



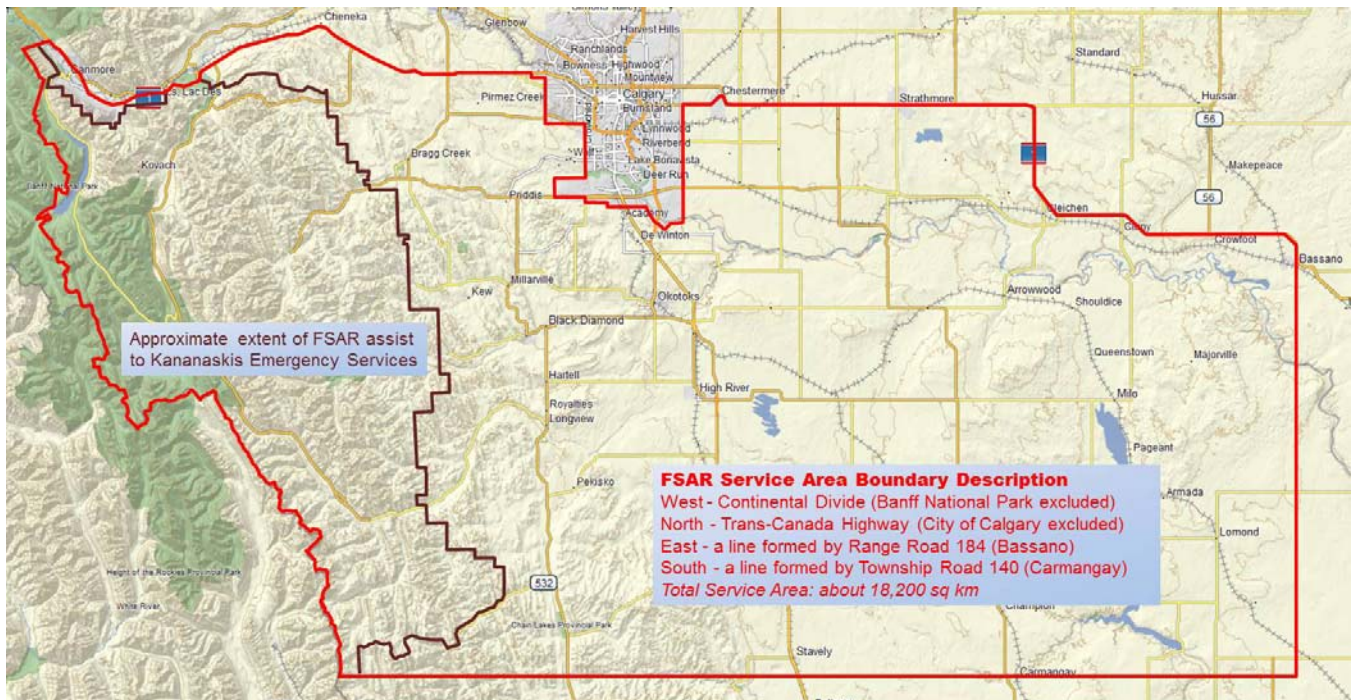
Foothills Search and Rescue Society

P.O. Box 549 • Turner Valley • AB • T0L 2A0
<http://foothillssearchandrescue.com>



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The Foothills Search and Rescue Society (FSAR) is the primary volunteer search and rescue group operating in the service area depicted in the following map. In operation since April 1993, FSAR supports police services, conservation officers and municipal agencies by promptly deploying multi-skilled resources to a variety of missions, typically to find, rescue and recover missing persons (for example, hiker, rider or hunter), to assist during civil emergencies (for example, evacuation and containment for the June 2013 Alberta flood event), and to assist with evidence searches. The nature and scope of an emergency can and has resulted in FSAR being tasked to assist other provincial search and rescue groups (for example, Cochrane). FSAR is also involved in public education through recognized outreach programs (for example, Lost in the Woods, Adventure Smart) that assist individuals make appropriate choices when interacting with the natural environment.



