



December 2006

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***From the Chair....***

Greetings SAR Folks!

I hope everyone has been enjoying a Festive Holiday Season, and all of your missions ended quickly, safely, and happily! The members of the NMESC Board have been pretty busy working to support the efforts of you and your team.

One of the latest projects has been the addition of several new radio frequencies that will be available for teams to use on searches and training events. (Please check out the article in the newsletter for the exact frequencies and policies). We are very excited about adding this as another benefit of belonging to the NMESC.

Other updates from the NMESC include:

- The NMSAR Field Certification Study Guide has been turned over to the State, and we hope will get the infamous “Stamp of Approval” so it can be distributed soon
- The NMESC Training Chair is working on another “Boot Camp”, and weather permitting an outdoor, overnight “Winter Skills” class. (Dates and Location TBA)
- The transition to our new website host has been completed, and we feel confident that our new processes and operations are on track
- Early conversation have begun with the National Association for Search and Rescue (NASAR) group; since they will be hosting their annual conference in New Mexico in May of 2008

- The NMESC is hard at work organizing ESCAPE 2007. It will be May 4, 5, and 6 at Ruidoso. The Committee has some exciting new events planned for this year. Please mark the dates, and plan on spending the whole weekend!

I would ask that all of you encourage any non-member teams to join the NMESC (see page 8 for a list of member and nonmember teams), not only for the benefits they will enjoy, but to help strengthen the voice of SAR in New Mexico.

I also encourage all of you to work on facilitating some “grassroots” trainings for teams and officials in your area. Good networking and training will help ensure that your proper response is an automatic and reflexive reaction to a situation.

**YOU MAKE SAR A POSITIVE THING IN NEW MEXICO. THANK YOU!**

To all of you, from me and rest of the NMESC Board, we extend sincere wishes that 2007 is tops for you and yours.

Dave Kenneke  
Chairman, NMESC

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***A Rogue October Storm Blasts the Sandia Mountains  
Two Hypothermic Hikers Rescued  
October 9 &10, 2006***

Two men were given a second chance to life; thanks to the efforts by New Mexico SAR Teams (Cibola SAR, Sandia SAR Dogs, Santa Fe SAR, New Mexico SAR Support Team, Bernalillo County ARES), with special thanks to Albuquerque Mountain Rescue Council (AMRC) and their team leaders Marc Beverly and Jason Williams. AMRC team members were first on the scene and their immediate aid saved the lives of the two men. Here is a summary of the rescue and a few important SAR tips.

Two men from Houston, TX were in town for Balloon Fiesta. During the afternoon of October 9, 2006, the subjects took the tram to Sandia Crest and decided to hike down the La Luz trail. Both men were dressed in cotton shirts and jeans, and were ill prepared for the rogue storm that dumped nearly six inches of snow above the 9,000’ level and lots of rain below.

SAR teams were sent from the bottom as well as the top of La Luz trail. The non-medical AMRC team that started from the bottom was the first to find the subjects several switchbacks below the La Luz overlook area. It was late evening, raining, about 34F°, and the subjects were completely soaked, hypothermic, and were intermittently conscious. Subject #2 was in much worse condition than Subject #1. The other team, consisting of Marc and Jason, both trained paramedics, descended from Sandia Crest and hurried to the Subjects once the other members of their team located them. The two non-medical AMRC members were very seasoned rescuers and provided excellent initial care for the patients.

Both subjects were stripped naked, dressed in dry synthetic fiber clothing and sleeping bags, and a tent was pitched. Cell phone communications directly with an ER doctor at UNMH were established to

discuss the Subjects' condition and past medical history in relation to hypothermia. Warm I.V. lines were established on both subjects, oxygen applied, and other medical care was given to address each Subject's conditions.

### **Tips for SAR Teams:**

- Remember the basics when treating hypothermic people:
  - Take wet clothes off, replace with dry clothes
  - If windy, get the patient out of that environment
  - Prevent further heat loss by utilizing sleeping bags, sleeping pads to insulate from the cold ground
  - Keep in mind the four preventable principles of hypothermia: Conduction, Convection, Evaporation, and Radiation
  - Use warm oral fluid and replace calories with high sugar and high carbohydrate foods if the patient is able to maintain their own airway
- Have a team hypothermia kit: include sleeping bags, tent, tarp, insulating pad, heat packs, diaper, blankets, etc.
- Always carry extra clothing for subjects
- Ensure your SAR pack is large enough to carry extra clothing, emergency medical supplies, etc.
- Ensure spare batteries for headlamps are readily accessible

The two men were stabilized and the AMRC medical team decided that Subject #1 was stable enough to be evacuated via a wheeled litter. A team of about 10 SAR members, a few Sheriff Deputies, and fire department personnel wheeled the Subject down the La Luz trail to the trail head. The total distance was about three miles and it took the litter team about five hours. It was dark, the trail was in bad condition (the rainy monsoon season turned the La Luz into a narrow, washed out, rocky mess) and several members of the litter team sprained their ankles during the descent.

