

About Pierce County Explorer Search & Rescue:

In 1956 Explorer Search and Rescue (ESAR) was formed in King County starting with one explorer post. Search and rescue (SAR) was in its infancy in the United States and many of the current SAR practices and tactics were developed by the founders of the ESAR program. ESAR has grown in Washington with 9 counties supporting active ESAR programs. A state organization, Washington ESAR, (WESAR) was formed to ensure that consistent standards and training are maintained to provide a quality program throughout the state. WESAR is comprised of youth and adult volunteers dedicated to helping those who are lost or injured in wilderness or urban settings. We also assist the Sheriff's Department in other missions such as flood control and crime scene evidence searches.

In 1965 the second ESAR unit was formed in Pierce County. It has grown over the years into one of the premier organizations in the Search and Rescue community in the State of Washington.

Pierce County Explorer Search and Rescue members are welcome and encouraged to participate in our monthly meetings, Public Relations events (such as the Daffodil Parade), and fundraisers. In order to be qualified to respond to search missions, all members must go through the appropriate training.

How to Join Pierce County Explorer Search and Rescue:

- Go to pcesar.org/join and subscribe to the Membership and Training Information Mailing List
 - Do not click Create new account until you have passed Course 1
- Complete the FEMA NIMS courses and provide the completion certificate at Course 1
- Show up for Course One.
 - (Parents – please come to fill out paperwork and stay for the equipment orientation.)

Course 1

Course 1 serves as an introduction to ESAR. Scheduled in November, this classroom course teaches the basics of many techniques required for SAR field personnel, including map and compass skills, a basic understanding of search techniques, and the types of equipment necessary for SAR missions. The course also gives suggestions for purchasing and storing equipment, and teaches our organization's rules and regulations. Course 1 is Saturday and Sunday, morning until afternoon. Bring a lunch and warm clothing as part of the weekend will be spent outside.

SAR Oriented First Aid

SAR Oriented First Aid covers the basic first aid situations most commonly encountered in the Search and Rescue environment. Items covered will include bandaging, splinting, hypothermia, hyperthermia, subject packaging (preparing them for transportation) and transporting the subject in a stokes (litter). This is a one day course and will last approximately 6-7 hours. It is offered twice in December, once on a Saturday and once on a Sunday. Bring a lunch, warm clothing and your leather gloves.

Course 2

Course 2 is a hands-on approach to studying the concepts involved in search and rescue. The weekend begins Friday night, and lasts until Sunday afternoon. The trainees spend the weekend in teams, living out of their packs, and battling the harsh conditions of January in the Northwest. On Saturday, they rotate around the campground attending a series of stations, each of which focuses on a different skill associated with SAR. Saturday evening trainees break into pairs to complete a number of nighttime compass legs. On Sunday, they continue their stations, and conclude the weekend with a mock search.

Course 3

Course 3 is primarily a test of endurance, but also tests map and compass techniques, motivation, and teamwork. The trainees are paired up and given a list of coordinates. Their objective is to attend each one of the coordinates in the order given before the weekend is up. Each pair will travel about 15 miles, assuming they choose the most efficient route from point to point.

Course 4

Course 4 is a mock search. Saturday morning, trainees go to stations where they practice patient assessment, packaging, and search techniques. Saturday afternoon, trainees are assigned to teams, and they complete a search assignment just as if it were an actual search. On Sunday, once all the subjects have been found, treated, and evacuated, the training is over, and the trainees become certified brushmonkeys.

Required FEMA Courses

Thank you for taking an interest in Pierce County Explorer Search and Rescue. It is a vital asset to our community and our training program is what makes our unit one of the best in the country. However, before you can join Search and Rescue you need to take two online FEMA courses and their open-book tests. All emergency workers in the nation are required to do these tests before they can be firemen, police, sheriffs, or affiliated with any SAR group or other emergency responders. The registration process cannot proceed until these courses have been taken and completed. These two tests are the [NIMS IS700.a](#) and the [NIMS IS100.b](#). The link to do the courses and tests is below.

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/>

This will bring up a page for the Emergency Management Institute –FEMA Independent Study Program.

- Click on the ISP Course list. It will bring you to a list of all the Independent Study Courses.
 - Scroll down to IS-700.a, 'National Incident Management System (NIMS) An Introduction' and click on it.
- On the right will be a box "Take Final Exam", click on that.
- Mark agree (x) and continue.
- There are six pages. Scroll to the bottom of each and print it. This is an open book exam, so you just mark in your answers as you go through the course, and then return to the final exam and mark them in online.
- Go back to the "Take This Course" box and click on it. There are six lessons. Start with the first one. You can go through the course right on the computer or print out each lesson overview.
- Once you have gone through the course, go back to "Take Final Exam" and take the test.

