



Illinois Search and Rescue Council

NEWSLETTER

Chat from the Chair

As we start a New Year, let us remember those who have endured the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic during the past year with either health concerns or economic consequences. There are very positive hopes that the new vaccinations will be a success for the control of the COVID-19 virus. While these vaccinations are being administered, we must continue to follow the guidelines of proper distancing and face coverings in a social atmosphere. We have experienced a very long year and we are extremely close to having the pandemic under control, but it still remains everyone's responsibility to make this a success.

The Illinois Search and Rescue Council became a 501c3 in January 2019 and is classified as a Public Charity with an effective date of exemption of September 11, 2019. This status qualifies ISARC to receive tax deductible donations. The monies received will be used to supplement training equipment and instructor needs. The additional funds will allow ISARC to bring in subject matter experts for advanced trainings for the entire ISARC community. Additionally, these reserves will aid in the development and execution of communications and remote trainings for the membership.

The 2019-2020 ISARC Board of Directors, in following with our Bylaws, has finalized several key governing documents that are necessary for the function of the organization. A newly revised Bylaws with Board suggested modifications was submitted to all Member Agencies Points of Contacts for approval and it received a unanimous positive vote. Additionally, the Board approved a Memorandum of Agreement between ISARC and Member Agencies which addresses the obligations and liabilities of each party. Furthermore, a newly revised 2020 Strategic Plan was approved which addresses the vision, mission, essential functions, strategic goals and committee goals and priorities of the organization. Additional newly created documents include an Organizational Chart, Search and Rescue Waiver of Release Form, Social Media Policy, Code of Ethics Policy, Code of Conduct Policy, Conflict of Interest Policy, COVID-19 Response and Training Guidelines, Donation Letter, Updated Instructor Credentialing Requirements and job descriptions for all Board of Directors positions and Committee Chairpersons.

Succession Planning is always a difficult topic for future planning, but a necessity for the organization. Our goals include having the additional staff to create a primary, secondary and tertiary line of succession in the major areas of the ISARC hierarchy. The Board of Directors currently has a succession

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Upcoming Training:

- April 16-18, 2021 Mantracking with Fernando Moreira. Clinton IL—Registration information will be sent to your agency's Point of Contact
- Oct 8-10, 2021 ISARC Conference, Little Galilee Christian Camp, Clinton, IL

Chat from the Chair

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plan within the ISARC Bylaws. Some of the other areas that need a line of succession fulfillment include Duty Officer/ Hot Line Personnel, Website and Social Media Maintenance Personnel, Possibly a North, Central and South Training Coordinators Position with a Director of Training roll within the Board of Directors. All of these position will require the research, development, direction and training that is necessary for proper implementation. Stay Tuned!!

Ed Kemper
ISARC Chair

Recent Trainings



In October, before the return to COVID Phase 2, LaSalle County hosted 15 people in a Basic Land NAV class.

As of January 1, 2021 this class is now a pre-requisite for attending the Ground Search and Rescue class (GSAR).



2020 Illinois Search and Rescue Council Statistics

SUPPORT SEARCH AND RESCUE - GET LOST



Search
Calls Thru
Hotline =
27

SARIO
Courses=
1 to 8
students

BNAV
Courses=
4 to 59
students

GSAR
Courses=
3 to 48
students

Illinois Search and Rescue COVID-19 Response and Training Guidelines

Response Expectations

The Board understands that members may or may not want to respond at this time and we support your decision. Before you respond to a search or rescue, please make sure to carefully consider your current health and recent travel in your calculations about whether to respond. If you are feeling unwell in any way, but in particular, if you have any of the following concerning symptoms, you should not respond to a mission:

- FEVER - Measured
- NEW/INCREASED COUGH
- NEW MUSCLE ACHEs OR JOINT PAIN/STIFFNESS not attributable to another medical condition or injury
- SORE THROAT
- SHORTNESS OF BREATH • ABDOMINAL PAIN and/or DIARRHEA
- INCREASED FATIGUE
- DECREASED SENSE OF TASTE OR SMELL

Additionally, please carefully consider whether it is appropriate to take part in a mission if:

- You have (or are caring for someone who has) a pre-existing medical history including but not limited to immune system disorder, cardiac or respiratory medical history,
- You are over the age of 65,
- You recently had contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, or
- You have recently been to an area experiencing a high number of COVID-19 cases (an exception to this would be a medical health worker utilizing appropriate PPE in their work environment).

