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COCHISE COUNTY SHERIFF SEARCH AND RESCUE

This Month in Search and Rescue

August 2015

Special points of interest:

- 7.29.2015 Swift Water Rescue Cascabel Rd MP 20
- 7.30.2015 supplemental training Foothills station
- 7.31.2015, Agency Assist Santa Cruz County
- 8.1.2015, Tech training Carr Canyon
- 8.3. 2015 Search for injured UDA SR 90 near MP 397
- 8.6.2015 Training and meeting, Foothills
- 8.15.2015 Pack Test, Bisbee 1000
- 8.16.2015 Search for Alzheimer subject onGTR
- 8.20/21.2015 search for 8 year old male Sierra Vista
- 8.22.2015 Mow Party East Stronghold Helo Spot
- 8.23.2015 Tech Rescue Carr Canyon
- 8.28.2015 Assist with Bowie Notifications

7.30.2015 Supplemental Training

The end of July and the beginning of August were quite busy. From swift water rescues to the Santa Cruz County agency assist to our own missions. It did slow down for a little bit, and everyone was somewhat able to recuperate, possibly.

Dominic and Deuce set up a very information supplemental technical rescue training coinciding with our planned tech training. Dominic went over the various litter application and carries. We discovered we

over the Bauman Bag and patient packaging for the same.

Deuce then went over system set up with several members practicing the set up using the MPD.



could have used some of the military type patient carriers as sleeping cots during the Rustler



Park search. We also went



Deuce is explaining the MPD to



Lorelei. Changing the 3:1 into a 5:1.

On 7.31.2015 we had planned



on checking out Rustler Park and conduct another search for Janet. However, the weather was so bad we never made up the canyon. Walter went up from the Portal side, and he reported some sever weather damage to the roads and swift running water. Above, Dominic and Deuce are speaking to a subject at the Foothills wash.

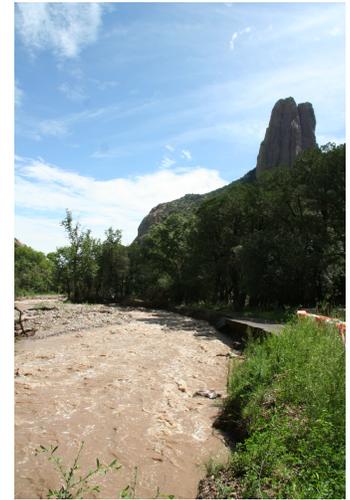


Dominic did some road clearing for us. There was quite a bit of damage and people still drove around the barricades. Go figure.

Portal continued.

In lieu of getting too wet, we all rolled up our pants and put on the swift water boot. The roads for sure sustained quite a

bit more damage with additional sections of dirt having been washed away. The creek bed and its flow has for ever been changed. Every time it rains, it will flood the road and wash out sections and under wash the pavement, depending on how much rain the Chrichua's will receive.



Dr. Scuba Corner

“When he took time to help the man up the mountain, low and behold, he scaled it himself.”

Tibetan Proverb

8.1.2015 Tech Training Carr Canyon



Andrew, even under pressure, everyone watching him, was able to tie a doubled long tail bowline. The team being low-

and so on.



ered to the patient, making



We picked the perfect spot for our technical rope rescue training. We trained in the same area of the Flagpole, utilizing the area below, providing some challenges for the team. Anchor set up for belay and main line, patient carry and so forth.



David and Manny 2, getting ready for the haul.

communication to the main and belay line very important, to include communications between the stokes attendants. Stop, go, caterpillar hand off



Tech continued

A “life” load was incorporated into this training to give it a more “realistic” feeling. Granted possibly should have used a person of more weight. The haul changed from two people to three once a life load was incorporated.

Eric wanted to practice the tandem haul using the MPDs. We had never practiced this before and we wanted to see how it would work. Using this application the weight is equally distributed between the two anchors and haul systems, there-

anchor during a haul or even a lower.

The hauls went extremely smooth, however, it is important both haul teams haul



fore minimizing the stress put on a given

equally fast or slow avoiding one side lagging behind and therefore placing more stress on the anchor.



Technical Rescue Operational Commands

During the last pre-meeting training Eric went over Technical Rescue Operational Commands as they apply to rope work and the difference between rappel and rescue commands.