### **Tips for SAR Teams:**

- Always carry a helmet, hand, and eye protection for litter evacuations to help prevent injuries from swinging branches, falls on steep trails, etc.
- Sturdy, over-the-ankle boots help minimize ankle injuries
- Rotate off of the litter and change positions frequently to conserve energy
- Utilizing less personnel on the litter and more on the haul and brake teams can be effective on narrow and rocky terrain
- Remember when tending the litter if the rescuer pulls up this causes more work for the other rescuer on the other side, to minimize exertion have all tenders push down on the litter; not pull up

The AMRC medical team determined not to risk a jostling litter evacuation for Subject #2. Such an evacuation would have placed him at extreme risk for lethal heart dysrhythmias. A National Guard Blackhawk rescue team performed a risky, night air evacuation of the subject. SAR members radioed coordinates to the Blackhawk crew and at about 5:00 am, the crew was able to hover below the cloud ceiling and drop off their EMT about 100' away from the subject. The EMT packaged Subject #2 into a Sked-Co Litter, and the SAR team helped carry him to a drop zone.

The helicopter pilot made several attempts to pick up the Subject, but the cloud cover kept descending and ascending the mountain slopes. Finally, a break in the cover provided a small window of time for the helicopter to drop a line and haul the Subject into the hovering helicopter. The helicopter was barely able

to get the litter into the fuselage before the clouds enshrouded the aircraft, which then made a narrow escape down Lower La Cueva Canyon.

**Tips for SAR Teams:**

- Carry head, eye (double lens goggles are best) and ear protection for helicopter landing zones
- If at all possible, stay uphill and out of downwash area of the helicopter
- SAR Commanders -- Remember it takes about 3 to 6 hours for a helicopter rescue team to mobilize and fly to the rescue area. It took about 4 hours for this rescue
- Protocols require ground teams to keep mobilizing in case of an air failure (weather, mechanical or unavailability)

Overall, it is important for SAR teams to understand the environmental conditions and what they will likely be on any given mission. In New Mexico, that can be at any extreme. As seen with this mission it can be raining in the valley of Albuquerque and snowing heavily on the crest. Being prepared for both conditions is extremely important. The conditions dictate what gear is needed on the mission, and a fully stocked gear bag should be part of a team cache. Once at incident base, decisions on what is appropriate to take on the mission can be made in the field.

Both Subjects recovered fully within a few weeks, with only a short stay for Subject #2 in the Intensive Care Unit at UNMH.

*Special thanks to Marc Beverly, Jason Williams, and Steve Crawford for contributing to this article.*

Steve Van Kouteren

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***NMESC Team Membership Renewal***

It is that time of year again. NMESC membership renewal forms will be mailed in late December/early January to SAR team addresses as listed in the State Resource Directory (<http://www.nmesc.org/resources.htm>).

Please check your team mailing address and contact Gail Zimmermen at [gail@nmesc.org](mailto:gail@nmesc.org) if the address needs to be corrected.

Why join NMESC?

Check out the following member benefits:

- Reduced registration fees for your team members at ESCAPE
- Reduced or no fee registration for your team members for NMESC sanctioned regional trainings
- Access to special training by qualified instructors for your team through NMESC
- Voting privileges at the Annual ESCAPE to select NMESC Directors and have a voice in the direction for matters related to SAR issues in New Mexico
- Use of LED projectors and screens for training purposes at no charge
- Team Emergency Equipment Grant Program. While this is a very limited and restricted program it can be of a great benefit to a team for the replacement of team equipment that is lost, stolen or damaged during a State SAR Mission

- USGS Topographical Maps for teams and team members at prices about one third the USGS price
- Seed money to sponsor trainings
- Assistance in organizing large scale training exercises
- Part of a statewide communication network for NM SAR teams
- A contact liaison to help answer SAR related questions, or give direction with research. Check the NMESC website for the list of which Board Member is your liaison
- Use of five State SAR radio frequencies for missions and trainings

Gail Zimmermen

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## ***ESCAPE 2007***

Here we come Ruidoso!! As I'm sure that most of you are aware, ESCAPE 2007 will be held at the Convention Center in Ruidoso. We're excited about the change of venue and hope that you all share our enthusiasm!

