



British Columbia Search and Rescue Association

May 2008

Since the fall of 2005 I have been the agency (FCABC) representative on the British Columbia Search and Rescue Association Board of directors with Brian Lamond as an alternate. Since then I have been attending meetings, participating in conference calls and email information sharing representing the FCABC.

February of this year PEP confirmed our request to amend *“policy to add BC Fire Departments to the list of tasking agencies for Search and Rescue (SAR) groups... the recommendation has been accepted. Policy will be amended allowing fire departments to request SAR groups assistance in incidents where the SAR volunteers can utilize techniques approved in PEP policy. An advisory will be distributed to all stakeholders in the near future outlining the amended policy and an effective date.”* See attached

A sunrise session will be held at the 2008 conference to highlight the PEP policy changes and to encourage fire departments to meet with their local Search and Rescue teams to discuss individual abilities to assist in local emergency response.

There continues to be localized issues between Fire Departments and local SAR teams primarily at the call out stage. Thru the above-recommended local discussions Chief Officers will get a stronger understanding of the services available to them thru local Search and Rescue teams.

Please contact me should you have any questions and or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel J. Derby