Rappel Commands

Rappeller	Belayer
On Rope	On Belay
On Rappel	Off Belay
Off Rope:	

Lowering Command

Operations/Controller	Response
Belay ready?	_____ Ready or
Main Line ready?	Stand by
Edge ready?	
Attendant ready?	
Tension all lines	(main line, belayer & Attendant tension lines)
Attendant approach edge	
Down slowly	

Haul System Commands

Operations/Controller	Response
Haulers Ready?	_____ ready or
Belay ready?	Stand by.
Edge Ready?	
Attendant ready?	
Haul/up slowly	Begin hauling
Set or Reset	Reset System

Operational Commands Technical Rope Rescue

Rig to Raise Commands		Whistle Commands	
Operations/Controller	Response	Operations/Controller	Response
Lock Off	Locked Off	Stop	ONE Whistle blast
Rig to Raise	Rig to Raise	Haul/up slowly	Two Whistle blasts
Advise when ready	Ready to Raise	Down/Slowly	Three Whistle blasts
Attendant, prepare for conversion			

“If you help them (the crew) create good memories, they’ll forget all the bad stuff.”
Geoff Dyer

8.3.2015 Search for injured UDA, SR 90

The team was activated for this mission around 1500 hours. The initial CP was in the area of SR 90 and Post Ranch Rd, later changed to the area of French Joe Ranch Rd. We deployed several teams into the field to include air support. The 9-1-1 ping on the various cell phone calls placed by the subject calling, placed him over four miles away from the ping, with a 1 percent confidence. This location placed the subject in the area we were searching. At one time the subject indicated he could see the helo, this placed him farther from the Post Ranch Rd area to French Joe. The subject’s cell phone went dead and the ground teams were unable to locate the subject. This was a difficult call in regard to the accuracy of the 9-1-1. Totally off and the closest locations

was 8000 meters from the ping. Where do you search? The teams worked hard and could not find any sign or clue the subject might be in the area. We suspended the mission around 2200 hours. The



assisting in this search with excellent radio/communications support. Team



teams are getting ready for their search. Below, David was



members lost a lot of fluids via “sweat” as one can see on the extremely wet t-shirts. We learned the following day the subject was able to get out to SR 90 north of search location. Luckily he was not snake bit, just dehydrated. He was transported the Benson Hospital for

asked to assist with the air search, checking some of the terrain and the probability of detection. The area was open with little brush and few trees. The MCU was



“One man can be a crucial ingredient on a team, but one man cannot make a team.”

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

8.15.2015 Pack Test Bisbee 1000

We had an excellent turnout for this “Bisbee 1000 Pack Test Hike.” Almost all of the team showed up for this group event, even though it was a bit hot this day. Members, who carried their truly 24 to 48 hr pack did an excellent job, not all might have looked for the GPS coordinates along the route. This hike was geared toward each individual to determine if one has to work out a little more, or get in better shape. It is crucial, we as members of a SAR team can hike, carry our own pack and additional gear if needed, and still be able to successfully complete the mission. This includes dealing with the subject we are looking for or trying to rescue via rope systems. The team is



Brian and Manny seen from Castle Rock by the canine team. Set 5 is a killer set, and as we head



together in the beginning, but spread out over time with the first team members finishing the hike in less than two hours. Not sure if they found the GPS coordinates. Friendly Bisbee



folks put out some delicious peaches. Thank you.



toward set 6, some of the teams head toward set 8 and 9.



heading down Main Street toward the first GPS point, and heading to the first set of stairs. The team was somewhat close



Heading up set 7.





four legged team members, who did excellent. The Naco Youth group served up loaded potatoes and we were able to get some good nourishment after this hike.