**The dates have been set, so mark your calendars: May 4, 5 and 6 2007!**

Friday the 4th will, again, be devoted to specialty training and the main event will begin on Saturday May 5th. We have a block of rooms set aside at the government rate at The Lodge, the hotel adjacent to the convention center. Be sure to check the forum and the NMESC website often for updates!

There will be a few new ideas that we're going to be trying out; a box lunch for Saturday, a cook out Saturday night and...well you'll just have to come and see!! We're trying to make the vendors a stronger presence, so if you have any ideas, be sure to email me. Looking forward to seeing you all there!!!

Sue Williams

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## ***Training Corner***

**February 2007, SAR Boot Camp, Albuquerque, NM** -- A Boot Camp is being planned and will be done in Albuquerque. Check with the NMESC website for the location, final date, and details on the training.

We are looking for help with instructors to teach the basics, including:

- Compass and Map Training
- Field Pack
- Tracking
- Safety
- Incident Command Structure?

If you can help in any of these areas please contact Ross Holbrook at 505-894-3199 (H), 505-740-8493 (Cell), or send an e-mail to [Rosstorc@yahoo.com](mailto:Rosstorc@yahoo.com)

**May 4-6, 2007, ESCAPE 2007, Ruidoso, NM** -- See ESCAPE 2007 article for details.

Remember as our Missions are down we need to supplement with Training.

Thanks very much for your help.

Ross Holbrook

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## ***New SAR Radio Frequencies and Use Policy***

### **Authorization for Use**

The NMESC Board has modified the previously published operating guidelines for the use of the New Mexico Emergency Services Council FCC license for the Primary SAR Frequency and is including the new Secondary SAR Frequencies as follows:

| <b>VHF</b>  |        |           | <b>UHF</b> |           |
|-------------|--------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 155.160 MHz | KC7064 | State SAR | 460.250    | UHF No. 1 |
| 151.370 MHz | KC7064 | SAR No. 2 | 465.250    | UHF No. 2 |
| 159.285 MHz | KC7064 | SAR No. 3 |            |           |

Authorization is given for all CURRENT NMESC member teams to operate under our licenses while participating in NM SAR (State Mission Number Issued) activities and trainings as specified below.

The UHF frequencies were obtained for possible repeater use. It should be noted that these are not the same UHF frequencies allotted to the Amateur Radio Band.

During a SAR mission, the Incident Commander can determine whether the use of one of these UHF frequencies is appropriate, such as for a “cross band repeater” function.

For a copy of the FCC license so that you may have team radios programmed for these frequencies contact the New Mexico Emergency Services Council at P. O. Box 3396, Albuquerque, NM 87190.

All use will be in compliance with FCC Regulations.

### **General Operational Procedures**

All traffic on the NMESC frequencies will be carried out using plain English text only. Please refrain from using your codes (10 codes or others) on the SAR frequencies. The only acceptable deviation from this rule is the condition or “death” message assigned when the mission is started.

NMESC shares these frequencies with other FCC licensed entities including the State of New Mexico. No entity “owns” a frequency. Each can make their own use policy as long as it conforms to FCC licensing

laws. NMESC policy is to grant current member teams the use of the frequencies. Continued use of this license by SAR teams requires meeting NMESC annual membership requirements.

Any Team that allows membership to lapse or that does not abide by these guidelines and the rules of the FCC may have these privileges revoked, and they will be responsible for any FCC fines or penalties incurred. The TEAM is responsible for Team Members' actions.

No use of these frequencies other than during a SAR Mission or a SAR Training is permitted.

Maximum Power allowed under the NMESC license is 100 watts.

### **Search and Rescue Missions**

155.160 MHz, Primary SAR Frequency: This Primary SAR Frequency is to be used by teams in the field for communication with the Incident Base and other teams in the field. It is NOT FOR INTRA TEAM (within your own team) communication while on a SAR mission. Teams are expected to use a Secondary Frequency or their own FCC licensed team frequency for intra team communications

151.370 and 159.285 MHz Secondary SAR Frequencies: The Incident Commander or his designee will assign the use of these Secondary SAR Frequencies as appropriate for the particular mission and circumstances.

