



Tidewater Search & Rescue

www.TSAR.org

Hurricane mock disaster—Kevin Brewer

TSAR participated in a hurricane mock disaster with the Chesapeake Cert (Community Emergency Response Team). All I can say is it wasn't what I personally expected. It was a different venue for us and if anything we certainly showed everyone that there are additional resources available for areas that they wouldn't venture into. We were certainly ready willing and able to venture beyond the edge of the open area but that was not meant to be. The exercise was restricted to an area fenced in on all sides. There were approximately 35 injured subjects with varying injuries and over 100 green vested hardhat wearing CERT resources. Some really good moulage was applied which made many of the injuries look realistic. Two of the seven participating TSAR members were in fact part of the injured masses. Cindy Eller and her son were afflicted with moderate to severe burns (Cindy) and facial burns with a head wound (BJ, her son). Both were able to walk out on their own after being located. Theresa Crossland had a stick protruding from her right

thigh and was in shock. Theresa had to be transported back to a triage area. Ask her about her ride on the wooden door (make shift stretcher). As the radio operator for my dog team I had to remember that they were using a different coding system than we use. CERT being born of the fire service uses the green, yellow, red and black coding of victims which some of you are already familiar with. One interesting note as the radio operator for two teams, while we only have to wait a few moments to make sure that the communications is clear so we can transmit while on a search or simulation, when you have as many people as were at this event and most with radios. You have to wait a few minutes before broadcasting, which at times seems like an eternity when you are wanting to transmit urgent information. The thing is, so is everyone else. So you have no choice but to select your words carefully, so you can keep your transmission short and get the necessary information and instructions across to base.

Training offered—Kevin Brewer

Please mark your training calendars for a regional Search and Rescue training simulation scheduled for Sept. 10th and 11th in Amherst County, just north of Lynchburg.

This SAREX will be hosted by Amherst County SAR, and will be supported and attended by the Amherst County Sheriff's Office, and the Amherst County Emergency Services Coordinator.

All SAR groups are welcomed and en-

couraged to attend.

Please RSVP Jesse by August 1. TSAR will then notify Amherst County SAR to let them know how many from TSAR will be participating. This will be a lost person(s) scenario, this will be as real as it gets.

Management personnel will begin Sept 10 and all ground operations will commence Sept 11. What better way to honor those who fell on September 11 than participating in a state simulation with other like groups.

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TRAINING CALENDAR

JULY

8	1830-2000	TSAR BOD @ TBA
15	1900-2100	TSAR Gen. Mem. Mtg. @ TEMS
31	1030-1400	Va. SAR Council mtg @ Richmond

Folks, you really do need to call Kevin. If you intend to go to training, then please, please call. We decide IF we will have training based on the phone calls. If we decide to cancel the training then we can call those who called and make sure they know it is cancelled. If you don't call but decide to go, you can find yourself the only person in the parking lot. You need to call Kevin Brewer **forty-eight** hours before training so we can decide whether to hold it or not. (757) 838-8907.

If your availability is "Full" then we would like you to have a pager. Please call Kevin about getting one.

All members check out the following website!!

<http://www.vdes.state.va.us/recover/vspesurvey.cfm>

If you or your company qualify you may want to consider getting listed with this state emergency response team. Click on the INDIVIDUALS OR COMPANIES hot spots to see the application forms.

Lesson learned—Kevin Brewer

The GPS class went off but not without a hitch. One point was made perfectly clear, you cannot rely solely on technology to get you where you need to go. The class presented how to set up a GPS and what screens to use to show you how to get from A to B. But as most of the participants learned, although the directional arrow showed that they were supposed to go in a particular direction to get to a marker, that didn't necessarily mean that it was correct. Something happened yesterday which I have yet to explain. It appears that there may be a problem with the Etrex GPS's that TSAR and I personally own. Two markers were never achieved but the majority of the participants because their GPS had them go off at about a 30° angle from where the marker was. I set the markers with a Garmin Rhino running WAAS. I had 9 ft accuracy when I set the markers, which was outstanding. I am currently investigating the probable cause of this deviation and will report to the group my findings. Until this time the GPS cache has been

removed from the trailer and will be out of service until such time as to the cause for the deviation can be found. Two members with different GPS models went to and found the markers so there was either a technical malfunction of the GPS's (not just the Etrex's exhibited the errors) or there was a mass error in entering the UTM coordinates.

Anyhow, the picnic went off immediately following the class. They keep getting bigger and bigger, which is really great. There were 21 TSAR members present, about a half dozen VBSAR members and an equal number of TREK-9 persons present. Additional guests at the class and picnic were rangers from the Newport News Park service and Peter Pennington with his wife (Peter is the chairman of the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference). With family members of a lot of those present it turned out to be quite a picnic. A whole lot of food was there, just about everything imaginable.

