The Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference (ASRC) is composed of local chapters, called Groups. The Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group is the ASRC’s Group in the Washington, DC area. When the ASRC receives a call for assistance, ASRC members from the appropriate Groups respond, functioning under a unified ASRC command, in support of the requesting agency. Members of all ASRC Groups wear the same uniform and meet the same training standards, and a single call to the Virginia Office of Energy and Emergency Services (VOEES) at 804-323-2300 will obtain a rapid and appropriate response from the appropriate ASRC Groups.

Although the ASRC has a demonstrated proficiency in mountain rescue, we also conduct and manage lost person searches, in the mountains or elsewhere, in their efforts to find the subject. The Point Last Seen and other measures must be conducted at night or in rain or snow.

Safety is a major ASRC concern; no search under ASRC control, on a mission or a training session, has ever suffered anything more severe than poison ivy or a bee sting. ASRC and search dog services are provided at no cost, and we always operate under the command of the local agency.

The ASRC offers a variety of services for a public safety agency to utilize, whether in the mountains or not. By obtaining assistance from the ASRC and a search dog team, your agency can be tackled in a professional manner that is relatively inexpensive and has a very high success rate. The ASRC has excellent working relationships with council officials in the federal, state, and local agencies involved in search and rescue. Any agency interested in learning the ASRC’s search and rescue techniques is welcome to call the Virginia Office of Energy and Emergency Services (804-323-2300) and request ASRC and dog team assistance. ASRC leaders and field Team Leaders, we can provide effective and reliable search teams for unusually rugged terrain, or when search operations must be conducted at night or in rain or snow.

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The Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group was founded in 1967. Since then, the ASRC has been responsible for the rescue of over 10,000 persons in need. The ASRC’s Group in the Washington, DC area was established in 1972.

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