

Partners in Saving Lives



bcsara.com

Presented by: Dwight Yochim, CEO & Andrew Wallwork, Treasurer

Date: September 19, 2023

Agenda

- History of SAR and partnership with municipalities
- 2022 Year in Review
- How municipalities can help local SAR groups



bcsara.com



About BCSARA

Representing ground search and rescue stakeholders in British Columbia



Ground search and rescue (GSAR) in British Columbia is provided solely by volunteers.

On call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, these unpaid professionals provide their own personal gear, time, dedication and expertise at no cost to the people of BC and to the individuals they rescue.

BCSARA is proud to represent the 3,400+ GSAR volunteers in BC who make up 78 search groups across the province.



[bcsara.com](https://www.bcsara.com)

History of Search & Rescue in BC

How it all started



Formed out of simple necessity – a call for help for someone injured or missing. Formed from:

- Local fish and game clubs
- Volunteer fire departments
- Civil defence units
- Hiking clubs

No formal training, no funding, virtually no equipment.

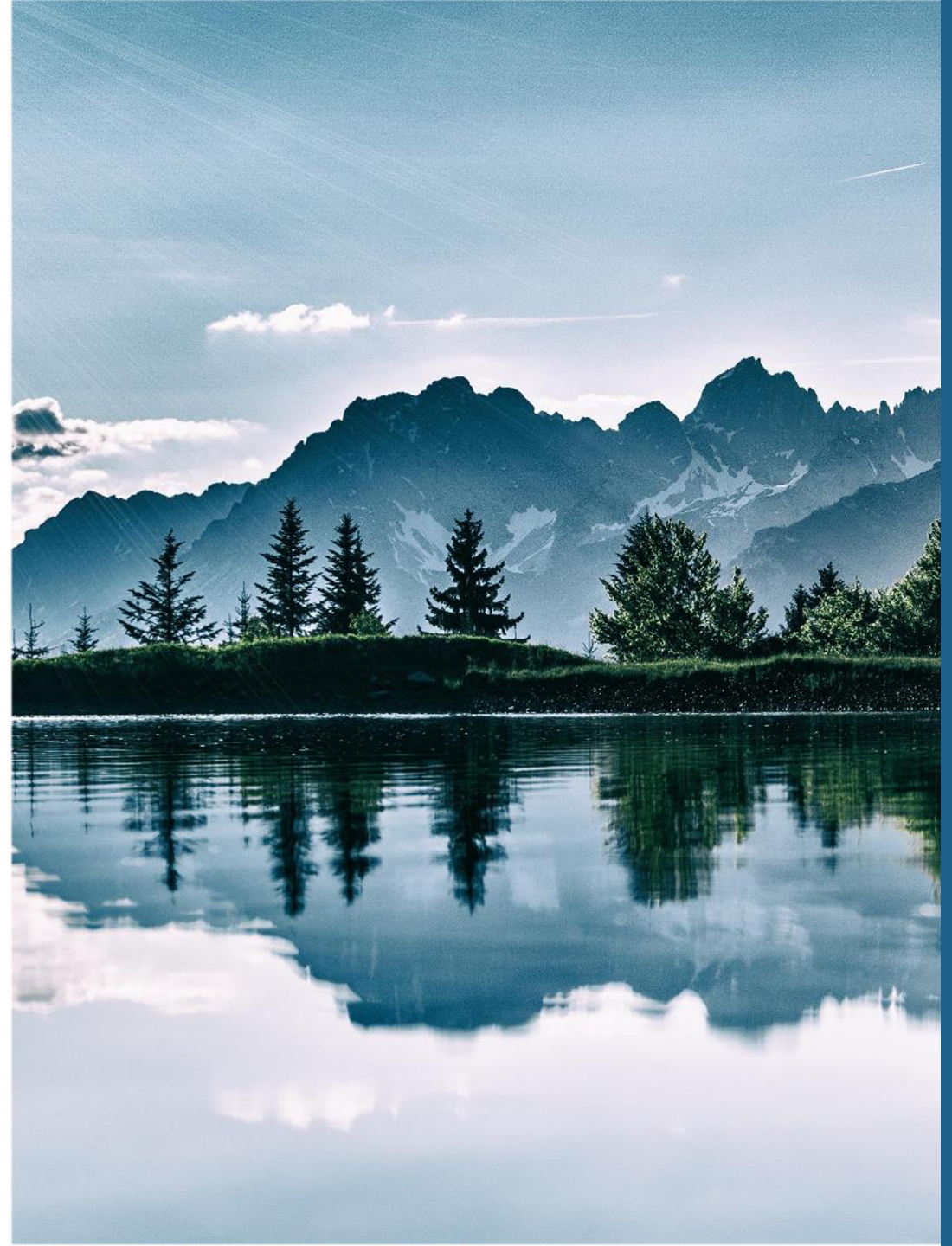


[bcsara.com](https://www.bcsara.com)

