

TAOS SEARCH & RESCUE OHV UNIT GUIDELINES

Purpose

The purpose of the OHV Unit is to act as a resource for searches and/or rescues that occur on or near roads and trails that are navigable by various off-highway vehicles, such as ATVs, motorcycles, snowmobiles and four-wheel drive cars and trucks. The OHV Unit will be knowledgeable in safety procedures pertaining to rescue under all conditions, including mud, snow, ice and water crossings. The OHV Unit will maintain a basic knowledge of medical emergencies common to search and rescue missions and will acknowledge and respect the potential danger that is inherent in all missions and pledge to keep themselves and their teammates safe.

Members

All members of TSAR , including Full Members and Trainees, may apply for participation in the OHV Unit. All applicants to the Unit must attend one, 2 hour minimum trail ride with the Unit Leader and/or Assistant Unit Leader and do so with their personal off-highway vehicle, the purpose of which is to ascertain their off-road skills and experience. Auxiliary membership may be offered to individuals outside of the organization who possess knowledge of search and rescue techniques and who attend trainings with the TSAR OHV Unit, at the discretion of the TSAR board.

Members of the OHV Unit will be expected to attend regular trainings both in the field and in the classroom, pertaining to OHV safety and rescue techniques.

Trainings

The OHV Unit will train as a unit in the field and/or classroom on an as-needed basis and weather permitting. The OHV Unit will train at least once a year with the Technical Rescue Unit, the K9 Unit, the Drone Unit, the Base Unit and the Medical Unit and be available as required by the TSAR Training Officer for regular TSAR Team trainings. Through training with these other units, the OHV Unit will be expected to learn how to perform hasty , as well as focused searches, how to transport members of other units to assigned locations and how to conduct evacuations with the participation of other units.

Equipment

OHV Unit Members shall be required to use either their own off-road vehicles or a vehicle that they take full responsibility for and hold harmless Taos Search & Rescue for any and all damage done to or by the vehicle.

All OHV Members will be expected to know and understand the limitations of their vehicles and will operate all vehicles with the utmost in care and safety. Members shall maintain their vehicles at all times for the utmost in workability, including oil levels, tires, brakes and any and all safety equipment. Members will provide their own additional equipment, such as helmets and goggles, and will wear such equipment at all times as appropriate for their type of vehicle.

All OHV Unit Members will bring complete packs to all missions and training exercises. Depending on conditions and possible transportation of fellow team members, packs may be reduced in size or combined with other team member's packs.

Positions and Responsibilities

Unit Leader

- Maintain a roster of unit members with their proficiencies and certifications
- Take attendance at trainings
- Act as liaison between the OHV Unit and the TSAR Board
- Manage Unit budget and purchase equipment as needed
- Facilitate communication both within the Unit and with other TSAR Units
- Determine a training schedule and training topics
- Maintain safety awareness amongst the Unit
- Maintain comradery amongst the Unit