



Foothills Search and Rescue Society

P.O. Box 549 • Turner Valley • AB • T0L 2A0 • www.foothills-sar.ca



CHARTER

Purpose

This Charter has the purpose of setting out for the membership of the Foothills Search and Rescue Society (hereinafter “the Society”) the mission of the Society and the guiding principles which the membership will follow in accomplishing that mission. According to By-Law 14.f, this Charter may only be changed by the passing of a special resolution at a properly convened meeting of the Society.

MISSION

**Supporting first responders and their communities
in emergencies when and where needed**

With

The competence to deliver.

The confidence to inspire.

The commitment to excel.

The Society will accomplish this by

Continuous improvement of member skills.

Ongoing refinement of procedures and protocols.

Increasing the organization’s effectiveness.

In this way the Society’s stakeholders will be encouraged to

Cherish the contribution of the members.

Proudly invest in the Society’s future.



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**That
others may
live**

Supporting first responders and their communities in emergencies when and where needed

The statement expresses the context within which the Society operates. The Society is resourced with volunteers and equipment to support first responders and their communities. That support is provided on a demand basis whenever and wherever it is needed.

With

The competence to deliver

The members of the Society are experienced multi-skilled individuals capable of assessing an evolving situation and adapting their individual responses.

The confidence to inspire

The members of the Society develop and refine their skills through regular training exercises under all seasonal and weather conditions. The training helps form a coherent team capable of operating autonomously.

The commitment to excel

The members of the Society remain alert to the evolving needs of an actual mission. Member input and flexibility of command and control together ensure an exceptional team response.

The Society will accomplish this by

Continuous improvement of member skills.

The Society undertakes and members participate in skill and scenario training exercises. The training exercises are planned to ensure a solid foundation of basic skills and to promote more advanced competencies.

Ongoing refinement of procedures and protocols.

Debriefs following training exercises and actual missions reveal opportunities to improve the mechanics of how individuals and the team interact and function. The procedures and protocols are modified and the associated training exercises amended.

Increasing the organization's effectiveness.

Planned and ad hoc interactions with first responders and their communities will reveal opportunities for the Society to increase the effectiveness of its external interfaces. The procedures and protocols of the Society are reviewed and modified, and the associated training exercises amended.

In this way the Society's stakeholders will be encouraged to

Cherish the contribution of the members.

Members enjoy formal and informal recognition from first responders and their communities.

Proudly invest in the Society's future.

The Society receives tangible and intangible support from all levels of government and the community at large.



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GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1) The members value safety above all

The safety of the individual is paramount. Our goal is that no member will suffer physical harm as a result of a training exercise or actual mission.

2) The members interact with care, honesty and respect

We uphold the dignity and worth of the individuals we interact with. We value the diverse skills and perspectives of our members.

3) The members contribute at the level they can

We acknowledge and respect the level of commitment and competencies of our members. Each member accepts the responsibility to self-monitor their own capability and capacity to contribute and modifies their personal contribution accordingly.

4) The Society promotes prevention

Through outreach programming we support our stakeholders by helping individuals make appropriate choices when interacting with the natural environment.

5) The Society is a participative organization

The members are volunteers and accordingly have the right but also the obligation to participate in the direction and running of the organization.

6) The Society continuously improves

We seize learning opportunities and seek to apply the knowledge gained in ways that improve the members as individuals and the Society as organization.

7) The Society supports its stakeholders

Through consultation we seek to understand stakeholder needs and adapt the Society's delivery capability and capacity. Accordingly, we update skill requirements, revise procedures and protocols, procure and/or upgrade equipment, and as required replace and/or augment supplies.