SAR in the 21st Century

Well organized

- Most SAR groups are incorporated non-profit societies
- 2002 BCSARA incorporated as non-profit society
- 2010 proposed alternative funding model to province
- 2016 received a 2-year \$10 million grant
- 2017 received a 1-year \$5 million grant
- 2019 received a 3-year \$18 million grant to test new funding model
- 2022 was first year of sustainable funding of \$6 million



UBCM Supported Funding Model

November 18, 2015

Chris Kelly
President
BC Search and Rescue Association
130 – 10691 Shellbridge Way
Richmond BC V6X 2W8

Dear Mr. Kelly:


The Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) is the association representing the interests of all local governments in the Province of British Columbia, as well as member First Nations. At our Annual Convention, September 21-25, 2015, UBCM members endorsed the following resolution:

B2 Establishment of a Provincial Fund to Support Search and Rescue

Resolution B2 calls on the provincial government to support the BC Search and Rescue Association's proposal for development of a provincial SAR fund. The resolution asks that the Province undertake consultation with local governments and other stakeholders to develop, establish, and implement the fund as soon as possible.

Please find the text of resolution B2, as well as available background material, enclosed for your review and attention. We would welcome your comments on this matter.

Sincerely,



Chair Al Richmond
President

Please note: The resolution has been conveyed to the provincial government under separate cover.



Required Funding



Purpose of Funding	Version 1	Version 2	Version 3
Training, Technical	\$ 1,650,000	\$ 1,650,000	\$ 1,650,000
Licensing and Insurance	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000
Personal Protective Equipment	\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000
Radio Licensing	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000
Capital replacement		\$ 1,300,000	\$ 1,300,000
Building Costs ⁸		\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000
Total of allocations to SAR Groups from SAR Fund	\$ 2,925,000	\$ 5,025,000	\$ 5,025,000
Core Training (JIBC)	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000
Funding for BCSARA (SAR Advisory)	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000
Liability Insurance	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
SAR Prevention (delivery and supplies)	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
SAR Response Reviews ⁹ (contracted)	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000
Critical Incident Stress Management ¹⁰	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Data Collection (On-line reporting system)	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000
Response Reimbursement			\$ 2,500,000
Total of other support funding through SAR Fund	\$ 1,085,000	\$ 1,085,000	\$ 3,585,000
Administrative and Coordination (SAR Fund staff, office and travel costs)	\$ 350,000	\$ 425,000	\$ 550,000
Total funding required for SAR Fund	\$ 4,360,000	\$ 6,535,000	\$ 9,160,000
EMBC (response reimbursement)	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 2,500,000	
EMBC (other response costs)	\$ 1,250,000	\$ 1,250,000	\$ 1,250,000
SAR-NIF (for provincial initiatives)	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
Funding from Local Authorities¹¹	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000
Gaming (estimated for equipment) ¹²	\$ 2,100,000		
Total other funding (not through SAR Fund)	\$ 8,100,000	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 3,500,000
Total funding	\$ 12,460,000	\$ 12,535,000	\$ 12,660,000

Year In Review Report

Lives saved
1,019
People rescued
(needed help)

