

WELCOME TO DORSAR

*OPTIMUM SPERA,
PESSIMUM PARA*

**"HOPE FOR THE BEST,
PREPARED FOR THE WORST"**

Introduction

Dorset Search and Rescue was formed in January 2004 and became operational in June 2004. Since that time we have gone from just a few members to a charitable organisation with more than 60 fully trained members who live in all parts of Dorset.

We are a member of ALSAR (The Association of Lowland Search and Rescue) and SWERA (South West England Rescue Association). We are recognised by ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) and have a very good working relationship with the Dorset Police.

What do we do?

We are a voluntary search and rescue organisation who are able to deploy throughout Dorset and if needed into neighbouring counties to join other SAR groups in the search and rescue of **vulnerable missing persons**. We provide an additional resource to the local police which is

available within 90 minutes of callout, 24 hours a day and 365 days in the year.

Who are vulnerable missing persons?

Not everyone who goes missing is vulnerable. Some people choose to just disappear to start their lives again. Dorset Search and Rescue focuses on those people who might come to harm when they disappear. These groups include;

- Children
- Despondents (Suicidal/depressed)
- Dementia Alzheimer's Type

By use of some well practised methods and careful searching we can often locate missing persons. By searching large areas we can also establish that an area is clear of clues or the missing person.

We can also be asked to search for significant objects such as those that might be associated with a crash or crime scene.

Who asks for our help?

Dorset Search and Rescue has a dedicated emergency callout number that is manned 24 hours a day. Police Search Managers, HM

Coastguard and other SAR groups have access to this number. If we are requested to assist in the search for a missing person a text message is sent to all operational members giving an RV place and time.

Are members expected to attend all callouts?

The answer is "NO". However we do hope that members will attend as many callouts as possible but we understand that members have full lives to lead which includes work, family and friends. We expect all members to reply to text messages with a yes or no.

Understanding a little more about what we do.

As an organisation we have a very clear role. We look for missing persons and significant objects.

Whilst we hope for the best, we must be prepared for the worst and will inevitably come across casualties in various states of distress. Situations will arise that put demands on those attending a callout and you will need to have a gritted determination, self discipline and the ability to work as a member of a team as well as accepting

instructions from Team leaders, Search managers and Police officers.

Training

All members are expected to achieve a basic standard of training in a number of specialist subjects. These include Search Training, Navigation, Communications, First Aid, Tracking, Working near water and Forensics. Some of these are also available at a higher level for those who wish to eventually train as Team Leaders.

We train twice a month on the 1st Sunday and 3rd Wednesday at a variety of indoor and outdoor locations across Dorset.

Basic Joining Details

We are always looking for new members who are prepared to make a commitment to DorSAR. Potential members will need to fulfil some basic requirements:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Be reasonably fit and be able to walk 5 miles within 2 hours.
- Pay an annual membership fee
- Attend a weekend residential training course – approximate cost £30
- Be prepared to complete a CRB check

- Hold a minimum of a 1 day basic first aid course
- Demonstrate a commitment to DorSAR by attending as many training sessions as possible prior to the ST course and when fully trained.

Non Operational members

You could still become part of DorSAR even if you are not able to fulfil the requirements or do not wish to take part in searches. Supporters can help at PR functions, such as shows and open days and also participate in all kinds of fundraising.

If you would like more information:

Visit our website:

www.dorsar.org.uk

Email:

enquiries@dorsar.org.uk

Telephone:

0845 429 4790

DORSET SEARCH AND RESCUE

“Searching for vulnerable missing persons in Dorset”



**Dorset Search & Rescue PO Box 5988
Dorchester Dorset DT1 9AF**

© Dorset Search & Rescue 2010, All Rights Reserved

Registered Charity - No. 1121658