Physical Distancing Procedures

- Physical distancing guidelines dictate SAR personnel should maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from any other individual who does not live in their household at all times.
- Personnel will don appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and efforts will be made to maximize personal space and ventilation, while also minimizing the number of people exposed. A simple fabric facemask is sufficient.
- Check-ins will be accomplished under a tent canopy outside of the trailer, where possible.
- When riding in transport vehicles and social distancing cannot be accomplished, wear a face mask.

Trainings and Meetings

- Teams are encouraged to use online video conference format for trainings if possible.
- Until further guidance is received to the contrary, training sessions attended by fewer than 10 members in an outdoor setting are assumed to be acceptable, as long as physical distance and PPE guidelines are followed.
- Course participants will maintain proper social distancing (6 ft minimum) in the classroom portion and be properly masked per state guidelines for indoor events.
- Instructors will be able to be at the front of the classroom with a minimum social distance of 10 ft and not wear a mask. This is due to being able to project their voice in a teaching situation. If this distance cannot be maintained for an in-classroom demonstration, then a mask should be worn.
- For field demonstrations that are closer than the 6 ft minimum social distance, a mask should be worn, for those demonstrations.

COVID-19

11/2020

The ISARC Board updated their COVID Guidelines in August 2020.
These are guidelines for all ISARC training and ISARC searches.

2020 ISARC Conference and a hint about 2021

The Conference that wasn't. Don't worry you didn't miss it. Unfortunately due to the pandemic the 2020 ISARC Conference was cancelled. This is the first, and hopefully the only, time an ISARC Conference has been cancelled. The Conference Committee worked hard and had the Conference completely arranged. The only thing left to do was to print up the conference programs. Those never got printed. All the work the Committee did has not gone to waste! The 2021 Conference is ready to go. The conference is scheduled for October 8-10, 2021 at the Little Galilee Christian Camp in Clinton, IL. Watch the ISARC website for more information (www.illinoissar.org).

Little Galilee Christian Camp



Member Spotlight—Illinois Wisconsin Search Dogs

The Illinois Wisconsin Search Dog is an all volunteer, non-profit canine team who volunteer their services to Law Enforcement, Fire Services and Emergency Management to assist in locating lost/missing people. Illinois Wisconsin Search Dogs (ILLWIS) consists of 12 human members and 15 canine members (some handlers have more than one dog). The canine portion of the team is made up of all different breeds – German Shepherds, Bloodhounds, German Shorthaired Pointers, Otter Hounds, a Black Lab, and a few mixed breeds. Our philosophy is that any breed can do SAR and the handler is going to work best with a breed/dog they love.

ILLWIS is dispatched by the McHenry County Sheriff's dispatch and responds to

search requests in Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin. The team will travel farther if requested but primarily services those areas. Over the past 5 years the team has averaged more than 50 calls for service per year. We didn't have boots on the ground for all 50, luckily often times the missing are found before we deploy on scene.

The dogs are trained in trailing and/or human remains detection (on land and in water). We are utilized frequently for Alzheimer's and Autistic walk-aways and for missing suicidals (unarmed). All of our dogs are very friendly and love people. Next year's conference will have sessions on "How to be a K9 Flanker" and "How to Select a Puppy for SAR".



SAR Tips & Tricks

This issue the tip is a quick and easy one....Mark your gear, ie flashlights, knives and other small items with reflective tape. If they get dropped they might be easier to find. Tape is cheap compared to a compass or knife.

Tom Foust
LaSalle County

Here's a link to the 24 ASL signs all searchers should know.

<https://www.ems1.com/patient-care/articles/24-asl-signs-all-first-responders-should-know-Dhf0nQKPKcrkmWf2/>

Dawn Watson
LaSalle County
Ground Search and Rescue Team



Oh Rats!! Where's my compass??

Job Description—Board Member

Have you wondered about the job description of an ISARC Board Member? Here's some excerpts from the recently Board adopted description:

Brief Description: ISARC Board of Directors Member is responsible for the overall affairs of the Council.