1,510
SAR tasks

1,758
Dogs rescued

49
Dogs rescued

*Additional people assisted
(with subjects)*
262
Bodies recovered

*Still missing
when search
suspended*
71

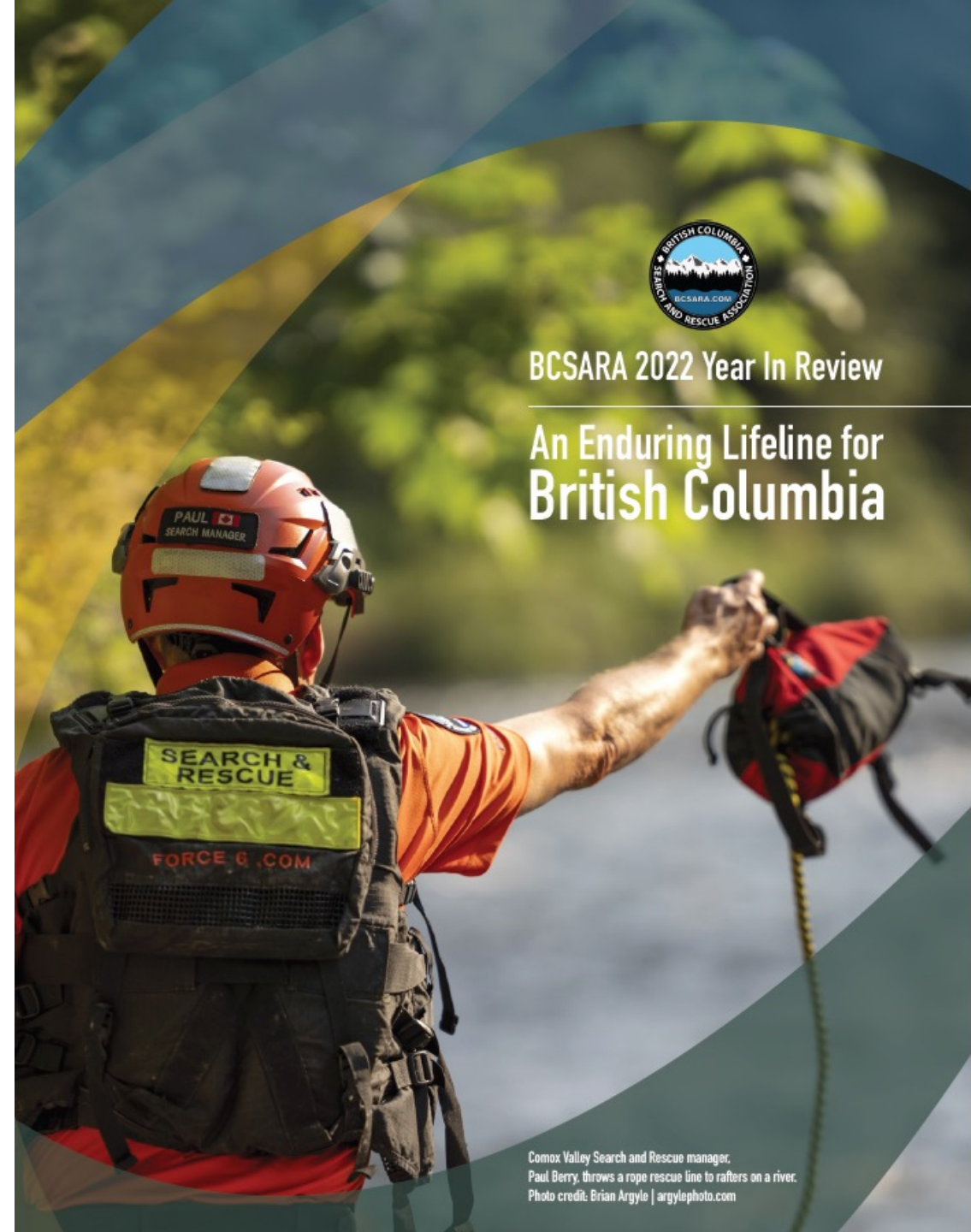
94
total hours of
service in 2022

441,026
total hours of
service in 2022



BCSARA 2022 Year In Review

An Enduring Lifeline for
British Columbia



Comox Valley Search and Rescue manager,
Paul Berry, throws a rope rescue line to rafters on a river.
Photo credit: Brian Argyle | argylephoto.com

OUR NUMBERS SAY IT ALL

Key Insights for 2022

During the past 10 years alone, more than 10,000 lives have been saved, thanks to GSAR intervention and, for the year 2022, 1,019 lives were saved. The estimated economic and social cost averted by saving 1,019 lives is estimated at a staggering \$4.4 billion.

Of the 1,510 GSAR tasks in 2022, 12% involved subjects who would have died without urgent GSAR intervention and 43% involved subjects who would have ultimately not survived if GSAR had not intervened.



\$11M
\$189M
\$6M

The value of volunteerism

If GSAR members were paid just for the hours they give, the cost would amount to more than \$11 million in wages alone (based on a comparable average hourly wildland firefighter wage of \$25 per hour).

If B.C.'s volunteer service was replaced by a salaried full-time staff service with the same number of personnel on call 24/7/365, the minimum cost would skyrocket to \$189 million a year in wages.

