



Search and Rescue Fund: Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the Search and Rescue Fund?

A. In 1987, the Search and Rescue (SAR) Fund was created per C.R.S. 33-1-112.5 to reimburse agencies for costs incurred in search and rescue activities. Dollars for the fund are generated by the sale of the Colorado Outdoor Recreation Search and Rescue (CORSAR) card/sticker, as well as through a \$0.25 surcharge on hunting licenses, fishing licenses, boat registrations, snowmobile registrations, and off-highway vehicle registrations.

Q. How do I contribute to the Search and Rescue Fund?

A. If you purchase fishing or hunting licenses, or register an off-highway vehicle, boat, or snowmobile in the state of Colorado, you automatically contribute to the fund. Another way to contribute to the fund is by purchasing a Colorado Outdoor Recreation Search and Rescue (CORSAR) card or sticker. The CORSAR card/sticker is available for \$3 for one year or \$12 for five years. You can purchase a card online at ihelpsearch.org, or purchase a card or sticker from a local vendor.

Q. Does the Search and Rescue Fund act as insurance?

A. No, contributing to the fund by purchasing a CORSAR card/sticker, license, stamp, or registration does not offer a person insurance and does not reimburse individuals or pay for medical transport. Rather, it reimburses sheriffs and/or search teams for eligible costs involved in the discharge of a Search and Rescue mission.

Q. Will I still be rescued if I don't contribute to the fund?

A. Yes! Contributing to the fund is never required; search teams will look for a person regardless of whether they have a license, registration, or CORSAR card/sticker. Who responds to your emergency will depend on existing state law and local ordinances; rescuers could be volunteer search and rescue teams and/or public safety agencies.

Q. Why should I contribute to the fund if I'll be rescued regardless?

A. Many search and rescue teams are staffed primarily by volunteers who offer their time, services, and equipment to rescues, free of charge. This fund helps them recoup costs that would otherwise come out of their own pocket. Additionally, the fund supports specialized training and equipment upgrades for search and rescue teams, so that they are better equipped to locate and extricate folks lost or injured in the backcountry.

Q. Who manages the Search and Rescue Fund?

A. Responsibility for the management of the Search and Rescue Fund lies with the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). It is administered out of the department's Denver office and operates pursuant to C.R.S. 33-1-112.5. It seeks guidance from the Search and Rescue Advisory Council on grant applications and appropriate mission expenses. Council membership can include county sheriffs, Colorado Search and Rescue Board representatives, county commissioners, CORSAR card/sticker vendors, search and rescue team members, outdoor recreation representatives, and appointees from the Colorado Division of Parks & Wildlife.

Q. If I have other questions, who should I contact?

A. For questions related to the Search and Rescue Fund, please contact Perry Boydston, Program Manager, at 303-864-7748 or perry.a.boydstun@state.co.us.