Based in Turner Valley, FSAR is a charitable non-profit organization registered in the Province of Alberta under the Societies Act and is a charity registered with the Canada Revenue Agency. FSAR operates under supervision of the Alberta Office of the Fire Commissioner, and is affiliated with Search and Rescue Alberta and the Search and Rescue Volunteer Association of Canada. As a volunteer organization, FSAR is self-funded and relies almost exclusively on donations and grants to cover its costs.

FSAR members self-fund their personal equipment and accept with pride the challenge and responsibility of responding to emergencies. FSAR operates year round with callouts possible at any time. Missions are typically but not exclusively into wilderness areas.

FSAR is always looking for individuals seeking a volunteer experience supportive of the FSAR mandate. FSAR therefore recruits, develops and maintains a community based membership with the qualifications, training and systems to undertake search and rescue operations initiated and sanctioned by tasking agencies. New members are first developed into qualified ground searchers pursuant to the requirements of CSA Standard Z1620. At yearend 2015, the FSAR membership included over 50 qualified and experienced ground searchers. Thereafter, members are expected to routinely practice their basic skills and, if they choose to, may develop additional skills enabling them to participate with specialty teams (e.g., equestrian, rope).

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FSAR operates within several communities usually behind the scenes, discretely supporting first responders with a capability and capacity that is unique within the FSAR service area. The FSAR contribution directly impacts individuals, families and neighbourhoods in both tangible and intangible ways. In 2015 alone, FSAR members:

- Collectively contributed nearly 11,500 hours of personal time.
- Responded to 13 callouts for missing person and evidence searches.
- Participated in over 100 training activities.

The FSAR Board of Directors appreciates the contribution that its members make to the society and the communities served by the society. It recognizes the need for the membership to function as a cohesive and effective team and therefore makes the following commitment to each of the society's members:

- To provide a meeting place for society activities.
- To facilitate training and informational lectures.
- To establish and maintain a resource library and supply of team equipment.
- To provide the necessary equipment for training.
- To establish an effective organizational system for search and rescue situations.
- To establish an effective communication system between members.
- To encourage members to organize and participate in group recreational activities.

In turn the FSAR Board of Directors expects that each member of the society makes the following minimum commitment to the society and the communities served by the society:

- To hold at all times a valid certificate for Standard First Aid / CPR - C / AED.
- To successfully complete the following two courses:
 - Search and Rescue Basics (pursuant to CSA Standard Z1620, core competency standards for ground search and rescue operations, section 4).
 - Incident Command System (ICS) Level 100.
- To participate in at least five (5) of the monthly general meetings in each calendar year. Meeting duration is nominally two (2) hours plus return travel time.[‡]
- To participate in at least three (3) monthly cyclical training events in each calendar year that are not mock searches. The time commitment for each cyclical training event including return travel time is typically eight (8) hours.[‡]
- To participate in any combination of two (2) real and mock searches in each calendar year. The time commitment for each real search is usually more than twelve (12) hours plus return travel time. The time commitment for a mock search is comparable to that for cyclical training.[‡]
- To pay the FSAR annual membership fee (\$25) when submitting a membership application, and annually prior to the FSAR annual general meeting held in March when renewing membership.

Members shall be qualified ground searchers with the exception of members-in-training who are undertaking to become qualified ground searchers.[§] Applicants therefore must complete the following ten (10) step process before he or she can be confirmed as a qualified ground searcher. Steps 1 through 4 must be completed at an FSAR monthly general meeting (second Tuesday of a month – except August and December, 7pm, Sheep River Public Library in Turner Valley, Alberta).

1. Complete the Membership Application Form. Applicants must be of the age of majority, that is, at least 18 years old.
2. Pay the FSAR annual membership fee (\$25).
3. Complete the Applicant Waiver Form and Non-Disclosure Agreement Form.
4. Complete the Request for Police Criminal Record Clearance Form Letter (see also steps 5 and 6).

[‡] The personal time involved in fulfilling the minimum annual commitment for attending monthly general meetings, monthly cyclical training events, and mock/real searches is at least sixty (60) hours.

[§] FSAR will only *consider* an applicant who:

- In their own estimation has the capability and capacity to successfully complete the training needed to become a qualified ground searcher, **or**
- Produces a valid certificate documenting their ground searcher qualification.