In 2022, the provincial government contributed \$6 million towards the cost of equipment, training and programs to maintain readiness. GSAR groups continue to fund raise to meet the actual cost to be task ready of nearly \$11,415,000.

Time well spent

Data has shown that, if a GSAR member spends a 10-hour day searching/rescuing a subject, the true time of that activity for the volunteer is actually 40 hours (10 hrs. on task +20 hrs. training + 10 hrs. to maintain readiness). Effectively, this turns one long day into a full work week.

Last year, GSAR members volunteered, on average, 128 hours each, which is approximately a month of full time work from each member and equates to 441,026 hours in total volunteered in a year.*



100 hours/first year
as a member in training (MIT)

\$2,275/first year
for dedicated personal GSAR gear as a MIT

Average 165 hours/year
of active GSAR time

\$780/year
in personal costs to be operationally ready

Average 80 hours/year
of specialized team training

Membership Category	Members in 2022
All members	3442
Active GSAR members	2291
Members in training	490
Non-operational support* members	263
Leave of absence	188
Operational support* members	120
Reserve members	90

* Support includes governance, accounting, logistics, equipment maintenance/repair, instruction, legal, prevention/education/outreach, etc.



bcsara.com

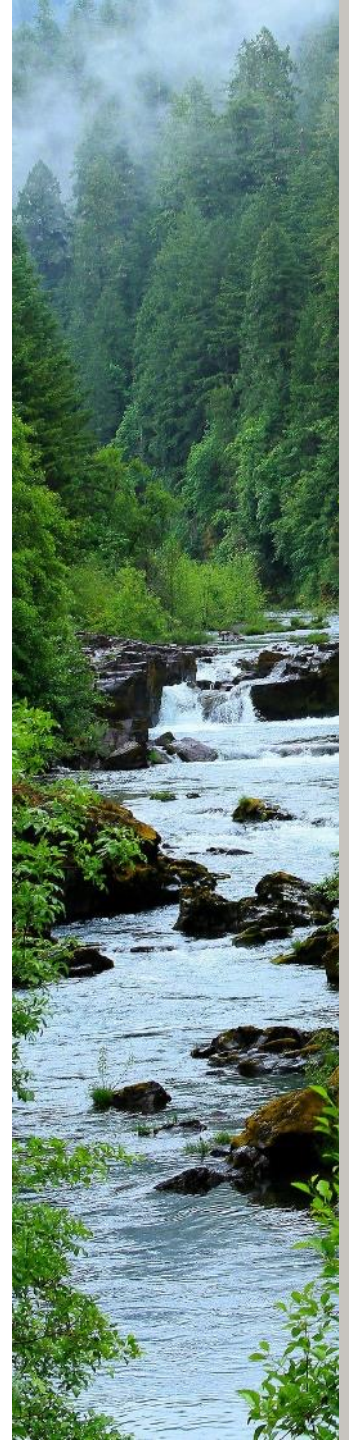


One slide says it all

SAR makes a difference



bcsara.com



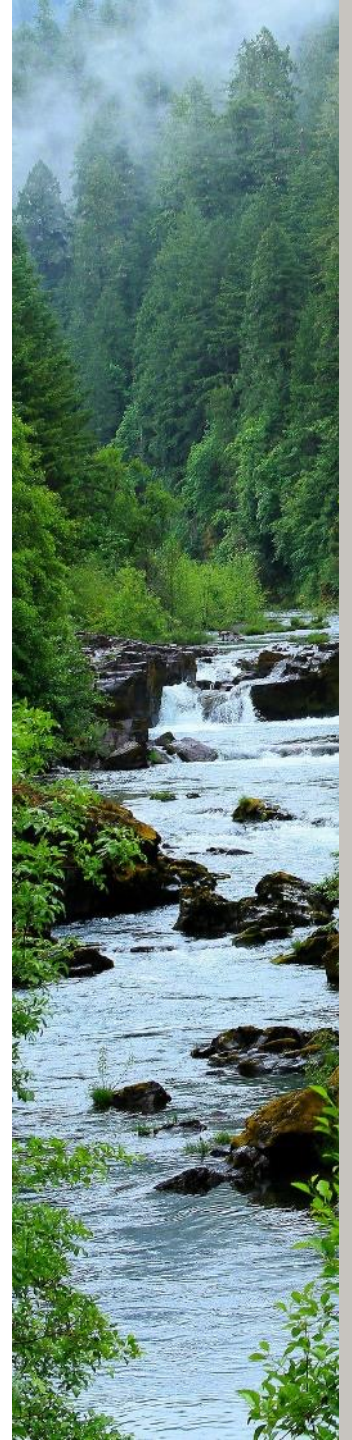
Value of Volunteerism

SAR makes a difference

\$11M



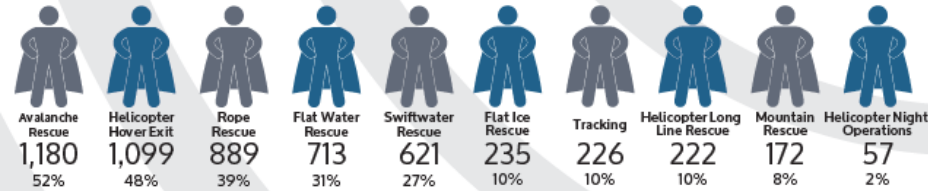
bcsara.com



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A GSAR MEMBER

