

# BLAINE COUNTY SEARCH AND RESCUE



## NEW MEMBER APPLICATION AND INTRODUCTION PACKET

Submit Completed Applications to  
Holly Carter @  
Blaine County Sheriff's Office  
210 First Avenue South  
Hailey, Idaho 83333

Revised 2008

# BCSAR VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)		DATE OF BIRTH (MO./DAY/YEAR):	
MAILING ADDRESS – BOX NO., CITY, STATE, ZIP			
PHYSICAL ADDRESS - STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP			
PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT:			
WORK PHONE#	HOME PHONE#	CELL PHONE#	E-MAIL ADDRESS
ARE YOU A MEMBER OF ANY OTHER AGENCY IN BLAINE COUNTY?			
DO YOU HAVE A VALID VEHICLE OPERATORS LICENSE? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO			
DRIVERS LICENSE# _____ STATE ISSUED _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____			
VEHICLE TYPE: _____ LICENSE PLATE # _____ (Make, Model, Year, Color)			
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ARRESTED OR CONVICTED OF ANY OFFENSE OTHER THAN A MINOR TRAFFIC VIOLATION? ( ) NO ( ) YES IF YES, PLEASE EXPLAIN			
<b>IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION:</b>			
CONTACT NAME:		HOME PHONE:	
ADDRESS:		WORK PHONE:	
RELATIONSHIP:		CELL PHONE:	
BLOOD TYPE:		ALLERGIES:	
LIST ANY CURRENT MEDICATIONS:			
LIST ANY PERSONAL MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS OR SERIOUS CONDITIONS:			
HEIGHT	WEIGHT	HAIR COLOR	EYE COLOR:

# PRIOR TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

DESCRIBE ANY SPECIAL ABILITIES, TRAINING OR EQUIPMENT YOU HAVE AND YOUR LEVEL OF EXPERIENCE WITH EACH:

DO YOU HAVE THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT IN VEHICLE TO BE ABLE TO RESPOND IN THE FIELD?

PLEASE LIST BELOW: All certificates, documents and licenses that you have to indicate your particular area of expertise or training relative to volunteer service.

NAME OF CERTIFICATE	ISSUING AGENCY	DATE ISSUED
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LIST ANY OTHER SKILLS, such as Business, Accounting, Electronics, Construction, CPR, Photography, Computer, Medical, etc.


WHAT TYPE OF TRAINING WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE?

PLEASE EXPLAIN WHY YOU WANT TO BECOME A BLAINE COUNTY SEARCH AND RESCUE VOLUNTEER?

# PERSONAL WAIVER

I understand that individuals must be able to demonstrate personal, medical, physical, and psychological fitness to serve as a Blaine County Search and Rescue volunteer. I recognize that the Blaine County Sheriff's Office as the authorizing law enforcement agency has a legal, as well as moral, obligation to insure that persons volunteering as Search and Rescue Members conform to the very highest standards.

To that end, I recognize that the Blaine County Sheriff's Office may conduct an investigation into my personal, medical and psychological fitness, and such an investigation may include contacting persons and/or organizations that may have information relating to my fitness.

Therefore, I release and hold harmless the Blaine County Sheriff's Department, its officers, agents, from any claim or damages pertaining to this volunteer personal, medical, and/or psychological history investigation. I hereby waive my right, now and in the future, to examine, review, or otherwise discover the contents of this investigation and all related documents thereto.

I also understand that during my association with the Blaine County Search and Rescue I may have access to restricted or confidential information. I agree not to disclose any information derived from any Sheriff's Department or BCSAR source to members of the public or media without the specific permission of the Sheriff.

**APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature Required)

## ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

All Blaine County Search and Rescue Volunteers shall adhere to a standard of conduct that is respectful and professional as well as consistent with the guidelines set forth in Section III, Subsection C (page 11) of the Blaine County Personnel Handbook (Version June 21, 2004).

**Overview:** Blaine County does not tolerate harassment, sexual or otherwise, of an employee by another employee (whether supervisor or colleague), the public, vendors, contractors or any other person interacting with a Blaine County employee during the workday. Respect for another person's age, religion, ethnicity, nation origin, sexual orientation, disability and gender is expected at all times.

**Definition of Harassment:** The term "harassment" applies, in general, to conduct that has the purpose or effect of unreasonably and adversely impacting the performance of employees in a protected class or creating an environment that is intimidating, hostile or offensive to a protected class. Harassment includes verbal, non-verbal or physical conduct of an abusive nature, making

unwelcome remarks that show disrespect for another employee, or demonstrating other behavior that may be reasonably viewed as inappropriate or offensive.