Newport News Search Mission # VA 1037—Kevin Brewer

Another search has come and gone for TSAR. On June 23 there was a TSAR specific full callout concerning a missing 71 y/o male in the East End of Newport News. This is as urban as it gets. The subject was last seen at 07:20 in the morning leaving the house he shared with his daughter and son-in-law. He headed off on a route that he took frequently. TSAR was put on alert by VDEM around 14:00. A dog team from GARD was enroute to the scene. The subject is what I call a frequent flyer. Suffering from Alzheimer's he has done this before, several times. This is the first time that his family wasn't able to locate him so they reported him missing to the police. TSAR was activated at about 15:15. I was first on scene at 16:20 with the assistant deputy director of the Newport News Emergency Operations Center, Theresa Lazar. Law enforcement had been combing the street around the LKP and the dog team from GARD was waiting to go out. Using what we had in hand (a Hampton Roads ADC street map) we sent the dog team out with police escort into an area which a NN police trailing dog believed the subject to have walked to just as the rain clouds opened up on the entire area. This location was about 2 miles to the East of the PLS. While everyone was responding from TSAR we requested through the asst director that Va Bch SAR be activated so that we could get as many people in the area searching while we still had daylight. There are places in this country where people should not be wandering around in after dark. This is one of them. I had made several requests that no teams be sent out without a police escort and they were more than willing to oblige. TREK-9's contact information was given to Newport News police earlier when they had asked the state for a bloodhound. There wasn't one available from a state group for over 1.5 hours. I was able to make a second request for Sean and Bruno through the asst director which she replied to earnestly. Sean and a few others from TREK-9 arrived on scene; a couple of TSAR members began to arrive when we got a report of a possible sighting earlier in the day around 16:30. It was now approaching 19:00. Sean was developing a scent patch from a good scent article so he could go out on task with Bruno. Meanwhile the police were examining a surveillance video from a convenience store where the subject was believed to have been seen earlier.

to mention that WTKR channel 3 had been on scene and was asking some very generic questions about the missing person. They approached Theresa and I with the statement that they know that they can't ask us a lot about the subject and they could see that it was only the two of us and that we couldn't give up the time for an interview. Besides, neither one of us wanted to go on camera. The reporter and her cameraperson rode around the area looking for him, they stopped back by once to find out if anything had changed. The police had contacted a hospital in the area as well as posting missing person fliers in shops and eateries. At about 19:10 just as TREK-9 was getting ready to go out and all those who responded were arriving on scene a phone call came in to the police that the subject was possibly located at the Riverside Rehab Center. Apparently our subject had walked a very wide loop and had walked past the center, seen the security guards there and stopped to ask them if they had any job openings. The guards recognized the subject from the news media story and called the police. Does it matter that it was any of us who found him, NO. We are all part of a bigger plan, did it make a difference that we were there which allowed the police to do other related things that they might not have been able to if we weren't, U BET! The subject was found alive and well (Status 1) that's what matters, that's what we are here for. We are part of the team that allowed that to happen.

As crude as it was I established a base PLOPS (Plans and Operations) in the back bay of Newport News fire station #2, forms were out and ready for SAR responders, a LPQ (Lost Person Questionnaire) was being completed as best as possible with the little information that was available. The city engineers had supplied us with a May 2004 aerial photo of the East End as well as a road map. This would do fine until our trailer had arrived with the computer and street atlas software. There was a photo opportunity at one point that I wish I had a picture of. I had my HT radio in one hand trying to raise the GARD dog team in the field, my phones ear bud in one ear with someone on the other end, and someone else's phone which turned out to be the police sergeants in my other ear with some at the other end of it. That's what I call extreme multitasking. What a rush.....

International Society of Professional Trackers—Kevin Brewer

For those of you with an active interest, or even a passing one, in tracking, the ISPT (International Society of Professional Trackers) with worldwide members is having its annual gathering in Virginia this year. You **DO NOT** have to be a member of the society to come and participate. This is only the second time that ISPT has gathered east of the Rockies. Last year it was in Pennsylvania, this year when they asked for individuals to volunteer a site and make arrangements, SARTI (Search and Rescue Tracking Institute) stepped up to the plate. Since no one else did, we get to travel the shortest distance. There will be tracking people for both man and animal from across the US coming to this. It is very possible that one or two from across

the pond may attend as well. Last year was my first conference attendance and there are all kinds of lectures and exercises to participate in. Many of the people who have written books on the subject are members and come to these gatherings.

The conference is being held in the 4-H center just North of Appomattox, Virginia at Holiday Lakes. It is being held over 4 days and will be Oct 22 through 25.