Highly-qualified professionals

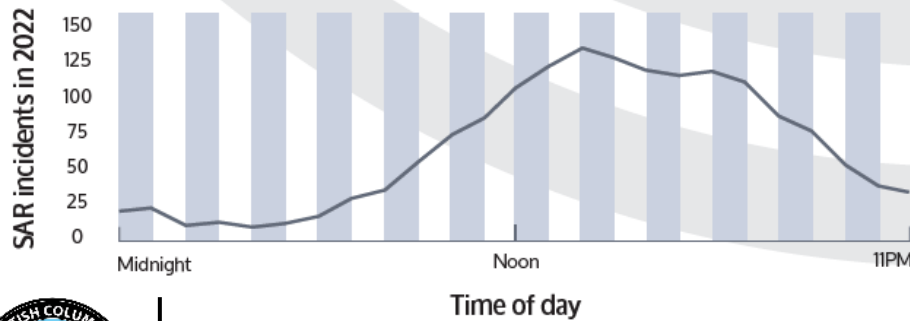
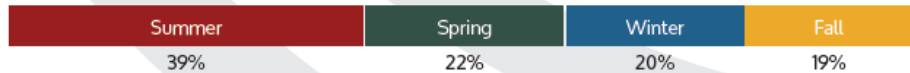
Since B.C. GSAR groups cover a wide variety of terrain and conditions, each group may be approved for specific qualifications that are relevant to their area. In addition to human GSAR members, there are also 12 avalanche and 17 wilderness tracking GSAR group dogs.



All GSAR members are required to have basic first aid but 72% of members have higher-level qualifications. Of that, 12% are doctors, nurses, or professional first responders (paramedics or fire fighters).

In addition to active GSAR members, there are also non-operational and operational support members who fulfill important roles and dedicate a large amount of their time to training as well.

When does GSAR get called out?



GSAR members spend half of their time training to respond to an incident

Core GSAR Training



- Consists of six different components including an overnight component and Incident Command System Level 100, which represents 97 hours of training
- Minimum seven hour first-aid course, most GSAR members have higher training
- Swift water online awareness training
- Optional rope rescue online awareness course

Technical Rescue Training

Wildland rope rescue, swift water, flat water and ice rescue, avalanche rescue, mountain rescue, helicopter long line and winch operations

Specialty Training



Leadership, GSAR manger level 1 and 2, tracking, train-the-trainer, canine search (avalanche and wilderness), night vision operations



Activity Specific Training

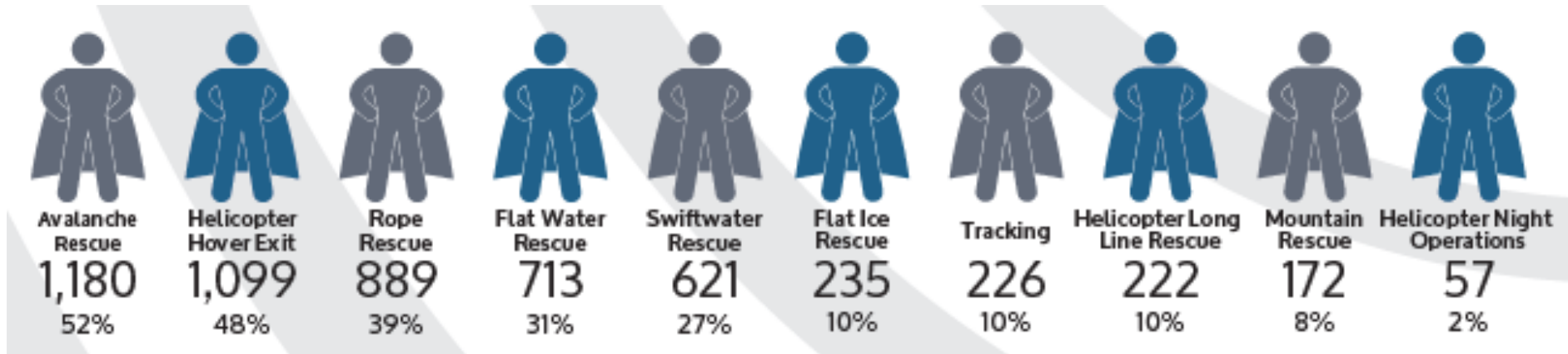
Such as, but not limited to, off-road vehicle operations, chainsaw bucking operations, and code 3 driving