**Sexual Harassment:** Sexual harassment is a particularly unacceptable type of harassment. Sexual harassment occurs when a person in authority requires sexual favors of a subordinate as a basis for employment. It is also found when there is any type of sexually oriented conduct by an employee that unreasonably affects another employee's work performance or creates an environment that is experienced as sexually intimidating, hostile, or offensive. Examples of such conduct are requests or demands for sexual favors; unwelcome or unwanted sexual advances; engaging in sexually oriented conversations, suggestions, jokes, requests, demands, attention, or physical contacts; or displaying sexually oriented visual materials.

**Harassing Communications:** Telephone conversations, voice mail, written messages and e-mails shall not include language or images that may reasonable be considered unprofessional, harassing, or offensive to others. In line with Equal Employment Opportunity policy, communications of any type may not offend on the basis of age, race, gender, ethnicity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or disability.

**Reporting Harassment:** If an employee believes that he/she has experienced or witnessed any form of harassment, the employee is encourage to tell the offending person that the behavior is unwelcome or harassing and request that it stop. Employees are encouraged to try to resolve the problem mutually.

If the problem is not mutually resolved, the employee shall report the incident to his/her supervisor who will attempt to resolve the situation. If the employee is unwilling or unable to speak with the supervisor, he/she should report the incident to the Prosecuting Attorney or a Commissioner. The employee may be requested to put the complaint in writing by the person to whom he/she reports the incident.

Verbal and written complaints that are taken to a supervisor, Commissioner or the Prosecuting Attorney will be impartially investigated. All complaints and personnel actions, if any, will be kept confidential to the extent possible. In all cases, reported incidents will be subject to prompt, thorough and documented investigation. If harassment is found, appropriate corrective and disciplinary measures will be taken.

Employees who reasonably believe they or others have been harassed in any way and who report the incident in good faith or participate in an investigation of the incident will not experience repercussions in their employment.

I have read and understand the above policy. I understand that volunteer members of the Blaine County Search and Rescue are considered "employees" for the purposes of this policy. I acknowledge that violation of this policy could result in dismissal from the BCSAR program.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE INFORMATION

As an applicant for a volunteer position with the Blaine County Search and Rescue, I respectfully request and authorize you to furnish the Blaine County Sheriff's Department or its representative any and all information that you have concerning me, my work record, reputation, medical, physical, criminal, and mental records or reports, including all information of a confidential or privileged nature. This information is to be used to assist the Department in determining my qualifications and fitness for the position that I am seeking with the Blaine County Search and Rescue.

I hereby release you, your organization or your employer or agents from liability or damages, which may result from furnishing the information, requested above. A photocopy of this document may act as the original.

**APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature Required)

**SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN BEFORE ME ON THE \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_**

(Seal)

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Notary Public for the State of Idaho**  
**Resides in** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Notary Expires** \_\_\_\_\_  
**(NOTARIZATION REQUIRED)**

**\*\*PLEASE DETACH HERE AND SUBMIT PAGE 1-6 AS YOUR APPLICATION\*\***

**Separate this section from the application and retain for reference. The application should be signed, notarized and submitted to BCSAR.**

## **BLAINE COUNTY SEARCH AND RESCUE NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to Blaine County Search and Rescue (BCSAR). You are joining an organization that is dedicated to helping people in need. We each join this organization for our own reasons; the National Association for Search and Rescue summarizes one of the best reasons with their motto:

**“That Others May Live”**

This introduction packet has been created to help familiarize you with Blaine County Search and Rescue and outline what is required to obtain active member status within the organization. While this packet is not comprehensive, it will provide enough information and training guidelines to assist you in becoming a valuable asset to the organization during BCSAR operations. The training members complete will also help determine where each member can best serve during operations.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

It is the mission of the Blaine County Search and Rescue to maintain a group of trained volunteers to be used as directed by the Sheriff of Blaine County. This group shall be trained to search for and rescue those lost or injured, or those who are victims of natural or man-made disasters in Blaine County.

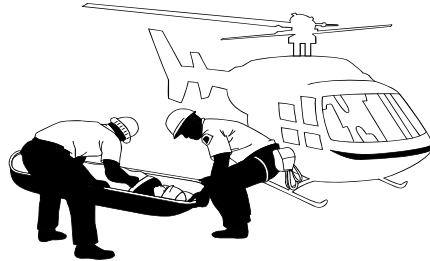
### **BLAINE COUNTY CHARACTERISTICS**

Blaine County is one of 44 counties within the State of Idaho. It encompasses over 2600 square miles of area. Elevations range from a low point of 4200 feet at Lake Walcott in Southern Blaine County to a high point of 12,009 feet above sea level on Hyndman Peak in the Pioneer Mountains in Northern Blaine County.

