

ESAR NOTEPAD FOR APRIL 2012

CALENDAR:

- 5 **Board Meeting**, PCC, 21st & Cushman, Tacoma – 1900 hours
- 14 **Daffodil Parade**, Fireman's Park, 7th & Pacific Ave – 0800 hours
- 15 **SAFECO**, Need Managers, contact Andy Florek for Rendezvous
- 18 **SAFECO**, Contact Andy for Rendezvous, 253.617.8068
- 21 **Jr. Daffodil Parade**, 28th & Madison, Tacoma, – 0800 hours
- 22 **ESAR Graduation**, PCC, 21st & Cushman, Tacoma, 1700 hours
- 22 **SAFECO**, Need manager, Contact Andy Florek for Rendezvous

SOCIAL MEDIA:

We have come to a time and age where social media can become a problem, including when you use your cell phone to notify your friends you are on a search. You can tell them you are on a search, but telling them anything about the search or sending pictures of the search area can become a problem for you and the police. This has not been a problem for our unit, but it can be, so we need to be careful. Remember, a search is a police matter. If you send texts, tweets, posts to Facebook, MySpace or blogs, e-mail, photos, comments to the editor, you may be in violation of the law. If you do, it is possible you will find yourself on the stand in a court case, with your cell phone confiscated as evidence, if it is found out. Some ESAR units subject their members to disciplinary action, even dismissal from the unit, if they do not adhere to the unit's social media rules. I am not worried about our members, but wanted you to be aware of how important it is for you to use caution in your communications about a mission. If you have questions about what you can do, ask the Operations Leader for that mission.

ESAR GRADUATION: April 22:

To all members who have passed their training this year – congratulations! And thanks to all the staff that helped make this a very successful year. Pierce County ESAR will be holding its annual 2012 Volunteer Appreciation and Graduation Banquet on April 22 at 5 p.m. The banquet will be located at Peace Lutheran Community Church, 2105 S Cushman, in Tacoma. The banquet will be a potluck dinner, so bring your favorite dish to share with the others. Our volunteers and graduates are the stars of our program. This banquet is our chance to say thank you to all of our members for stepping out of their every day lives to help others. We also like to thank those who make this program run and congratulate our new members. I will be sending out invitations to all members and their families this week. Thank you, Sheri Florek, Banquet Coordinator, sflorek604@aol.com, 253.617.8513

COURSE 4:

As you are aware, we had a problem with the ESAR alert system. The plan was to call out the trainees the same way as we do on a mission. We had a problem with the system at DEM. Many of our members were never notified of the rendezvous on Saturday, and they missed Course 4 because of that problem. To those affected, we apologize for the mistake that was made and that you missed Course 4.

Normally, those who miss Course 4 are offered two ways to become a brushmonkey. First, if you are on a mission in Pierce County that is overnight, you will be qualified. Second, if no mission presents itself before June 23, the Pierce County Sheriff's Office and the Tacoma Police Dept. hold a training weekend called Big Foot that will qualify you to become a brushmonkey. However, because of the call out problem, plans are underway to offer a make-up Course 4 to those affected, so that they can graduate with their peers. Contact

Lethaniel Ray if you are one of those who missed Course 4. His phone number is 253.857.7667 or lethal4str@centurytel.net. You are still part of a great team.

ESAR ALERT SYSTEM:

It has been brought to light that we need to do a better job of notifying trainees of courses being held. To assist us, if you change your cell phone number, home phone number, e-mail address, or move to another address, please be sure to notify us. It is important that you keep us informed of any changes that take place. You are a part of an emergency response group, and the only way it works is if we can reach you. Your contact information is in several contact systems, and they all need to be kept up to date. Please contact Phyllis Posey, Membership & Records, with any changes. pcesarmemrec@yahoo.com or ESAR, PO Box 11322, Tacoma, WA 98411-0322.

DAFFODIL PARADE: April 14th:

This is the time to show off ESAR!! Three of our vehicles will be in the parade in Tacoma, Puyallup, Sumner and Orting. It will start for members at 0800 at 7th and Pacific Ave, Tacoma at Fireman's Park. It is a fun time, but it lasts all day, so wear or have with you rain coats. It probably will not rain, but we live in the Northwest!! If you have an ESAR coat, hat, sweater or T-shirt, wear that. It is important we try to sell ESAR. Bring a lunch in a pack, or you can buy a lunch, hopefully, but do bring a pack for your clothes. It can be a fun day, let's make a great showing for ESAR!