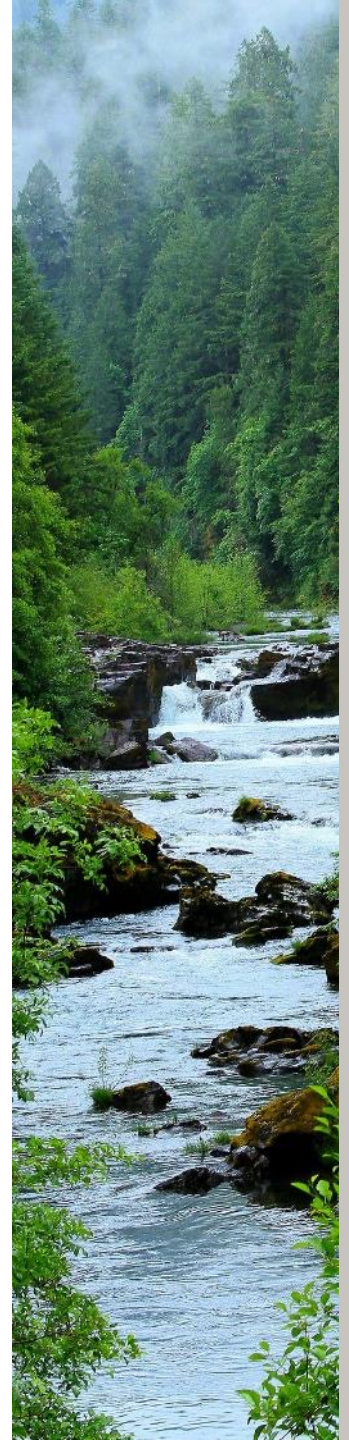
bcsara.com



Highly Qualified Professionals



bcsara.com



Government Funding

How much and what does it cover

- BCSARA receives \$6 million per year
- Almost \$5 million goes directly to the 78 GSAR groups
- \$250,000 for insurance
- \$500,000 for staff wages
- Rest covers various programs such as BC AdventureSmart and an extensive database



bcsara.com

Cost of SAR Readiness

How much and what does it cover

- It is estimated that it cost \$12 million (2018 dollars) for the 78 Groups to maintain readiness (training, equipment, overhead).
- Province covers 40% or about \$6 million
- GSAR groups must fund the remainder (donations, grants, fund raisers and you – municipalities)

