



Alaska Search & Rescue Dogs

“Searching....To Save A Life”

Search and Rescue Activity: 1996-2003

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Alaska Search and Rescue Dogs (ASARD) is a professional, non-profit, volunteer emergency response organization based in Anchorage, Alaska.

ASARD ACTIVITY

Since 1996, ASARD has responded to 206 search and rescue missions across Alaska. In other words, on average, ASARD teams are called upon every two weeks to help locate lost or missing individuals! That’s about 25 searches a year.

ASARD teams are requested throughout the year for cadaver and urban searches. In Winter & Spring, avalanche searches and mission support comprise the bulk of

ASARD’s activity. In the Summer & Fall months, efforts are more focused on wilderness and water searches.

Since 1996, avalanche and wilderness searches have accounted for 64% of ASARD’s missions. Moreover, the need for cadaver and urban searches has increased, such that they have made up 22% of our missions. As part of successful inter-agency responses into the



Snap watches on as skiers enjoy Grandview Valley.

backcountry, ASARD dogs contribute to the recovery of many lost or missing individuals.

Working with other volunteer organizations including Alaska Mountain Rescue Group, Anchorage Nordic Ski Patrol, and APD SAR Team, ASARD plays an integral part in the State’s search and rescue activity. Anchorage Nordic Ski Patrol requests ASARD support annually for the NSAA Ski Trains to Grandview Valley and Curry. Since 2000, ASARD teams have traveled over 20,000 miles and have spent over 1750 hours assisting agencies on search and rescue missions.

ASARD teams travel across the state at the request of municipal, state, and federal agencies. 73% percent of requests come from Alaska State Troopers and Alaska State Parks. Figure 3 illustrates the use of ASARD teams by various agencies.

Figure 2: Total Missions 1996-2003

■ Aval ■ Wild ■ Cadaver ■ Urban ■ H2O ■ Mission Sup

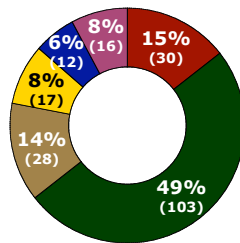


Figure 1: 206 Searches Separated by Month

■ Avalanche ■ Wilderness ■ Cadaver ■ Water ■ Urban ■ Mission Support

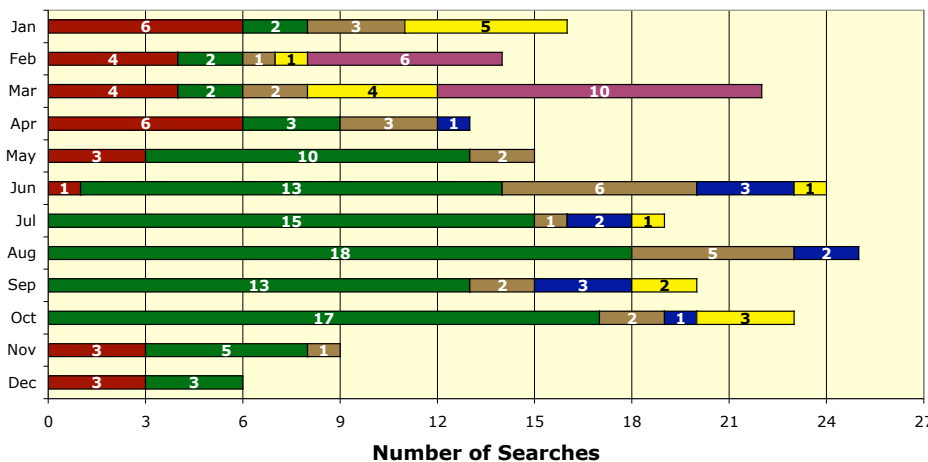
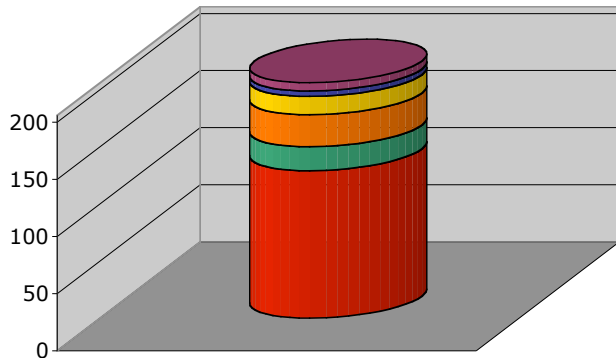


Figure 3: 206 Searches by Agency Request

* Anchorage Police, Kenai Police, Stevens International Airport Police
 ** Alyeska Ski Resort, FDNY, INS, Alaska State Fire Marshal, Rescue Coordination Center



- "129" Alaska State Troopers
- "21" Alaska State Parks
- "28" Police Dept's *
- "16" Ski Train
- "5" National Park Service
- "7" Other **



Canwell Glacier: ASARD teams loading 210th Pavehawk.

Continuing into the Future

ASARD is committed to its mission providing qualified search and rescue dogs.

With community support and dedicated dog handlers, ASARD will remain a valuable resource for the search and rescue community and the state of Alaska.

ASARD would like to thank the following businesses for their continued support:

- ACS Wireless
- Personal Page
- AT&T Wireless
- GCI

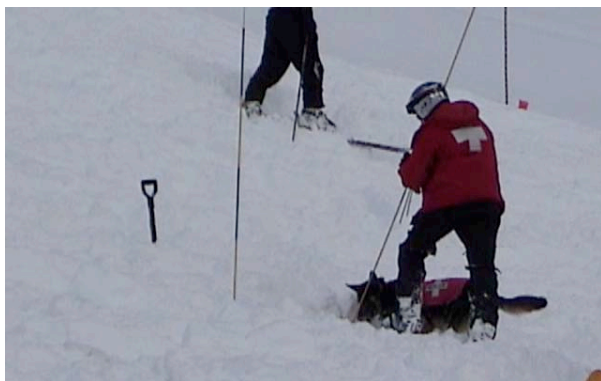
Team Readiness

To reach operational status, ASARD handlers train an average of 2-3 times per week. Each session usually lasts 2-3 hours, and it takes at least two years to become mission-ready. In addition to training dogs, handlers must learn scent theory and maintain their skills in orienteering, wilderness first aid, backcountry travel and survival skills. This intense

schedule maintains skills for both the dog and handler.

Community Support

Through our Preventative Search and Rescue program (PSARS), ASARD provided 97 demonstrations and presentations to schools, local organizations, and community events. PSARS are designed to both increase the awareness of hazards in Alaska's backcountry and increase people's knowledge of SAR dogs. Topics include: training techniques, search dog application, backcountry safety, and information about ASARD and other SAR organizations.



Alyeska Resort: Buck successfully passes his avalanche evaluation.



Foster practicing chairlift work at Hilltop.

**Member: National Association for Search and Rescue Non-Profit
 IRS 501(c)(3)**

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