The canine team heading toward the last set. Almost done. Our team took the longest, but we took enough breaks for our



September 2015

Schedule of Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

- 9.4.15 Training and Meeting, Foothills 1730
- 9.12.15 Bridge Work for helo re-quals 0900 hours
- 9.17.15 Coordinator training Foothills 1000 hours
- 9.19.15 Helo Re-quals East Stronghold 0900 hours
-

8.16.2015 Search for Alzheimer Subject Douglas Area

This was one of our most difficult searches, especially since we were more than 30 plus hours behind the curve. Our subject was missing since Saturday early afternoon and we were not asked for assistance until Sunday evening around 1844 hours. The location of the search was the intersection of GTR and Gregory Ranch Rd. Apparently the subject was last seen at that location around 1700 hours the day before and asked someone for directions to the highway. Our subject for sure did not fit the “regular” profile for a person suffering from Alzheimer. Statistical data shows most of the subjects are found in a radius of about two miles. The subject was or is an outdoor type of person with numerous survival skills. It is un-

known if the progression of the Alzheimer has inhibited this ability. Teams were deployed to various areas to cut sign along roadways the subject possibly might have crossed. This task was complicated by many locked range gates or blocked roads. Wherever we sent a team, they encountered a serious block in completing the task. AZ DPS Air Rescue also assisted in the search and checked many of the washes also with negative contact in locating the subject. A canine team inserted in the area of TV road was unable to pick up any scent. AZ Department of Corrections Canine Chase Team was deployed in the area the subject was last seen. This was unfortunately hampered by the heavy rains we received during

this search. The dogs tracked in various directions eventually losing scent. There is nothing more frustrating to a search team not finding the objective of the search, since the questions always remain; did we look in the right area? Did we miss something? What else could we have done? And so on.

“When the day has ended, dare to feel as you have done your best.”

Steve Maraboli



Discussion after the initial search and waiting for the DOC Chase Team.

8.20-21.2015 Search SV area Agency Assist—SVPD

David activated the team around 1900 hours to assist Sierra Vista PD with the search for a missing/ endangered 8 year old boy. The response to this search was great, and teams searched throughout the night. Canine Daisy with handler Denise tracked the boy from the last known point (LKP) but eventually lost scent, giving the appear-

ance the subject was possibly picked up. A note left by the boy indicated he wanted to live with a relative, who was residing in the greater Willcox area. A second group activation was done early Friday morning for more personnel. BP assisted with this search as well sending quite a few personnel from the Naco Station, primarily agents in civilian

clothing. SVPD got in contact with the CART team conducting door to door searches, which included checking all homes and back yards. During the repeat neighborhood search the following morning the young man was located in a backyard. A big thank you to all the volunteers who responded, and possibly even took a vacation day to help.

8.23.2015 Technical Rescue Carr Canyon Falls

The team was activated for this rescue mission around 1700 hour, 19 year old with a broken leg at the base of the falls. Fry Fire personnel was already on scene and tending to the subject. DPS Air rescue was contacted, but unable to respond. Pima Air support was also contacted giving an 20 to 30 minute ETA. The ship did not make it, due to the storms in the area and the team conducted a carry out to the road.

Carryout's are always very man power intensive requiring some type of technical aid. During this rescue we utilized the scree bag and tree belay to aid in the smooth and safe decent on the slick surface, and difficult terrain, lose rocks, boulders, etc. The caterpillar method comes in handy, handling the subject o through tight spots and over large boulders.



October 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 set up crew	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- ### Schedule of Events
- 10.1.15 Training and Meeting, Foothills 1730
 - 10.3.15 Tech Training West Stronghold Pick-Offs 0900
 - 10.15.15 Coordinator training Foothills
 - 10.17-18.15 Overnighter East Stronghold Search training, AVT etc.
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8.28.2015 Assisting with Notifications for the Town of Bowie

The problems for the little town of Bowie started earlier, when the water levels of the two wells had dropped below the pumping levels shutting down the water supply for the entire town. The emergency manager was notified, volunteers were activated and non-potable water as well as bottled water was transported for the residents to use. Volunteers went door to door, notifying townspeople about the water issue, and dropping off bottled water to the elderly. The town was divided into four quadrants, and between the volunteers and deputies all residents were notified. Many of the homes were vacant, and others already had picked up water from the school, which was also the headquarters / command post for this mission. The Sheriff pretty much activated everyone, short of an all call. The mission of notifying everyone was completed by about 2100 hours, and we were able to return home. This was the second major event our SAR team was activated to assist with notification. We also assisted during the Monument Fire. Sheriff Dannels and EOC Norm Sturm discussing the situation, while PIO Carol Capas makes notifications via e-mail.

