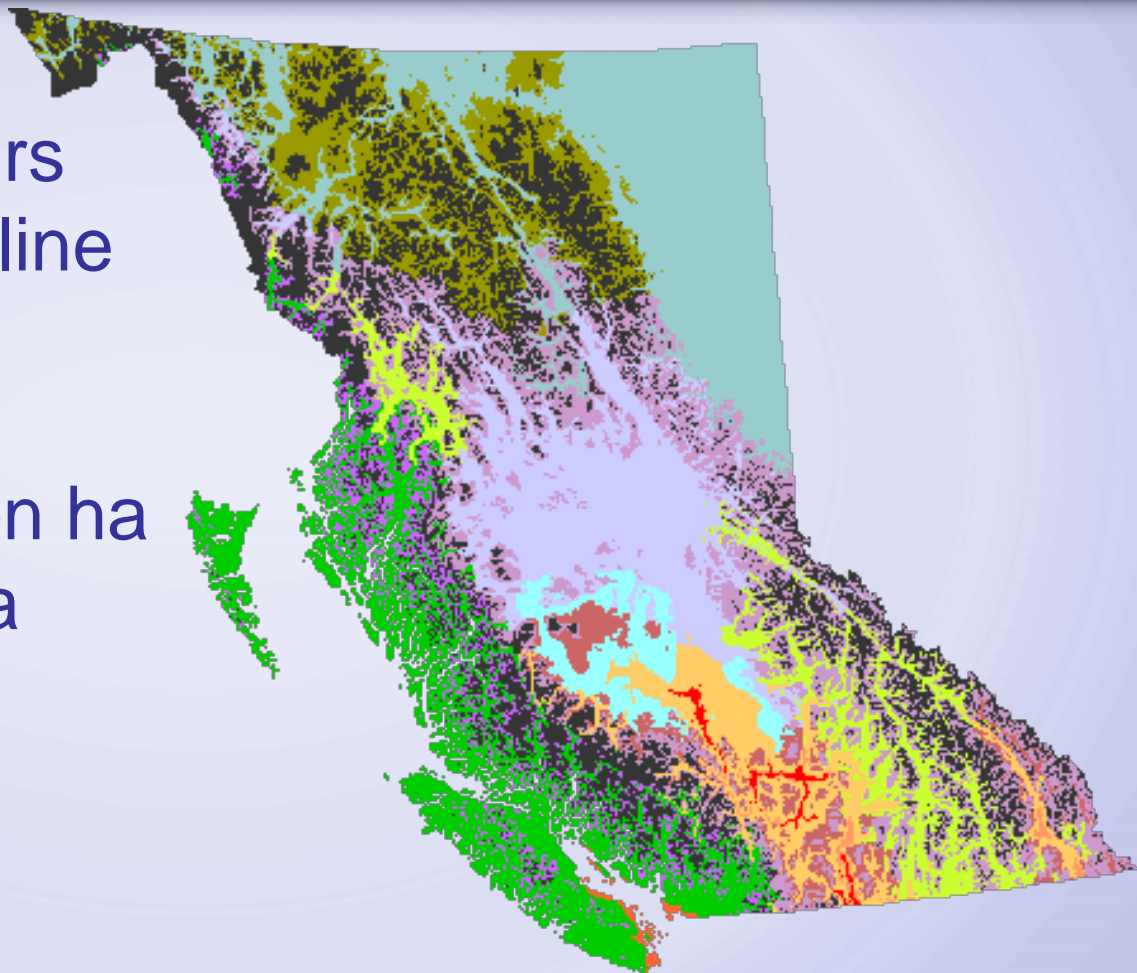
- 950,000 sq. kilometers
- 25,000 km's of coastline

Geography

- Freshwater 1.8 million ha
- Alpine 20.3 million ha

Population

- 4.6 million



SAR in BC



SAR Types:

- Air SAR
 - Canadian Armed Forces
- Marine SAR
 - Canadian Coast Guard
- Ground & Inland Water SAR
 - Police (Primary)

Legislation



The authority and responsibility for Search and Rescue, is covered under the Emergency Program Management Regulation that states:

The Attorney General, through the police force having jurisdiction, provide:

- search and rescue services for missing persons on land and in inland waters

Legislation



Emergency Program Management Regulation

The Attorney General through the Provincial
Emergency Program:

- organize and administer registered volunteers and temporary workers as requested or detailed in emergency response plans;

Management



Emergency Management BC

- EMBC is a key SAR stakeholder (including RCMP, BCSARA, SAR Societies, BCAS, JRCC and the JIBC) and lead agency that along with its partner agencies, act collectively in supporting functions to ensure safe, effective, efficient SAR operations in B.C.
- EMBC assists with the coordination of dispatch, when requested by a tasking agency, and provides support to SAR through a number of different means such as: task number issuance, expense reimbursement to support deployment, developing support policy, facilitating incident debriefs and providing input into training standards.
- EMBC is not and was not designed to be the onsite commander for search and rescue operations.

