

SAR Responder

February 2012

Volume 2, Issue 2

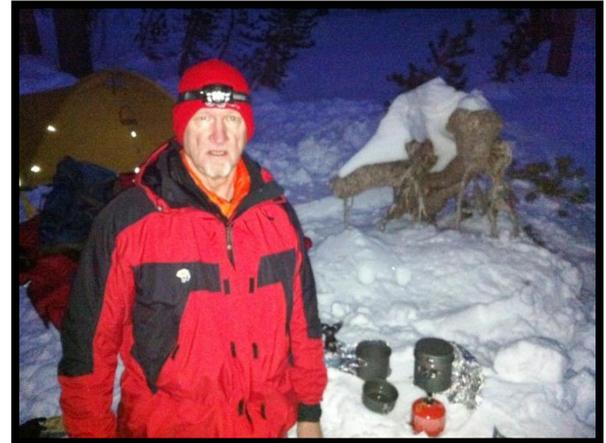
An all-volunteer, non-profit 501 (c) (3), formed so that others may live.

Special Interest Articles:

- Winter Search Management Training
- Frostbite detection and treatment

SAR Recap

January brought another month of relatively mild weather and was uneventful in terms of call outs. This left time for the team to focus on enhancing training in a variety of ways.



Winter Search Management Course at Mammoth Mountain

In January, several members of the team attended a Winter Search Management Course at Mammoth Mountain. Bill Allen, Richard Barnes, Randy Hart, and Russ Richardson attended a comprehensive winter search *Direction and Control* Course the last week of January. This 40-hour course included search management fundamentals, as well as

winter survival and wilderness medicine. The purpose of the course was to make search managers more aware of winter search functions and the additional considerations needed during winter operations such as: medical issues (hypothermia, AMS, frostnip and frostbite and patient packaging), environmental considerations (needs of

the searcher, including clothing, equipment and preparation for winter alpine conditions, weather), lost person behavior, avalanche survival and rescue, downed aircraft emergency locator beacons and shelter building. The course consisted of both classroom and field exercises.

Individual Highlights:

- Training Recap 2
- Community Events 3
- Donor Spotlight 4
- Upcoming Events 5



Training Recap

January's training was a successful event that utilized many of the skills of the newly formed training team. Each trainer set up a workstation to instruct and test members on various aspects of SAR.

Members rotated through the stations and put their skills to the test, making note of areas in which they were lacking. After a full rotation, members were able to revisit the stations to sharpen a particular skill.

The stations included radio communications, map and compass, knots, winter gear, winter survival, and probability of detection.

In radio communications,

members reviewed the proper etiquette of speaking on the radio and using 10-codes, as well as radio care.

In map and compass, members worked on plotting and shooting bearings, finding points on maps, negotiating the terrain on a map and much more.

The knots station tested members on the vital knots commonly used in rescue rigging.

Winter gear included pack checks to ensure the correct gear for a winter mission and reviewed different options available.

Winter survival reviewed how to build various snow shelters, the

pros and cons of each, as well as the dangers of winter travel, such as hypothermia.

Probability of detection was set up like a mock SAR with a reporting party's description of a missing person provided to members who then set out on a course to look for planted clues, testing members' probability of detecting clues and testing judgment on determining if clues were relevant.

Members who attended did well and were happy to brush up on these perishable skills. The entire training team did an excellent job in conducting the training and thoroughly covering so many important topics in one day.

Frostbite: First aid

When exposed to very cold temperatures, skin and underlying tissues may freeze, resulting in frostbite. The areas most likely to be affected by frostbite are your hands, feet, nose and ears.

If your skin looks white or grayish-yellow, is very cold and has a hard or waxy feel, you may have frostbite. Your skin may also itch, burn or feel numb. Severe or deep frostbite can cause blistering and hardening. As the area thaws,

the flesh becomes red and painful.

Gradually warming the affected skin is key to treating frostbite. To do so:

Protect your skin from further exposure. If you're outside, warm frostbitten hands by tucking them into your armpits. Protect your face, nose or ears by covering the area with dry, gloved hands. Do not rub the affected area and never rub snow on frostbitten skin.

Get out of the cold. Once you are indoors, remove wet clothes.

Gradually warm frostbitten areas. Put frostbitten hands or feet in warm water — 104 to 107.6 F (40 to 42 C). Wrap or cover other areas in a warm blanket. Do not use direct heat, such as a stove, heat lamp, fireplace or heating pad, because these can cause burns before you feel them on your numb skin.

Do not walk on frostbitten feet or toes if possible. This further damages the tissue.

If there is any chance the affected areas will freeze again, do not thaw them. If they are already thawed, wrap them up so that they do not become frozen again.

Get emergency medical help. If numbness or sustained pain remains during warming or if blisters develop, seek medical attention.



**SAR Photo:
Winter
Search
Management**

Community Events

A SAR crew, including a very large turnout of mountaineers and some friends, Jeep and Posse members, turned out to clean up downed trees at Lost Lake Park. Many of the trees blocked roads, picnic areas and collapsed buildings. A December 1 storm toppled about 155 trees in the park, prompted the closure of the park over safety concerns.

With over 60 people volunteering time and energy, tree clearing crews were dispatched over the park grounds. Each crew was composed of a member with a chain saw and few people to pull and pile limbs and logs.

The effort of the teams, and the support of some friends and family, saved the county thousands of dollars in wages with the daylong clean-up effort. The county has faced difficult budgeting and the clean up hopefully speeds up the parks opening. Sheriff Mims stopped by to thank the group for their efforts.

The event was well publicized in the paper and major local news television organizations.

Thanks so much to the members of the Search and Rescue teams, as well as the family members and friends that support us!



Donor Spotlight

A special thank you for the generous contributions of American Ambulance. On January 14, 2012, American Ambulance provided the use of the BBQ and \$800 for a BBQ lunch for almost 70 volunteers from the various search and rescue disciplines.

In addition, there was a non-committed ambulance standing by at the event to provide first aid in the event of an injury.



**Fresno County SAR
Mountaineering Team**

P.O. Box 7
Fresno, CA 93707

E-MAIL:
board@fresnosar.org

We are on the Web!

See us at:

www.fresnosar.org

Find us on Facebook!

Upcoming Events

Feb 17-19th Fresno
County Sheriff Winter
SAR Training at Kokanee
Workcenter

March 7th - Board meeting
6 pm, General meeting 7
pm at the Farm Bureau

March 17th, monthly team
training, location to be
determined

SAR training academy,
dates and locations to be
determined

About Our Organization...

The Fresno County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Mountaineering Team was formed as an auxiliary unit of the Fresno County Sheriff's Office in 1982. We are a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization of diversified volunteers, formed to augment the Fresno County Sheriff's Office during search and rescue operations in Fresno County and throughout the state of California.

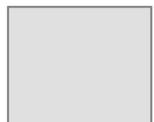
Our team members are trained in various search and rescue disciplines including: orienteering, tracking, wilderness / winter survival, first aid / CPR, swift water and high angle rescue, helicopter safety, search techniques and search management. These skills facilitate our ability to respond to a variety of urban and wilderness emergencies.

During 2011, SAR team members donated

thousands of service hours participating in Search and Rescue Operations in Fresno, Madera, Tulare and San Luis Obispo Counties, as well as Yosemite, Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks. In addition to SAR missions and monthly training, members also donated hundreds service hours to other non-profit organizations in our area and sponsored events to promote safety in the outdoors.

FCSSARMT

P.O. Box 7
Fresno, CA 93707



**COMPANY NAME
STREET ADDRESS
CITY, ST 22134**