Operational Frequency Control: Use of the NMESC frequencies will be the responsibility of the Incident Commander(s) or the assigned designee(s) during the mission. The Incident Commander(s) will assign staff for communication logging and monitoring services under the Logistics unit during each operational period.

### **Team Training Activities**

151.370 MHz or 159.285 MHz for Training Activities: Authorization is given for all CURRENT NMESC member teams to operate under our licenses while conducting Team Training Activities.

However, Teams are encouraged to use their own Team Frequency or the Secondary SAR Frequencies, 151.370 MHz or 159.285 MHz for training purposes rather than the Primary SAR Frequency, 155.160 MHz.

If a non-NMESC member team is participating in training with a NMESC member team, the use of this license is granted, however the NMESC Member Team has operational control and is responsible for policy and regulatory compliance, monitoring the frequency and legal operation by the non-member team. The NMESC encourages teams on training exercises to also utilize other operational frequencies (team, ham, etc.). Use during Training Activities is predicated on non-interference with any actual SAR missions in progress.

### **Use by Other Agencies**

The NMESC has a formal policy for extending the use of our Primary SAR Frequency to assisting agencies and resources. Contact the NMESC Board for additional information.

Also, since the State of New Mexico, Department of Public Safety (New Mexico State Police) also has a license for the SAR Frequency of 155.160MHz, they may grant use privileges to other agencies.

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### *2006 NMESC Member Teams*

<b>NMESC Member Teams</b>		<b>Other SAR Teams</b>
AMRC	NM SAR Support	Alamogordo SAR
Angel Fire SAR	North Catron Cty SAR	Apache Rescue
Atalaya SAR	Northern Sno-Drift Breakers SAR	Bootheel SAR
Bernalillo Cty ARES	Organ Mountain Tech Rescue	Cuba Fire Dept.
Bernalillo Cty Sheriffs Mounted	Pajarito Mountain Ski Patrol and K-9	Dixon Fire Dept.
Chama Valley SAR	Panhandle SAR	La Plata VFD
Chavez Cty SAR	Philmont SAR	Mesilla Valley Radio Club
Chavez Cty Sheriffs Posse	Sacred Mountain SAR	Mount Taylor SAR
Cibola SAR	San Juan Cty Sheriffs Posse	Mounted Search and Rescue
Civil Air Patrol, NM Wing	San Miguel SAR	National Cave Rescue
Dona Ana Cty SAR	Sandia Search Dogs	Navajo Cty Sheriffs SAR
Dona Ana Cty Sheriffs Posse	Sangre de Cristo del Norte SAR	New Mexico Rescue Dogs
EAA Ultra-light Chapter 118	Santa Fe Cty Sheriffs Posse	Panhandle Emergency Training
Grant Cty SAR	Santa Fe SAR	Randall Cty SAR
HSDC SAR	Sierra Cty SAR	Rio Arriba Mounted Sheriffs Posse
K-9 SAR	Socorro SAR	Sacramento Mountain SAR
La Cueva VFD	St. Johns College	San Juan Cty SAR
Los Alamos Amateur Radio Club	Taos SAR	San Miguel Cty Sheriffs Posse Pecos
Los Alamos Fire Brigade	Taos Ski Valley Pro Patrol	Southern AZ Rescue Assn.
Lowe, Mike (Individual)	True North SAR	Taos Cty Sheriffs Posse
Luna Cty SAR	United SAR of Montezuma Cty	Timberon VFD
McKinley Cty SAR	United World College	U. S. Border Patrol
Mesilla Valley SAR	White Mountain SAR	
Mountain Canine Corps	Zabriskie, Barbara (individual)	

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## ***2006 NMESC Board***

Dave Kenneke, Chair  
Steve Crawford, Vice-chair  
Don Stone, Secretary  
Elane Flower-Maudlin, Treasurer  
Ross Holbrook, Training Chair  
Gail Zimmerman, Membership and PACE Chair  
Robert Valdez, Fundraising Chair  
Sue Williams, ESCAPE '07 Chair  
Steve Van Kouteren, Newsletter Chair  
David Simonson, Webmaster  
Jason Flesher, (assignment pending)

Any board member can be contacted by email through the NMESC website ([www.nmesc.org](http://www.nmesc.org)).