

I NEVER thought that I would get lost!!!

I was only going to go for a short walk.



I am indebted with my life that I was found.

## HIGHWAY 55 NORTH SEARCH AND RESCUE

HWY 55N Search and Rescue is comprised of volunteer members from communities typically located north of Highway 55 which includes, but not limited to, Smeaton, Meath Park and Candle Lake. The chapter is based out of Candle Lake. The Chapter falls under the umbrella of the Search and Rescue Saskatchewan Association of Volunteers (SARSAV).

**Search And Rescue Saskatchewan Association of Volunteers (SARSAV)** is comprised of member chapters of search and rescue professionals who volunteer their time for training, search missions, preventative search and rescue (PSAR) information and public awareness.

### 7 Essentials when venturing into the wilderness

1. Wear bright coloured outer clothing, 3 layers and extra clothing if you get wet
  2. Fire starter and wind/waterproof matches
  3. Shelter (emergency blanket or bright coloured tarp)
  4. Extra food and water
  5. Compass (GPS with additional batteries)
  6. Whistle & Mirror
  7. Communication device (cell phone if coverage)
- Drop a 'pin' on your cell phone (if you have coverage) or GPS before you venture away from your vehicle
  - Leave a trip plan with a responsible adult and let them know when you leave and when you expect to return. Check in periodically at predetermined times.

The mushrooms looked so much better just over there.

I was in that area hundreds of times before, there was no way I could get lost in familiar territory!!!

### The SAR Organization

Like many things in this world Search and Rescue Saskatchewan Association of Volunteers was formed out of tragedy; in 1994 a young Ashley Krestianson lost her way and her life when she became lost south of Tisdale.

The massive search spawned the development activity in communities with the goal of providing volunteers to assist the RCMP should such an incident happen again. The RCMP in turn realized they would need to have trained people to help with such a search. The RCMP and representatives from the communities met and SARSAV became an entity.

SARSAV became the umbrella to member chapters (community oriented) and under the direction of the RCMP started getting trained. The training standards have grown to be part of the National umbrella for Canada and continue to grow and are monitored. The high quality of training and organization has created "Search and Rescue Professionals".

The evolution of SARSAV continues, and the relationship with the RCMP in search and rescue has become more of a partnership. SARSAV, the RCMP, along with new partners such as the Ministry of Justice go on making Search and Rescue in Saskatchewan a model that is envied elsewhere.

### An Active Volunteer Searcher

Members must be part of a SAR chapter which includes a negative Criminal Record Check Vulnerable Sector, have their First-Aid and Incident Command System 100 and take and pass a certification course (40 hours) before they can be deployed to a search activity.

There are a myriad of additional courses and certifications available to individuals to increase their value in a search situation. Members find these courses and certifications extremely beneficial—not only to SARSAV, but also personally to better prepare themselves for all types of outdoor activities and situations they may find themselves.

SAR is also highly involved in public awareness and education for the general public in helping them be better prepared when exploring the outdoors. This arm of SAR is termed Preventative SAR (PSAR) and works with Adventure Smart teaching a series of programs. One of the most valuable courses is aimed at children and is called "Hug-A-Tree". This program teaches children 4 critical survival steps to help keep them safe if lost:

1. Tell a responsible adult where you are going
2. If you get lost "Hug-a-tree" and stay put
3. Build a nest and stay warm and dry
4. Help searchers by answering their calls



## How you can support the Search and Rescue Effort

**HWY55N SAR** is a registered Non-profit Charitable organization. We fundraise to support the common needs of the chapter including equipment and training. We have a long list of equipment needs and will issue tax receipts to individuals and businesses for their generous donations. Please contact us if you or your business is interested in donating to this humanitarian cause. Email us at [highway55nsar@outlook.com](mailto:highway55nsar@outlook.com)

## The Cost of Volunteering

The volunteers purchase and maintain their own equipment. Some of the courses are provided free of charge through SARSAV, but often members will pay for their own courses. They drop their work and family obligations, grab their kits & clothing and join in at a few minutes notice to conduct searches.

Members are expected to outfit themselves with basic outdoor equipment that would allow them to be on a wilderness search in northern Saskatchewan for a period of not less than 24 hours. SARSAV maintains a list of items recommended that the searcher carry on their body and additional items in a reasonably sized backpack.

The HWY55N SAR chapter maintains equipment not normally carried by an individual on searches and a radio repeater with tower. This equipment is housed in a dedicated trailer and is typically taken to search sites.

Search and Rescue volunteers find the work one of the most rewarding humanitarian activities one can ever perform. There is NO payment for services, but direct

## How to become involved

The volunteers, include men and women, who are willing to put in hours of training, practice and actual searches for lost people. Complete and return the application form. Our chapter will provide documentation so that you can obtain your Criminal Record Check Vulnerable Sector (CRCVS). Then the chapter will help you obtain your First-Aid training, Incident Command System (ICS) 100 and basic ground search certification. A negative CRCVS is required to obtain and maintain membership in SAR.

## Items Searchers Carry

### On Your Person (Not in your pack)

- Identification
- Compass
- Kerchief/Bandana
- Notebook (waterproof) & Writing Device
- Primary Flashlight
- Safety Glasses
- Knife and Multi-tool
- Fire starter and water/windproof matches
- Water (1 litre)
- Whistle

### In Your Pack

- Electrician Tape
- Folding Saw (up to searcher)
- Food
- Heat Reflective Emergency Blanket
- Metal Pot or Cup
- Paracord/Twine (strong/easy to use)
- Rain Gear (season dependent)
- Signaling Devices (Flares/Strobes/Glow Sticks)
- Flashlight with spare batteries
- Spare Toque, Gloves & Socks
- Ziplock Bags

## 4 Trip Planning Aspects

1. Plan your travel route
2. Know/research the terrain
3. Check the weather forecast and adjust your travel plans accordingly
4. ALWAYS complete a trip plan and leave it with a responsible person so that they know when to expect you back and where to look for you

Check in with your contact periodically at predetermined times so that they know you are safe.

## HWY55N SAR Application Form

Complete and return this form to apply to become a member of the Highway 55 North Search And Rescue (HWY55N SAR) Chapter and the Search And Rescue Saskatchewan Association of Volunteers (SARSAV). You are required to obtain a Criminal Record Check for Vulnerable Sector (CRCVS). HWY55N SAR will provide you with a letter stating the intent of the CRCVS required by your local police department. You are required to inform HWY55N SAR of any pending criminal charges or convictions and once accepted into the HWY55N SAR Chapter you must immediately inform the organization of any charges that could cause you to lose your negative CRCVS status. HWY55N SAR will help you arrange First-Aid training, Incident Command System (ICS) 100 training and basic ground search certification.

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Full Name( First, Middle and Last)

( ) - (cell)

( ) - (home)

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(Email Address)

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(# Street & P.O. Box)

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(City, Province & Postal Code)

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(Signature)

By signing and returning this application I agree to abide by all requirements of HWY55N SAR and SARSAV and use of my personal information in the operation of the organization.

Scan and email to [highway55nsar@outlook.com](mailto:highway55nsar@outlook.com) or send it to:

**Highway 55 North Search and Rescue**

P.O. Box 455

Candle Lake Saskatchewan, S0J 3E0



I didn't think I needed to take a compass or matches or warm clothes because I was only going for a short walk on a sunny day.