Management

- **Shared Responsibility**

- EMBC
- BCSARA
- Police*
- BCEHS*
- JRCC (DND/CCG)*
- Local Gov't/Fire*
- GSAR Groups

* Requesting Agencies



Management

- BCSARA Board
- SAR Liaison Committee
- Joint Health and Safety Committee
- Training Committee



SAR in BC



Other Requesting agencies:

- BC Coroner's Service
- Parks Canada
- Bordering provinces and states

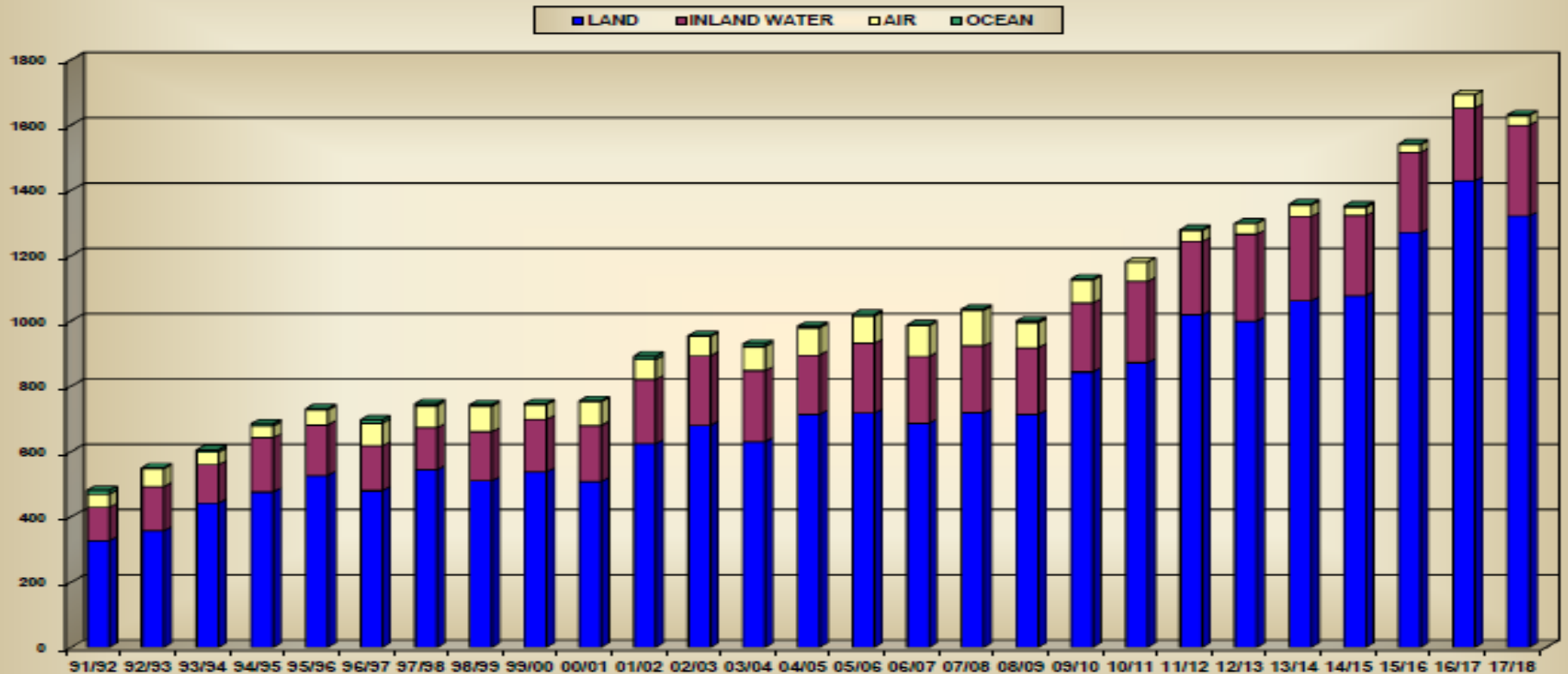
SAR in BC



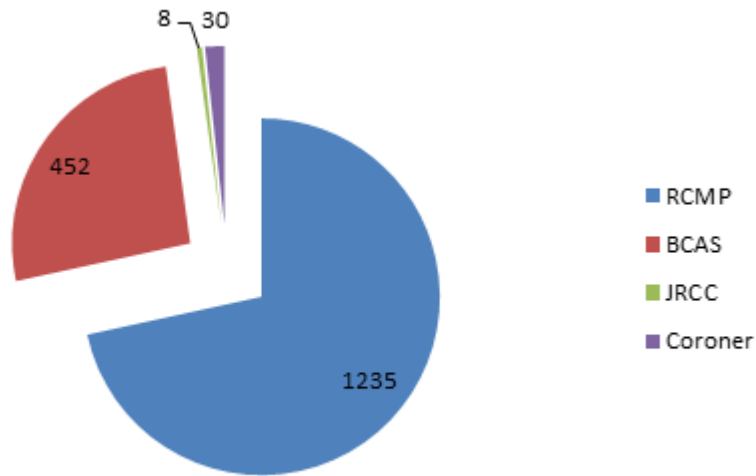
- 80 recognized SAR Groups in BC
- 2500 Active SAR Volunteers
- Responded to 1631 Incidents last year
 - Ground 1321
 - Inland Water 278
 - Air 30
- SAR also conducted
 - 19 Body Recoveries and 8 Evidence Searches

Search and Rescue

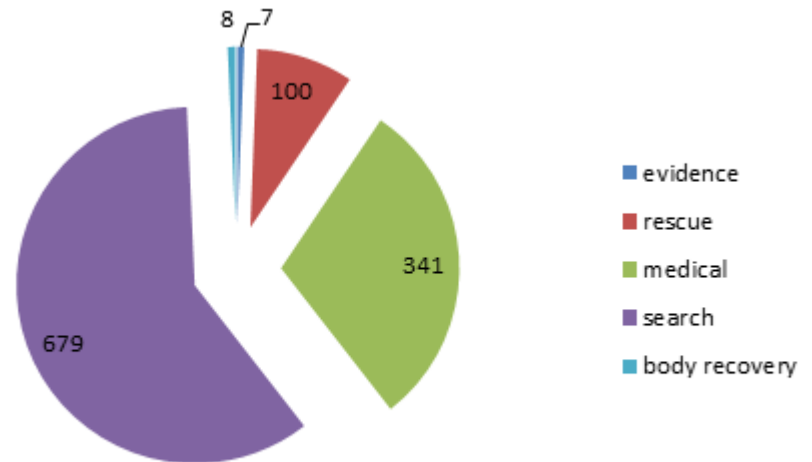
SEARCH AND RESCUE INCIDENTS
1991/92 to 2017/18



Search and Rescue



Requesting Agency Fiscal 2016 - 2017



Calls by response type Fiscal Year 2016 - 2017

Policy



Provincial Emergency Program

VOLUNTEER POLICY & PROCEDURES

Interim Policy Effective September 8, 2008

Utilization of SAR Volunteers for SAR Activities Policy

The following replaces Policy 2.17 Search and Rescue.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Search and Rescue within British Columbia falls into three basic categories:

- Air Search and Rescue
- Marine Search and Rescue
- Land and Inland Waters Search and Rescue

Information from the general public regarding missing, injured or stranded persons must be referred to a responsible government agency and/or department. That agency will determine the appropriate response – agencies include: Police, BC Ambulance Service, Canadian Forces & Canadian Coast Guard, Parks Canada, Coroner and Fire Services.

Policy



TASK ELIGIBLE Search Activities

(for appropriate requesting agencies)

- wilderness search
- urban search
- surface searching on water
- equine search
- dog search
- evidence search
- air search
- avalanche rescue
- swift water rescue
- medical rescue*
- cave rescue
- rope rescue
- helicopter rescue
- mountain rescue
- domestic animal rescue

* The rescue & transportation of an injured person to BCAS care)

INELIGIBLE SAR Activities:

PEP task numbers do not support the following activities, even when a valid task number is otherwise in place:

