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Welcome to this issue of the Washington State Animal Response Team's monthly newsletter! Find out what the President has to say, what deployments we've been on, where the next meetings will be, and where we'll be with upcoming events. [View this email in your browser](#)


www.washingtonsart.org

Helping Animals & Their Owners in Disasters

From the President

Oso: Helping Where We Can

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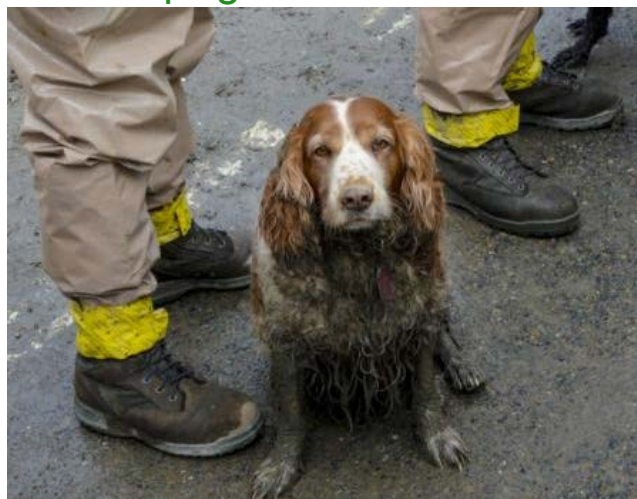
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General Meetings

June 11

Shoreline Fire Department,
#61
17525 Aurora Avenue North
Shoreline, WA 98133

The next General Membership Meeting will be held in Shoreline, WA from **7 pm - 9 pm**. The first hour is spent on WASART business and the final hour is a mini-training session on a subject of interest to members. And, of course, some social time, too. All General Membership Meetings are open to the public and everyone is invited to attend.



A muddy and fatigued search dog waits for a decontamination bath after working the Oso mudslide. (Photo by Spc. Samantha Ciaramitaro or Spc. Matthew Sissel, Public Domain)

I couldn't write this column this month without touching on the terrible event of the Oso mudslide. All WASART's members' hearts go out to those who lost their loved ones or their lives there. We, like so many others, wanted and want to help in any way we could or can. We were put on alert by Snohomish County on the day of the slide, and organized a flotilla of trucks and trailers from among WASART's members, Peninsula Mounted Search and Rescue and Northwest Horseback Search and Rescue, to evacuate animals large and small. But we were not called out, and we do not self-deploy. We only go

Training Opportunities
(Open to the public)

[April 26-27 - Field Response](#)

Wilkeson, WA

[June 7 - Transport](#)

Enumclaw, WA

[June 21 - Technical Large Animal Rescue \(TLAR\) \(Awareness\)](#)

Enumclaw, WA

[July 12-13 - Animal Sheltering](#)

Enumclaw, WA

Visit our booth at these upcoming events

[May 17 - Petpalooza](#)

Auburn Parks - Game Farm Park

[May 17 - Evergreen Health & Wellness Fair](#)

Evergreen Hospital - Kirkland, WA

[July 19 - Tacoma/Pierce County Dog-A-Thon](#)

Ft. Steilacoom Park - Lakewood, WA

[August 2 - Woofstock](#)

Tacoma, WA - Univ. of Puget Sound

Did you know we're often available to talk to your group about WASART or disaster prep?

when specifically deployed by agencies or requested by individual animal owners, and that didn't happen. We'll be ready to go again if we're called, but we all hope, of course, that that's not needed.

Some of our members have been helping in other ways. One of our vet members deployed the Sunday after the slide with the K9 Search and Rescue unit, and we've been asked to help recruit and organize veterinary volunteers to provide much needed care for the search dogs. And some of our members volunteered to help clean, sort and document personal effects recovered from the slide site. These aren't the activities that are our specialty, but we're more than willing to help however we can.

On a happier note, I'm delighted to report that Zoe Clelland, our new Vice President, has just completed our first ever Annual Report, covering our activities for 2013. I couldn't be more pleased with the result, and hope all of our members, followers and friends will take the time to read it and see what we accomplished last year. I think it makes for good reading. The [report is available](#) on our website. I hope you'll check it out.

Bill Daugaard
President

Oso: Overview of Disaster Response



Mission Statement

To help animals and their owners through disaster preparedness, education, and emergency response.