Over 80% of Blaine County is owned by some form of public government. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the National Forest Service account for 75% of this land. This translates into a lot of area available for the public to utilize. From tall mountain peaks and

meadows to high plateau deserts and lava fields, Blaine County Search and Rescue conducts operations in all types of climates and geography.

Blaine County is adjoined by ten other counties; more than any other county in the state. These counties share similar geographic features with Blaine County and are also comprised of mostly public lands. Each of these counties may request mutual aid in a search or rescue operation.



## **OPERATIONS**

Blaine County Search and Rescue operates under the authority of the Sheriff of Blaine County, J. Walt Femling. The Sheriff is responsible for all search and rescue operations with the county per Idaho statutes.

BCSAR performs multiple types of operations in the performance of its duties. The most common operation conducted is a search for a missing person. Other types of operations include:

- Medical assistance and extraction of people injured in the backcountry
- Body recovery of fatal accident victims
- Search for avalanche victims
- Assist in swift river rescues
- Assist in criminal investigations
- Assist Sheriff's Office during natural disasters

Anyone can call for assistance from Blaine County Search and Rescue, but it is the officers of the Sheriff's department that determine when and who get activated within the group. Calls for help are taken by a dispatcher and given to the ranking officer on duty to determine if there is a need for BCSAR.

Once the determination that BCSAR is needed, senior members of the group are called in to begin planning the operation. This planning group typically consists of two or three members with experience in the type of operation at hand. They receive information from the ranking officer and reporting parties that will help determine the number of people and equipment required and the best plan for conducting the operation.

Once the planning stage is started, a call out page will go out to notify all members of BCSAR with pagers that an operation is about to begin. The page sent by the Blaine County Dispatch

Center is an audible description of where members are requested to meet and may include what the operation involves or what type of equipment is required. Members without pagers receive a phone call if it is determined that they are needed for the operation. **Not all operations require that all members be notified.** However, the typical rule of thumb is that having more people than needed responding to a call is better than not having enough people to do the job.

In addition to running searches itself, Blaine County Search and Rescue provides logistic and support services for other rescue groups such as the Galena Backcountry Ski Patrol, and auxiliary groups who operate under the authority of the Blaine County Sheriff's Department. BCSAR also works with other organizations including local Fire Departments, Sun Valley Company Ski Patrol, Heli-Ski Guides and the Rescue Dive Team.

## MEMBERS

Blaine County Search and Rescue is an all-volunteer organization that does not receive any compensation for the work its members perform. All training and operation time is donated by the individual member for the good of the organization. It is this commitment to the group that makes BCSAR one of the best rescue organizations in the state.

Beginning in July of 1998, Blaine County Search and Rescue began training its members to the national certified standards of the National Association for Search and Rescue (NASAR). These standards list three levels of training from Search and Rescue Technician Level III (SAR Tech) to the current highest level of Search and Rescue Technician Level I. Members of BCSAR currently include people qualified at the SAR Tech I and II levels as well as members with local training only. Training is also available in association with the Ketchum Fire Department and Wood River Fire and Rescue.

One goal of Blaine County Search and Rescue is that all field personnel have passed the SAR Tech II level of training. This training is in addition to the new member program and is an important milestone for all members to achieve. The SAR Tech II program is a standardized training that allows anyone familiar with it to judge the minimum capabilities of other people who have been through the training.

Members of the Blaine County Search and Rescue have also received specialized certified training in other areas including:

- Rope Rescue
- Avalanche Awareness
- Tracking
- Outdoor Emergency Care / CPR
- Search Management
- Cave Rescue
- K9 Trailing, Area Search, Avalanche, & Cadaver

# EQUIPMENT

Blaine County Search and Rescue maintains a large cache of common equipment for the group as well as some equipment that is mandatory for all active members to have. This common equipment includes:

- Rope Rescue Gear
- Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) Receivers
- Two-Way Radios and Batteries
- Quadrangle Maps of Blaine County
- Stokes Litter and Wheel and Backboard
- Personal Flotation Devices
- Oxygen Bottles and Masks
- Helmets
- Mobile Repeater



Common equipment is located at the Sheriff's department in three locations. In addition to the SAR storage area inside the Sheriff's station, the group maintains two vehicles dedicated to the organization. These vehicles are a GMC pick-up used for carrying the majority of the common equipment and a Chevy Suburban used for transporting personnel, common equipment and communications gear. The organization also owns snowmobiles that can be used in backcountry winter responses, and four wheel ATV's for dry season responses.