- underwater search and recovery involving the use of diving apparatus by volunteers.
- hazardous material response and/or cleanup
- tree rescue (arboreal rescue)
- fire suppression (structural or wild land)
- searching for potentially dangerous individuals (people who may be armed with weapons, people who may be violent, people engaged in criminal activities, people fleeing from the police, etc)
- transporting BCAS patients to medical care (riding in ambulances, driving ambulances, etc)
- BCAS First Responder patient move assists or lifts.
- Transporting police or other law enforcement or regulatory agencies involved with search/apprehension of dangerous individuals/ criminal investigations
- Transporting fire department crews engaged in fire response activities
- **PEP task numbers provide only WCB coverage for the following activity, and only when the SAR volunteer or team is engaged in a task eligible activity (liability coverage is provided under the Good Samaritan Act for persons providing services as a licensed medical service provider in BC)**
- provision of any licensed medical services

Policy



BC Ambulance Service

The BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) is responsible for pre-hospital care and transportation of patients to medical facilities. The BCAS may request SAR volunteer resources through the PEP Emergency Coordination Centre for the following activities.

Eligible Land and Inland Water Medical Rescue

- Land and inland water medical rescues.

Ineligible SAR Volunteer Activities

- searching for missing persons
- non-medical rescue
- patient lifts, medical response calls (First Responder) and/or transport of subject(s) where BCAS personnel can access the subject(s) as per BCAS policy
- domestic animal rescue
- Ineligible volunteer activities as listed

Police

The investigation of a missing person(s) and of suspicious occurrences within the province of British Columbia is the responsibility of the police department having jurisdiction. Disoriented, lost, stranded, overdue and other individuals in distress are also the responsibility of the Police. Domestic animal rescue for humane or public safety reasons are also the responsibility of the Police. The Police may request SAR volunteer resources through the PEP Emergency Coordination Centre for the following eligible activities.

Eligible Land and Inland Water Search

- for missing persons - are initiated by the Police Department of the jurisdiction.
- for persons in distress (without injury) - are initiated by the Police Department of the jurisdiction.
- SAR Volunteer resources can assist police in searching for and gathering evidence related to criminal or investigative evidence searches. Police services are responsible for reimbursement of all expenses related to evidence searches.

Ineligible SAR Volunteer Activities

- searching for potentially dangerous individuals
- pre-hospital medical rescue beyond first aid stabilization to ensure minimal injury while en route to BCAS.
- Searching for and recovery of human remains
- Ineligible volunteer activities as listed

SAR Training



SAR TRAINING PROGRAM

- Ground SAR
- Rope Rescue
- Ground SAR TL
- SAR Management
- Tracking
- Avalanche
- Swift Water
- Mountain Rescue
- First Aid
- SAR Dog Handling*
- Avalanche Dog Handling*
- Cave Rescue*

Funding



Currently BCSARA receives the following funding from the Province:

- \$60k BC Search and Rescue Association operating grant
- \$255K for Algoma Liability Insurance for Volunteer SAR Directors
- \$250K from Gaming for Province wide training

Thru EMBC the Province also provided (2017/2018) the following funds in support of operational GSAR tasks and training:

- \$5.64m in support of operational tasks (equip repair/replacement, helicopter costs, mileage and meals.
- \$250k GSAR training (JIBC contract)

Last fiscal Emergency Response groups accessed \$2.8m from gaming funds for equipment and training.



EMBC volunteers are eligible for compensation, as the result of an agreement under s.97 of the Act, which permits the Board to provide coverage for Provincial Emergency Program and Federal Government workers on behalf of the Provincial and Federal Government. **EMBC volunteers are not "workers" and are not included under Part 3 of the Act**, therefore compliance with the WSBC standards is not required since WorkSafeBC does not have inspectional jurisdiction over EMBC volunteer response personnel.

The SAR Safety Program is modeled on the approach used in industry under WorkSafeBC requirements, and where appropriate the WorkSafe Regulations are referenced as a standard.

Liability



- The Emergency Program Act Part 4, Section 18 provides exemption from civil liability for persons, both employees and volunteers, when carrying out measures relating to emergencies and disasters and for which the person(s) was not negligent.
- The Commercial General Liability policy provides coverage both to the Province and to its volunteers. The policy insures both against third party legal liability resulting from claims due to damage to the property of others, and bodily injury or personal injury (libel, slander, etc.) to third parties, accidentally caused, which arise from the authorized duties of the volunteers on behalf of the Province. The limit of liability on the policy is \$2 million per occurrence. The policy will also provide a defense and pay related defense costs.



Emergency
ManagementBC



Thank-you.