Source of Supervision: Board Chair, Executive Board, Membership.

Direction Exercised: This position supervises: Any role as defined in the ISARC by-laws, policies or procedures.

Specific Duties: Primary Duties and Responsibilities:

- Establish, recommend changes to, and enforce the instruments of control of the Council, to include the by-laws, policies and procedures.
- Enforce the Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct.
- Conduct the business and administrative matters of the Board
- Establish, approve, implement and enforce policies, procedures and protocols for contact, liaison, cooperation and agreements with external organizations, agencies, individuals and other legal entities.
- Establish policies and procedures for board member appointments, as well as the control and conduct of the Board.
- Establish procedures and dates for all Board officer elections.
- Establish the functions, responsibilities and authorities of Board officers.
- Approve appointments made by the Council Chair.
- Establish procedures, dates, times and locations for all meetings
- Register their addresses with the secretary of the organization.
- Participate in the regularly scheduled monthly Board meetings.
- Participate as a Member of the Conference Committee.

Knowledge/Skills Required:

- Be a member in good standing of an ISARC Member Agency.
- Have the permission of the Member Agency Point of Contact
- Have completed a fingerprint background check
- Have completed online FEMA (ICS) 100, 200, 700, 800 courses
- Completed the 16 hour ISARC GSAR class
- Meet the required 60 hour continuing education requirement

Does this sound like something you'd find challenging? Are you interested in finding out more about being on the Board? Right now there is a vacancy on the Board. If you meet the requirements and you're interested please email the Board at board@illinoissar.org.

Committee Help Needed

The heart of the organization is giving the membership what they need/want as members of ISARC. In doing that there are a handful of committees that work on new projects and ongoing projects. If you are interested in serving on a committee, let us know.

Those committees are listed below with a short description of what they might be responsible for.

- **Conference Committee** will aid

in planning and executing the annual conference.

- **Curriculum/Training Committee** will propose new curriculum based on the matrix set forth by the board. This committee also will aid in assigning requested training sessions to the appropriate area lead instructors.
- **Community Outreach Committee** will represent the organization at conferences and events. Also this com-

mittee will reach out to potential or new members and direct them to mentor teams/sources to aid in their development.

- **Mutual Aid Committee** will develop a resource guide with contact and asset information of all member teams. Also this committee will work with first responder agencies to let them know our teams' capabilities.

"Many hands makes light work"

Newsletter Material Needed

The quarterly newsletter is intended to be a publication communicating things that pertain to member organizations within the Illinois Search and Rescue Council. The newsletter should be for you and about you. If there is a person and/or organization that you would like to see highlighted in the newsletter, send those suggestions or articles along with pictures to board@illinoissar.org. It is always nice to see what other agencies are doing and how their members are furthering the cause.

If your agency went on a search and you want to share the details or lessons learned with the membership, that would be great also.

If your agency is hosting a class, training or fund raiser, please feel free to submit those also. Keep in mind that the newsletter will only be published once a quarter, unless we get enough content to make it otherwise. Remember this newsletter is yours, so make it what you would like to see communicated.

If we get a lot of articles the newsletter can grow in size and content.

We are proud of each of our members and this is a great place to show off the things that your agency is doing.

We will try to publish the newsletter in January, April, August and November. There might be a supplemental

issue as we get closer to each years' conference.

Let us know your thoughts!!



GSAR April 2019

SAR Folks sure are dedicated

Illinois Search and Rescue Council

NEWSLETTER

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So that others may live!

The Illinois Search and Rescue Council is a registered non-for-profit, professional, and educational organization which supports, coordinates, develops, promotes, and implements search and rescue resources with the underlying principles of saving lives and preserving property through its support of the National Search and Rescue Plan, the National Response Framework, and Illinois Emergency Operations Plan.

Our membership is comprised of SAR teams from all across the State of Illinois, and some surrounding areas, that have come together to further the professionalism of the SAR discipline. Our teams include organizations from public safety organizations as well as non-governmental organizations providing search and rescue services for missing persons within the State of Illinois.

Our website is: www.illinoissar.org

We are also on [Facebook!](#)

Check both for event and training updates