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5. Take the completed Request for Police Criminal Record Clearance Form Letter to the police detachment responsible for the area where you reside and apply for a Criminal Record Clearance certificate.
*Notes: There may be a fee for this service.
The certificate you apply for must include a vulnerable sector check.*
6. Submit to FSAR the original of the Criminal Record Clearance certificate. The certificate cannot be older than three (3) months when submitted to FSAR.
7. Submit to FSAR a copy of your valid certificate for Standard First Aid / CPR – C / AED. The training received must include all elective lessons dealing with children and infants. The certificate must be from an accredited Canadian institution (e.g., St. John Ambulance, Red Cross, Life Saving Society).
Note: If you do not currently have a valid certificate, you must make your own arrangements to complete the necessary training, including paying any fees.
8. Submit to FSAR a copy of your valid certificate for ICS Level 100.
Note: If you do not currently have a valid certificate, you must complete the necessary on-line training (<http://apsts.alberta.ca/online-courses/ics-100/>) including paying any fees.
9. You must complete steps 1 through 8 and be accepted as a member-in-training before you may participate in any FSAR activity beyond general meetings. As a member-in-training you may apply for enrolment in a Search and Rescue Basics course. The time commitment for the course is about 50 hours (exclusive of travel) and FSAR will assist you with the application process. FSAR typically offers its annual Search and Rescue Basics course for the May/June timeframe, and there may be an opportunity to attend an equivalent course given at a different time of the year by a different search and rescue group.
10. As a member-in-training, you may attend FSAR monthly cyclical training events and mock searches. You may not register for other training until after you have completed the Search and Rescue Basics course and been confirmed as a qualified ground searcher.

You may already meet or exceed some of the qualifications specified above, or have other qualifications that are supportive of the FSAR mandate (e.g., a valid Alberta Search and Rescue Basics certificate). If you do, you should plan on providing a hardcopy or image of relevant certificates when applying for FSAR membership (subject to the limitation in step 6 above).

When you have successfully completed a Search and Rescue Basics course, your qualifications will be reviewed and barring any issues you will be considered a qualified ground searcher and authorized to attend sanctioned ground searches. You will be issued an FSAR ID card, loaned an FSAR jacket (security deposit required), and have the opportunity to purchase FSAR personal items and obtain FSAR specific vendor discount coupons.

As a qualified ground searcher you may register for supplementary training. You will need to demonstrate your competency as a ground searcher before you can apply to participate with specialty teams. Even if you are eventually accepted into one or more of the specialty teams, your primary designation will always be that of a ground searcher.

Once you are accepted as a member-in-training and until you are considered a qualified ground searcher, you are encouraged to attend:

- FSAR monthly general meetings (second Tuesday of a month – except August and December, 7pm, Sheep River Public Library in Turner Valley, Alberta).
- FSAR monthly cyclical training events and mock searches (usually the Saturday following a general meeting; topic, venue and schedule announced at the general meeting).

FSAR operates within a governance framework set out by three key documents: Charter, By-Laws (required by statute) and Rules. These documents can be viewed at the following URLs:

Charter: <http://foothillssearchandrescue.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/FSAR-Charter.pdf>

Bylaws: <http://foothillssearchandrescue.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/FSAR-By-Laws.pdf>

Rules: <http://foothillssearchandrescue.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/FSAR-Rules.pdf>

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FSAR utilizes commercial web-based applications for team management, and many of these applications rely on cloud storage. Outside of FSAR monthly general meetings, communication with members is through any combination of voice messaging, electronic mail and social media.

There are many factors that will contribute to your enjoying a volunteer experience with FSAR:

- A good level of physical and emotional fitness at all times.
- Good personal equipment for a wilderness setting in all seasons and weather conditions.
- Sufficient discretionary time to maintain an acceptable level of participation in FSAR scheduled activities.
- Flexibility for timely response to FSAR callouts which can occur at any time. Essential enablers include the understanding and support of your family and employer. Upon request, FSAR will provide a member with an Employer Appeal Form Letter that may help your employer understand the scope of your volunteer commitment.
- At least one telephone number at which you can be reached.
- Convenient access to e-mail and a web browser is essential.

If you have any questions or require additional information about FSAR membership, please feel free to send an email to info@foothillssearchandrescue.com.

