

NEWS RELEASE

April 16, 2008

The Idaho Civil Air Patrol and the Bonneville County Sheriff's Search and Rescue are sponsoring a multi-agency Search and Rescue Management Course on Saturday and Sunday, April 19th and 20th in Idaho Falls. The course will be held at the Bonneville County Sheriff's SAR Center, located at 2365 Hemmert Avenue

The training course is being presented by the U.S. Air Force's Rescue Coordination Center. As the United States' inland search and rescue coordinator, the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) serves as the single agency responsible for coordinating on-land federal SAR activities in the 48 contiguous United States, Mexico and Canada.

The course consists of classroom lessons on a variety of SAR management elements and ends with a tabletop exercise of a search scenario. Specific areas covered include an overview of the AFRCC, search mission types and SAR resources, the Federal Aviation Administration involvement in SAR, searches for emergency locator transmitters (ELTs), and SAR Mission Coordination skills. The course is administered by the USAF element of the National SAR School and taught by SAR Controllers assigned to the AFRCC.

The focus of the course is to provide an environment that will allow the attendees to discuss their past experiences, concerns for SAR and networking that is needed to provide a cooperative SAR environment. Attendees are expected from Idaho Civil Air Patrol units, Bonneville County Sheriff's SAR team, the Idaho Division of Aeronautics, and other area Sheriff's Offices and SAR organizations.

The AFRCC operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The center directly ties in to the Federal Aviation Administration's alerting system and the U.S. Mission Control Center. In addition to the Search and Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking information, the AFRCC computer system contains resource files that list federal and state organizations, which can conduct or assist in SAR efforts throughout North America.

The AFRCC is the agency that authorizes Civil Air Patrol involvement in searches and is frequently contacted by Bonneville County Sheriff's SAR personnel to obtain not only Civil Air Patrol, but other specialized military resources that might be needed for a search.

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