All members are required to maintain a personal 24-hour ready pack for field operations. The gear in this pack is purchased by each member but must contain certain standard items to be considered a field pack for BCSAR. All new members will be required to have this 24-hour pack and its contents by the end of their probationary period. A sample list of 24-hour ready pack is included in this packet for reference (see page 11).

In addition to personal gear, Blaine County Search and Rescue will provide some standard equipment to all members. This includes a helmet, pager, Blaine County Search and Rescue identification card, and winter jacket. This equipment is only issued after members have achieved certain milestones. The milestones are listed below:

## MILESTONES

The following table lists the milestones in training or activities which are to be completed prior to receiving the equipment shown as part of your Search and Rescue gear or membership.

### Training Completed

Weekend Orientation

First Aid and CPR

Respond to 3 call outs, active member for 9 mos., & complete SAR Tech II

### Gear or Event

Blaine County Search and Rescue Identification Card and Pager

First Aid & CPR Certificate  
T-Shirt

Winter Jacket & Personal Helmet

## 24-HOUR READY PACK

### Backcountry 24 Hour Pack

- 1 – Pack, 1800 cubic inch (minimum)
- 4 – Ziplock Bags, various sizes
- 1 - Cap or Other Headgear
- 2 - Locking Carabiners
- 1 – Waterproof Clothing Bag
- 1 – Clothing, adequate for climate
- 1 – Extra Clothing, adequate for climate
- 1 – Orienting Compass
- 1 – Roll Flagging Tape
- 1 - Flashlight or Lantern
- 1 -Extra Flashlight, extra batteries and bulbs
- 1 - Footwear, sturdy, adequate for climate
- 1 – Gloves, durable even in summer
- 1 - Eye Protection, Goggles, Clear
- 1 - Insect Repellent
- 1 - Multi-Purpose Knife
- 1 - Lip Balm with Sun Screen
- 1 - 18 inch Measuring Device
- 1 - Metal Cup or Pot
- 1 - Small Mirror
- 1 - 50 Foot Nylon Twine or Small Rope
- 1 - Pad and Pencil
- 1 - Prusik Cord (6 mm – 8 mm, 6ft length)
- 1 - Rain Gear
- 1 - SAR Personal Identification
- 1 - Personal Shelter,  
8 X 10 plastic or coated nylon
- 1 - Scissors, multi- purpose
- 1 - Socks, extra pair
- 1 - Sun Screen
- 1 - Tissue Paper or Baby Wipes
- 1 - Tracking Stick, 42” long
- 2 - Water Containers, at least 1 liter
- 1 - Webbing, 1” tubular , length suitable for harness
- 1 - Wire 5 – 10 ft, woven steel
- 8 - Wire Ties, plastic self locking

### Personal 1<sup>st</sup> Aid and Survival Kit

- 1 – Quart Size Ziplock Bag
- 4 – Acetaminophen/Aspirin
- 4 – Antacid
- 2 – Antiseptic Cleaning Pads
- 1 – Antiseptic Ointment
- 6 - Band-Aids, various sizes
- 1 – Long Burning Candle
- 2 – Cotton Swabs, non-sterile
- 5-10 feet of Duct Tape
- 1 – Leaf Bag
- 8 - Water Proof Matches
- 1 – Moleskin
- 1 - Razor Blade, single edge, safety type
- 1 – Roll of Gauze Bandage
- 2- Large Safety Pins
- 1 – Splinter Forceps, Tweezers
- 1 -Space Blanket
- 1 - Towelette
- 1 - Whistle

### Urban Personal SAR Equipment

- 1 - Fanny pack, 600 – 1200 cubic inches
- 4 - Ziplock Bags, various sizes
- 1 - Bandana
- 1 - Cap or Head Gear
- 1 – Clothing, adequate for climate
- 1 - Orienting Compass
- 1 - Roll Flagging Tape
- 1 - Flash Light, with extra batteries
- 1 – Footwear, adequate for climate
- 1 – Multi-Purpose Knife
- 1 - Map
- 1 - Small Mirror
- 1 - Rain Gear
- 1 - SAR Identification
- 1 - Small Pad and Pencil
- 1 - Sunglasses, 97%UV protection
- 1 - Sun Screen Lotion
- 1 - Tissue Paper or Baby Wipes
- 1 - Tracking Stick, 42” long
- 1 - Watch
- 1 - Water Container, at least 1 liter