If you have questions about the parade, call Curt Read at 253.227.6995 or e-mail him curtread@hotmail.com.

Jr. DAFFODIL PARADE: April 21st:

We start at 0800 hours at the Mason Methodist Church at No. 27th & Madison. We are responsible for a number of activities for that morning, including helping TV staff, parking cars, and seeing that people get to the right location. It usually is done by 1200 hours. The ESAR truck will be there, so look for that vehicle. This is a time to show off ESAR again!!!

SAFECO:

This is the only money maker PC ESAR has. It is the best money raising we could ever hope for. Andy Florek, Safeco Coordinator for ESAR, is still looking for people to work and as booth managers. Over the years, we have made over \$151,000 at Safeco. Can you think of anything else we could do and make that kind of money in just 20 days a year? ESAR makes about a \$1,000 per day there. Are you willing to help? Our other alternative is to charge member dues. It takes significant money to keep a search and rescue unit running! I do not like the dues idea, as it will cost each person about \$100 a year. That is too high!!! Remember, you can earn credit for an ESAR jacket or rain coat. You, and your family and friends, can help you get the credit! All they have to do is work at Safeco. Let's get on the band wagon and help Andy for ESAR. We made over \$15,000 last year for 20 games. Are you going to be an active ESAR member and work for money for the program? We need a new van, and this is one way for us to purchase one. The old one is on its last legs. Everyone 16 and older can work at Safeco. E-mail Andy at esarflorek@aol.com or call him at 253.617.8068. He really needs your help!!!

REIMBURSEMENT FROM WASHINGTON STATE:

Some people have sent me claims for recovery for gas costs and equipment loss. I am holding some of those claims, because I do not have a W-9 or a vendor registration on file for those claims. They will go nowhere, so if you have sent me a claim and have not done the paperwork for Washington State, please do so. You can come to a Board meeting on Thursday on the 5th of April and get the paperwork. You can not get

reimbursement for gas on a training mission; it can only be recovered from a SAR mission under certain conditions:

- Drive 100 miles
- The mission is outside of Pierce County
- The mission is over 24 hours.

For reimbursement, the sign in sheet provides proof that you were on the mission, and a copy goes with the claims. The sign in sheet shows how many miles you drove for that mission. Be sure to write down on the sign in sheet any mileage you drive on a call out, even if it does not qualify for reimbursement.

MISSIONS:

31 Evidence mission in Greenwater. 21 people responded to the request. Items were found by the GSSD people without dogs.

A LITTLE HISTORY ABOUT WESAR:

We have counted the missions for 12 years of four WESAR units in the state: King, Kitsap, Pierce and Thurston counties. In those 12 years, the four units responded to 1,333 missions with 10,306 personnel, providing 131,278 manhours with 831,890 miles driven. Cost savings to the taxpayers of Washington was \$3,124,844.10. Not bad for a bunch of young adults doing a service in Washington State!

TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:

We have come a long way from 1966 to today. We have three vehicles to support our efforts in the field and good radios to assist in communicating with base, ourselves, and other units. We have a greater number of people – when we started, we had 13 young adults and five adults. We have become more sophisticated in our search and rescue methods. We now have an opportunity to make money to keep our unit running each year, and it only takes 20 days. Wow!

We welcome you to WESAR, Pierce County Unit. It takes all our members to make this organization as great as it is. Our unit is popular with law enforcement agencies, because of the quality of our training and performance, as well as the number of volunteers we are able to field time after time. It takes time and money to do that. We have traveled all over the State doing SAR missions. We have been in 24 counties and three national parks, giving all of them our first rate SAR services.

We cannot tell you everything we have learned in those 46 years, but you will learn what we can do and what we can not do. We are a low land search organization and proud of the work we do. But one thing is really necessary!! It is you!! If you are not active in the program, then we will become nothing in no time! We need active people, and we know that many of you joined to fulfill a desire to help people. You will not be able to help people sitting at home. You need to go to meetings, activities we are involved in, trainings that will be planned and missions yet unknown!! We hope to see you on as many searches and activities as you can! You will remember those actions for the rest of your life. It will change you for the better!!!

2011-2012 Training Statistics:

Completed Course 1 – 81; Course 2 – 62; Course 3 – 57; Course 4 – 47. We hope to increase the number for Course 4 by June 23rd. The loss of trainees from Course 1 to Course 2 is very significant.

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