IS-100.a, 'Intro to Incident Command System', is done the same way only there is a printable version you can print all at one time.

Once you have submitted the test, you will get an email from FEMA containing the certificate for the test...sometimes within minutes. Please keep your hand marked test sheets in the event that you must re-take the tests...it does happen now and again. When you get the email from FEMA open it and click on the pdf link and print out your copy of the certificate. Then forward that email to me so that I can print out two copies...one to keep in your file and one to send to DEM. Please keep that email until I reply back to you that I have received it. If you need any help, please call or email me.

Phyllis Posey
PCESAR Membership and Records

pcesarmemrec@yahoo.com

253-862-8821 (leave a message)

ESAR EQUIPMENT LIST

(Do not purchase equipment until after Course 1)

There is a significant amount of equipment required for ESAR training. Approximate low end retail prices are listed for key items. The prices are approximate and may seem overwhelming. Many trainees have saved tremendous amounts of money by shopping at thrift stores for outdoor clothing and borrowing existing equipment from family & friends. REI garage sales and other equipment sales can lead to tremendous savings over the prices listed below.

At this point, the sole function of this list is to make you aware that there is an equipment requirement. Please do not be overwhelmed by it and please do not begin purchasing items on it. Detailed descriptions of each piece of equipment will be given at Course 1. Existing member will be showing trainees what they use and what they find most effective. Remember the only thing worse than paying too much for a piece of equipment is paying too much for it and then finding out that it isn't the correct type.....please wait.

- Back Pack (~\$150)
- Sleeping Bag (with stuff sack) (~\$100)
- Sleeping Pad (full length) (~\$30)
- Boots (~\$160)
- (2 pair) Wool or Fleece Pants
- (2) Wool or Fleece Shirts
- (2 pair) Wool Socks (~\$12 pair)
- Wool Gloves (several pairs) (~\$10 pair)
- Long Underwear (Top & Bottom) (~\$25 each for top & bottom)
- Coat and/or Sweater
- Winter Hat (~\$25)
- Leather Gloves (~\$5 to \$20)
- Rain Coat (with hood) (~\$50)
- Rain Pants (~\$50)
- 50' of ¼" Rope
- Shelter Tarp (9'x12') (~\$12)
- Ground Tarp (4'x 8') (~\$10)
- Tent Pegs (8 each)
- Stove (~\$35)
- Extra Fuel
- Cooking/Eating Kit
- Utensils (Fork/Spoon)
- Matches
- 6 Hot Meals
- Snack Food
- Knife (folding type)
- (2) One Quart Water Bottles (~\$9.00 each)
- Water Purifier Tablets (~\$10)
- Headlamp(~\$30)
- Flashlight (4 watts minimum)
- Extra Bulbs/Batteries
- Compass (may be purchased at a discount at course 1)
- UMS Ruler (included in registration fee)
- Notebook
- Ball Point Pen or Sharpie
- Whistle
- Grid Tape (~\$5)
- Toilet Paper (2 small rolls in zip lock bag)
- First Aid Kit
- Fire Starters
- (2) Garbage Bags
- Gaitors (optional, but highly recommended)(~\$30)

Pierce County Explorer Search & Rescue 2014/2015 Training Season:

The basic training program to become a certified Brushmonkey consists of 4 courses plus first aid scheduled on weekends throughout the winter. Each of the 4 courses gives the trainee a new level of qualification, and a better understanding of Search and Rescue. There is a training fee of a maximum of \$105 at registration. Additional equipment may cost hundreds of dollars if you do not already have backpacking gear. Trainees must have all items on the equipment list to attend courses 2, 3, and 4. Courses must be completed in order.

As part of the WA State SAR Standards, trainees must also have their CPR/First Aid/BBP card or equivalent. This will be offered at the SAR Oriented First Aid course. There will be an additional charge for the Red Cross workbooks (~\$25) if you do not have a current card.

Course 1: November 1 & 2, 2014 or November 22 & 23, 2014
(Course 1 is at Frontier Park in Graham. Registration begins @ 0700.)
(After completing Course 1 you may respond to in-county Evidence Searches)

SAR Oriented First Aid: Sat. December 6, 2014 or Sun. December 14, 2014

Course 2: January 2-4, 2015 or January 16-18, 2015
(After completing Course 2 you may respond to in-county Evidence and Urban Searches)

Course 3: February 6-8, 2015 or February 20-22, 2015
(After completing Course 3 you may respond to all in-county Missions)

Course 4: March 21-22, 2015
(After you have completed Course 4 and have been signed off on the WA SAR Standards you may respond to all Missions)