Cody and handler Lisa Bishop of Northwest Disaster Search Dogs watch a helicopter flying over the Oso landslide area. (Photo by Spc. Samantha Ciaramitaro or Spc. Matthew Sissel, Public Domain)

Effective disaster response requires that we work together with shared purpose in every aspect of the disaster. Mitigation, Preparation, Response, and Recovery are words that define the stages of a disaster. When applied to a framework we can organize skills and resources to deal with disasters and future disasters. FEMA's National Preparedness Goal provides this framework in a chain of command implemented in every state in order to provide a continuity of timely action. This framework is three tiered and functions from the county, the state, and if necessary, the federal level.

When disaster does strike, each county is required to activate what's known as its Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The EOC is directed by the Department of Emergency Management, and for Snohomish County that office is located in Everett, WA. Within this location are workspaces designated to represent all of the necessary jobs and agencies pertinent to public safety in disaster conditions. There are 15 categories of concern, or units, known as Emergency Support Functions. For example, ESF Unit #1 is Transportation, #2 is Communication, #4 is Firefighting, #6 is Mass Sheltering and so on. Search and Rescue is ESF #9. During a disaster these workplaces are staffed thereby giving each agency the ability to communicate and work, literally, side by side. WASART is represented under ESF #5 - Emergency Support & Planning The Emergency Operations Centers around the country are staffed by people who are trained to mete details out of chaos.

Snohomish County is home to the residents of Oso, Washington. As the scope of the Oso disaster began to unfold, 911 calls were dispatched to the County Emergency Management Duty Officer. This Duty Officer was responsible for activating the OEC

protocols and staffing those pertinent ESF units. In the Oso event the Duty Officer activated Snohomish County's highly trained individually specialized ESF units. Other Snohomish County first responders included:

Snohomish County Volunteer Search and Rescue (SCVSAR) Technical Rescue – This team

specializes in conducting rescue operations in areas often inaccessible to first responders, including the back country, using skills such as rappelling and back-country travel.

SCVSAR Swiftwater Rescue Team – This team was deployed upstream of the slide on the Stillaguamish River to survey the area for survivors, as well as to assess flooding conditions. They are equipped with hovercraft capable of navigating both mud and water.

SCVSAR K-9 Team – This team is comprised of rescue dogs and their handlers and are trained in rescue and recovery.

SCVSAR Operations Support Unit – This is the unit that supports the teams in the field. Their “behind the scenes” role is crucial; they assign assets to the most critical needs during an operation, as well as coordinating calls and radio traffic, keeping the rescuers fed and hydrated, and overseeing equipment maintenance.

SCVSAR 4 x 4 Team – A volunteer team with special off-road vehicles used to reach survivors in places inaccessible to most other vehicles.

Helicopter Rescue Team (HRT) – The HRT was on a training mission when the slide occurred. They were among the first to respond to the scene. They performed eight extractions within the first hours of the slide and employed thermal imaging to search for survivors under the mud and debris.

Because of the enormity of the slide, the state level Emergency Operations Center was also activated.

This office is located at Camp Murray adjacent to Joint Base Lewis-McChord. Disaster response operates under a “Phased Response Plan.” Phase 1 represents Routine Operations, and at Phase 2 when an incident shows the potential to grow beyond the capacity of a county response. At Phase 2 the State EOC staffs its Emergency Function liaisons and communicates with the county EOC. At Phase 3 the state OEC becomes fully operational. This is the point where the Governor becomes involved and can exercise the option of involving other state and federal agencies such as the National Guard. In the Oso event, the Naval AirStation at Oak Harbor, Whidbey Island was called upon to send their helicopter teams to fly-over, assess and rescue. The Naval helicopter team performed six airlift extractions of Oso survivors. State **Fish and Wildlife Police Officers**, and **Firefighters**, and numerous additional **K9 Units** joined Snohomish County’s first responders. Many of the above agencies were joined by responders from Oregon and California and many of these folks remained on scene to assist in recovery in the days and weeks following.

In the event of a major catastrophic event like a large earthquake where situations such as that which occurred in Oso would be happening simultaneously in many areas of our state, Phase 4 Catastrophic Operations protocols would be activated. This level of activation would include activating a large Federal response as well as activating the Emergency Operational Centers of surrounding states.

And Speaking of Emergency Management.....