Let me make it clear that it doesn't matter if you are a dog handler, SAR manager, ground pounder or are just interested in knowing more about those animal signs that you see every time you are outside. There will be a whole lot to learn and participate in.



Organization

Tidewater Search & Rescue
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UNITED WAY TSAR

To contribute through payroll deduction:

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MISSION STATEMENT

Tidewater Search and Rescue Group, Inc. provides trained personnel who effectively manage, support and sustain search and rescue operations when requested. This is accomplished through specialized training, constancy of purpose and continuous improvement.

VISION STATEMENT

For the search subject, the Tidewater Search and Rescue Group, Inc, will be recognized as the leader in training and management, providing the most professional and effective response to Ground Search and Rescue Incidents.

Quick Tip Corner—Dean Matty

1. **BOOT SAVERS** - Small cable ties make excellent emergency bootlaces, they are waterproof, strong and go with just about anything you would wear. They can also be used for fixing your pack if something breaks on it like pins, if you have them. You can also be creative and they can secure a lot of other things with them.
2. **POISON IVY HOME REMEDY** – Applying fresh lemon juice to poison ivy was found to completely eliminate the poison ivy overnight without burning the skin. As with everything medical, things work differently with everybody, but since it worked for one person it just may work for you and believe me I know how annoying poison ivy can be.
3. **PRUNING SHEARS** – It is our job is to go through the briars instead of around them to search for the subject. Having a pair of pruning shears makes getting through briars easier. Sometimes the briars are so thick that you do not have room to swing a machete so these come in handy for those situations and they are safer while working in groups.
4. **PACKING BAGS** - Collect those tubular newspaper bags that you've been throwing away. They pack small and you can stuff them into your pack, just about anywhere. They would NOT make good clue bags but they do make great leg gaiters under most conditions. If you cut the closed end, double bag them for each leg and secure them in place with a good tape you'll have a usable pair of emergency leg gaiters. They are thin so they wouldn't do much good for to long in briars and brambles but in open areas with high grass they will work just as good as store bought ones. The reason why they wouldn't

make good clue bags is due to the fact that they deteriorate rapidly, and can contaminate anything of the subjects that you store in them.

5. **CLUE/TRACK PROTECTION** - A 99 cent poncho and about a foot of flagging tape will make a very adequate last track protection cover. Using the knife that you are carrying cut three or four limbs of equal length (depends on the slope or terrain). Form a T-Pee with the limbs wide enough to completely cover the entire track or clue you wish to protect. Place the disposable poncho over the frame you've created making sure the hood is below the intersection of where all the limbs are crossing. Use the flagging tape to tie the poncho to the frame where the limbs cross each other. Use some rocks to hold down the edges of the poncho on the ground. Best to use a visible colored poncho (not clear) which stand out better.

ASK THE SAR DOG?

No question this month.

BARK-S BARK-A BARK-R

SUBMISSION: Please submit your tips and questions to won2search@aol.com by the 25th of each month so I can get them into the newsletter. Or, send them anytime as I need to start building up a list to pick from and that way you won't forget to send them later.

Note:

Attached is the application for the state certification FTM and FTL class which TSAR will be sponsoring on Nov. 12-14 and Dec. 3-5.



**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
SEARCH AND RESCUE PROGRAM
APPLICATION FOR TRAINING**

* COURSE NAME _____ COURSE DATE(S) _____

COURSE LOCATION _____

NAME _____ *DATE OF BIRTH _____

SS NUMBER _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY OR COUNTY OF RESIDENCE _____

HOME PHONE () _____ BUSINESS PHONE () _____

OCCUPATION _____

COMPANY OR AGENCY _____

PRIMARY SAR RELATED ORGANIZATION IN WHICH YOU ARE CURRENTLY ACTIVE

NAME _____ YEARS AFFILIATED _____

CHECK SEARCH AND RESCUE COURSES SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED

SAR 1ST RESPONDER () FIELD TEAM MEMBER () FIELD TEAM LEADER ()

MANAGING SEARCH OPERATIONS () PRACTICAL SEARCH OPERATIONS () SIGNCUTTING ()

OTHER (DESCRIBE) _____

CHECK CURRENT MEDICAL CERTIFICATIONS

1ST AID () ADVANCED 1ST AID () EMT-A () EMT-ST () EMT-C () EMT-P () PA () RN () MD ()

OTHER _____

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT _____

APPLICATION DATE _____

*****PLEASE FILL IN ALL INFORMATION COMPLETELY. IF YOU HAVE INCLUDED AN
EMAIL ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING THE COURSE WILL BE VIA
EMAIL.**

****SOME ACTIVITIES HAVE A MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENT***

AGENCY USE ONLY

DATE RECEIVED _____ APPLICATION APPROVED _____

TRAINING COMPLETED _____