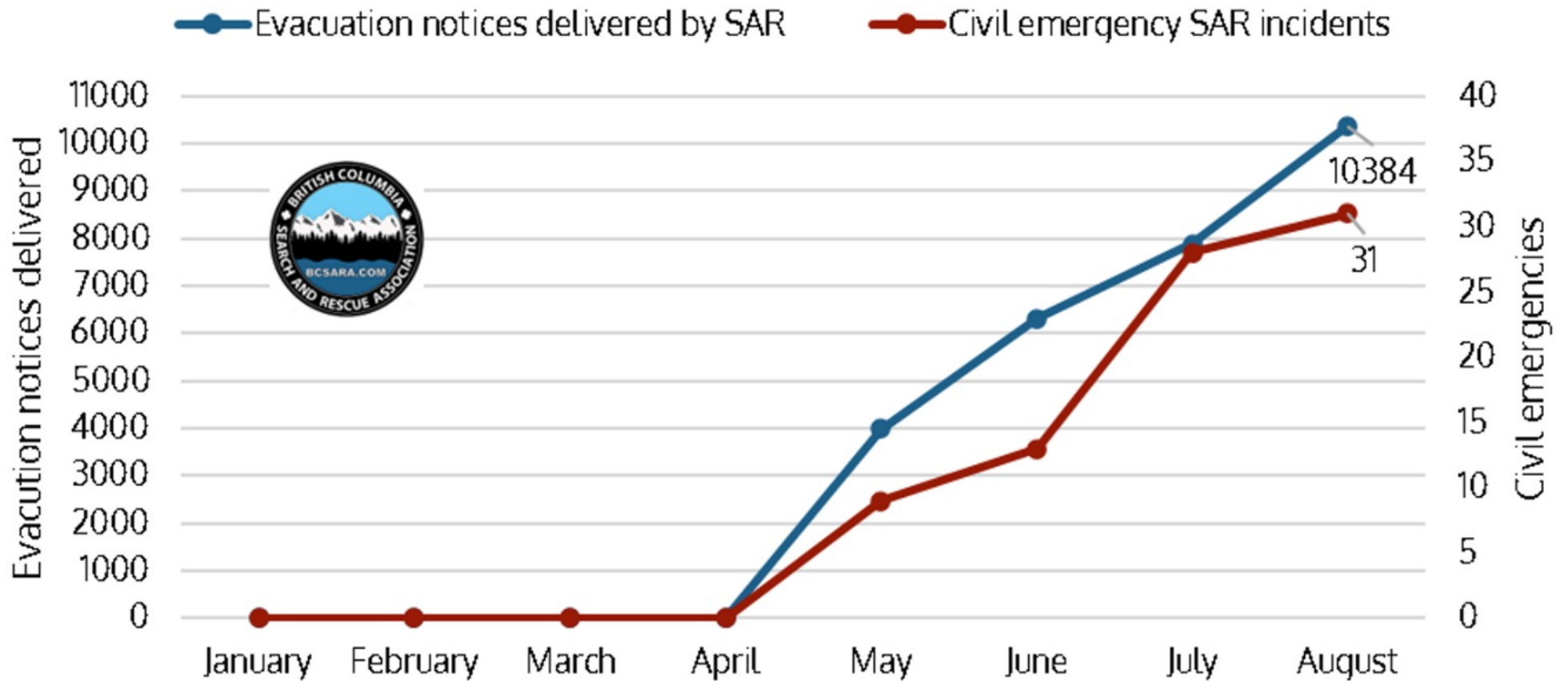


bcsara.com

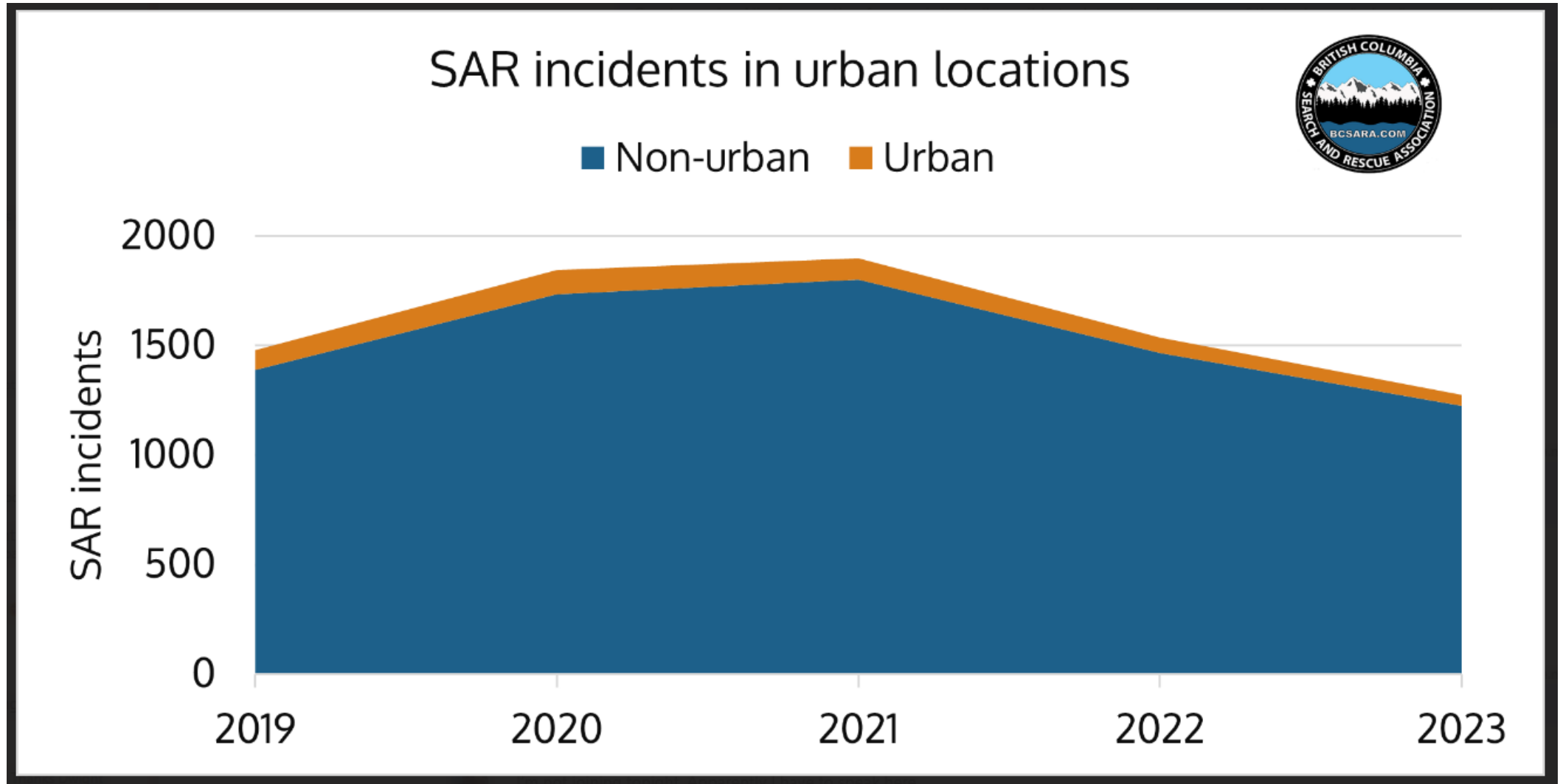
Civil Emergencies



Civil emergency SAR responses from January 1 to August 28, 2023



Urban Searches



Partners with local fire



bcsara.com

Your role in this partnership

How can municipalities help?



Direct Funding



Direct Support



Combination



bcsara.com

Maintaining Readiness



Time Cost Readiness

Imagine a fire department without your support



bcsara.com



Connect with your local group

What does your SAR group need?

- There is no template – every GSAR groups has different needs
- Talk to your local GSAR group about their needs
- Look for ways to assist them
