

Hello Board Members,

Please find below an overview of **South Cariboo Search & Rescue (SCSAR) 2025 operations**, including membership, operational response, training, community engagement, and notable developments.

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### 1) Active Membership Snapshot

- **Certified GSAR Members: 37** (as defined by EMCR Policy 2.12 Annex)
  - **Members in Training: 7**
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### 2) Operational Response (SAR Tasking)

- **Total SAR tasks responded to (2025): 17**

SCSAR maintained operational readiness to respond to tasks across the Cariboo, and across the province when requested for mutual aid by neighbouring teams. SCSAR provides a safe, timely, and coordinated search and rescue response consistent with established risk management and incident command practices.

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### 3) Training & Operational Readiness

- **Weekly and weekend training exercises completed: 95**

Training in 2025 emphasized practical, scenario-based proficiency to support safe deployment and effective outcomes. Key training themes included:

- **Rope / Technical Rescue:** recurring rope practice; multiple rope team leader certifications and practical evaluations.
- **Swiftwater / Water Operations:** new certifications and recertifications of Swiftwater Rescue Technicians; boat/watercraft-related sessions, including multi-day training events in a variety of environments.
- **Ice Rescue:** delivery of Ice Rescue courses for participation and certifications, as well as multiple refresher practices.
- **Medical:** first aid training and patient packaging/stretchers scenarios, including advanced wilderness-oriented medical certifications and refreshers.
- **Navigation & Search Skills:** map & compass practicals, pacing, grid searching, and human-tracking training and courses, as well as introducing new technologies and resources such as SAR Drones.
- **Specialized Skills / Interoperability:** chainsaw handling training, command/base setup exercises, multi-member scenario nights, and helicopter hover entry/exit training.

This training volume supported member competency, consistency in field practice, and team confidence during operational deployments.

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#### 4) Community Activity

SCSAR also delivered prevention, education, and community engagement to support public awareness, safety, and organizational continuity.

- **Community events logged: 17**

Representative activities included South Cariboo Outdoor Show participation, open houses, AdventureSmart prevention presentations, and regional coordination meetings.

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#### 5) Notable Developments in 2025

- **Addition of SCSAR SAR Dog capability (Joker)**

Joker qualified and was added to the team in 2025, establishing an internal SAR Dog capability and strengthening search effectiveness as an additional operational resource.

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#### 6) Key Takeaways

- **Operational demand:** 17 SAR tasks
  - **Readiness commitment:** 95 training exercises completed
  - **Prevention & engagement:** 17 community events logged
  - **Capabilities maintained and increased in 2025:** Certified SAR Dog Joker; **20-person Rope Rescue Team** (including **4 High-Angle Rope Rescue Team Leaders**); **15-member Swiftwater Rescue Team**; **25-member Avalanche/Winter Response Team** (including **5 Team Leaders**); **6-person Advanced Wilderness First Aid capability**; and an **active SAR Management Team of 7 SAR Managers**.
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Thank you to the Board for your continued support of SCSAR and our volunteers.

If you would like, we would be pleased to host you for a tour of the Rescue Hall and welcome you to attend a training night to see our team in action.

Respectfully,

Val Severin

SCSAR Treasurer / Senior South Cariboo Search & Rescue Manager (2001)