**Optional Personal Support Equipment -Recommended But Not Required**

- 2 - Antihistamine, 25 mg Benadryl
- 2 - Extra Leaf Bags
- 1 - Extra Water Container
- 1 - Foam Pad
- 2 - Food, nonperishable
- 1 - Gaiters
- 1 - Rain Cover for Pack
- 1 - Sterno or Stove
- 1 - Sunglasses, 97% UV protection
- 1 - Trail Snack
- 1 - Water Purification Tabs

# NEW MEMBER REQUIREMENTS TRAINING

New members of the Blaine County Search and Rescue are required to attain a minimum level of training within a probationary period before being considered active members that can be utilized in field operations. This training is only the minimum required and each member needs to decide what area in the organization interest him or her for specific training beyond this minimum level. The probationary period will last one calendar year from the date of joining Blaine County Search and Rescue.

Within the first year, new members must have taken the training listed below and demonstrated they understand the material to the satisfaction of the instructor(s). In addition, new members must attend seven (7) monthly meeting within their probationary period. New member training includes:

Basic Map, Compass and GPS Skills	(Classroom and Field)
Clue Finding in a Search Scenario	(Classroom and Field)
Radio Communications and Operations	(Classroom and Field)
Incident Command System	(Classroom) -NIMS
Probability and Search Planning	(Classroom)
Responding to an Operation	(Classroom)
Litter Assembly	(Classroom and Field)
Introduction to Ropes	(Classroom and Field)
24-Hour Ready Pack	(Classroom and Field)
First Aid and CPR	(Classroom)

Trainings are generally held on weekends to allow for better attendance.

In addition to the formalized new member training, all new affiliates may participate in the ongoing BCSAR training held throughout the year. These trainings include specific instruction in areas such as ropes, avalanche transceivers, map & compass, tracking, and other areas of Search and Rescue operations.

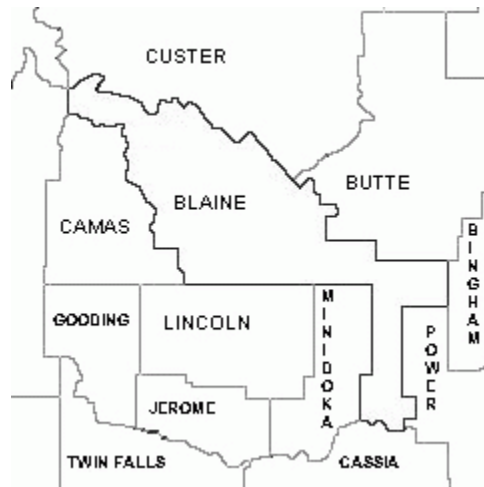
There will also be opportunities for new members to meet informally with experienced members of the organization to ask questions and learn more about Blaine County Search and Rescue. New members are also encouraged to do one-on-one mentoring with more experienced members of the group to gain insight that only comes from what others have already learned. These meetings and one-on-one events are not required, but they are highly recommended as they will help you become familiar with the current members of Blaine County Search and Rescue and what the organization is capable of.

# MEETINGS

BCSAR regular meetings are held the second Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. The location of the meeting can vary so reminder email messages are sent to confirm meeting plans and locations approximately one week prior. New members are required to attend at least seven (7) monthly meeting in the first year.

## INDEX OF IDAHO COUNTIES

Ada (1A)  
Adams (2A)  
Bannock (1B)  
Bear Lake (2B)  
Benewah (3B)  
Bingham (4B)  
Blaine (5B)  
Boise (6B)  
Bonner (7B)  
Bonneville (8B)  
Boundary (9B)  
Butte (10B)  
Camas (1C)  
Canyon (2C)  
Caribou (3C)  
Cassia (4C)  
Clark (5C)  
Clearwater (6C)  
Custer (7C)  
Elmore (E)  
Franklin (1F)  
Fremont (2F)  
Gem (1G)



Gooding (2G)  
Idaho (I)  
Jefferson (1J)  
Jerome (2J)  
Kootenai (K)  
Latah (1L)  
Lemhi (2L)  
Lewis (3L)  
Lincoln (4L)  
Madison (1M)  
Minidoka (2M)  
Nez Perce (N)  
Oneida (1O)  
Owyhee (2O)  
Payette (1P)  
Power (2P)  
Shoshone (1S)  
Teton (1T)  
Twin Falls (2T)  
Valley (1V)  
Washington (W)