- Ask about big ticket projects that need community support



bcsara.com

We are all partners in saving lives

Support your local SAR group

SAR volunteers are your neighbours, your doctors, your mechanics, your relatives. They come from all walks of life and cross sections of your community.

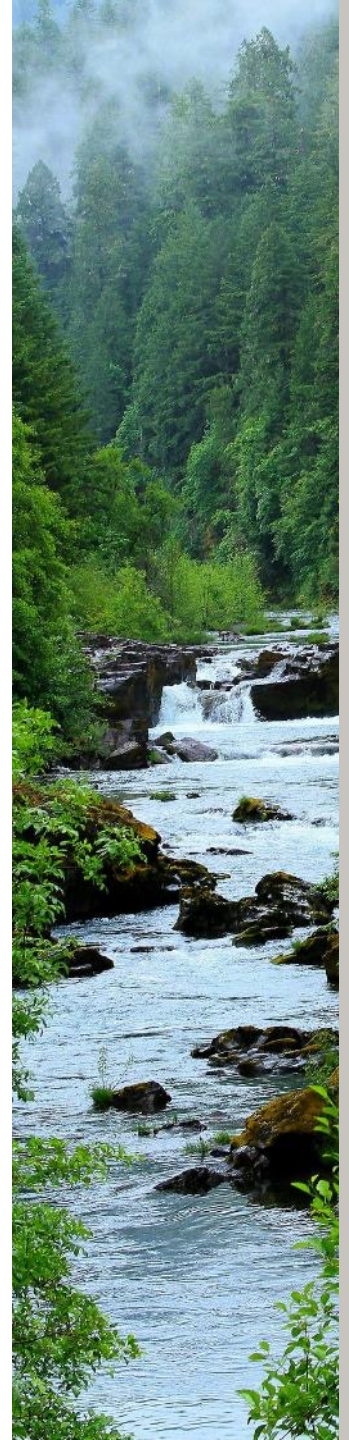
They have one goal in mind which is to save anyone who ventures into your outdoor recreational wilderness.

It could be your neighbour, your relative, your friend or YOU!

Please, be a partner with your local SAR group and help us save lives together.



| bcsara.com



Thank you for
your interest.

Any questions?



bcsara.com