A team of WASART members has been requested by King County Office of Emergency Management (KCOEM) to participate in its upcoming mini-activation exercise on Tuesday, May 6. The exercise is intended to allow the participants to become familiar with the operations of KCOEM’s Emergency Coordination Center (ECC). The ECC is the equivalent of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in many other jurisdictions.

Trainings: Field Response & Annual Exercise



A WASART member practices llama handling with llamas on loan from Roads End Llamas. Owner Gary K. assists. Check out more with Gary as he explains why llamas make the noise they do in [this video](#).

Field Response Training Nearly Here

April 26-27, Saturday and Sunday

8:30am – 5:00pm both days.

Sunset Lake Camp

30811 Quinnon Road

Wilkeson, WA 98396

This is a two-day course geared towards animal rescue and evacuation in emergency situations. The class will cover Advanced Fire Safety, Animal Assessment and Trailer Loading Techniques, Rope and Water Rescue Awareness and Zoonotic Diseases. It includes an extensive animal-handling component. Attendees will be instructed in and given the opportunity to handle a variety of large and small animals. This training is mandatory for all members interested in deploying in a rescue operation but it's also lots of fun. Rustic on-site housing is available as well as catered meals. Registration forms and checks, payable to WASART, can be mailed to: WASART, P.O. Box 21, Enumclaw, WA 98022. Or,

forms ([found here](#)) can be emailed to registrar@washingtontart.org and fees paid via PayPal [here](#).

For registration information, contact registrar@washingtontart.org. For general information about the course, contact training@washingtontart.org.

Save the Date:

WASART's Annual Exercise in October

Enumclaw Expo Center (formerly King County Fairgrounds)

Oct 18-19, Saturday and Sunday

8:30am – 5:30pm both days.

In 2007, when cracks were discovered in the Howard Hanson Dam, WASART was tasked with the responsibility of setting up a large species diverse shelter that could adequately provide shelter and care for the animals of our agricultural communities. Though the dam was repaired, the potential for a disaster continues to exist here in our seismically active region. In the event of a large scale disaster, this temporary emergency shelter will most likely be located on the site of the Enumclaw Expo Center. This underscores the value of holding our Annual Exercise in this location.

While this year's Annual Exercise will expand on the traditional focus of sheltering, to be sure there's something for everyone. It will not only be a full-scale shelter, but an ambitious cadre of planning committee members are anticipating a technical response and transport component, as well as communications practice, and much more.

The Exercise is open to the pre-registered general public as well as to observers from animal-related agencies and organizations.

-- Get to know and work alongside fellow team members.

- Polish rescue skills or try something new, take on a leadership role for the day.
- Practice all you've learned throughout the year(s) at WASART trainings.

For more information on the Annual Exercise's components, please contact the Annual Exercise Committee Chair at jobyemail@yahoo.com.

For information on how to register, please contact registrar@washingtontart.org or [find the forms here](#).

Packing Out Dogs on Horseback



WASART and the Peninsula Mounted Rescue Team work together to figure out how to attach an injured dog to a pack horse. Chesapeake Retriever Bo patiently waits to take the canvas litter for a test drive.

When a dog is rescued in a remote location, the task of getting it to a road and vehicle can pose quite a challenge. Size does matter, as do injuries. And carrying a large dog for even half a mile may require many responders. So how about giving the dog a ride out on horseback?

To come up with ideas for safe ways to manage this task, members from WASART's Technical Rescue Team and members of the Peninsula Mounted Search and Rescue (PMSAR) unit from Pierce

County gathered on April 13, 2014 to brainstorm. PMSAR has experience hauling smaller exhausted search dogs in soft sided panniers. But hauling a larger and or injured dog poses multiple challenges.

Securely packaging the dog to accommodate the injury is the first step. Then the dog must be lifted up onto the horse. And then the packaged dog must be secured to the pack saddle so it will stay in place for the trip out. A counter balance of equal weight is applied to the opposite side before or after the dog is loaded. A sling type canvas wrap is in mock up and future meetings to test and adapt will be coming soon, so stay tuned.

WASART members will be demonstrating the above mentioned scenario as well as some Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue techniques at the 45th Annual Washington State SAR Conference hosted by Pierce County Search And Rescue at the Washington State fairgrounds Puyallup, Washington May 9-11 2014.

<http://www.wasarvac.org>

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