



# Committee of the Whole

penticton.ca

## Committee of the Whole

to be held at the City of Penticton, Council Chambers  
171 Main Street, Penticton, B.C.

To view the live broadcast and recordings, visit [www.penticton.ca](http://www.penticton.ca)

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Recessed from the Regular Council Meeting at 1:00 p.m.

1. **Call Committee of the Whole to Order**
2. **Adoption of Agenda**
3. **Delegations:**
  - 3.1 Proclamation: Pride Month June 2024 1-2  
Madeline Terbasket, President, and Jess Wittman, Director at Large –  
South Okanagan Similkameen Pride Society
  - 3.2 PENSAR Update and Contribution of Service to CoP and Local Area 3-30  
Norman Cole, President, SAR Manager – PENSAR
4. **Adjourn to Regular Meeting of Council**



### Request to Appear as a Delegation

Preferred Council Meeting Date: June 4 2024

Second choice(s): June 18 2024

Subject matter: Pride month proclamation

Name of person(s) making presentation:

Madeline Terbasket Jess Wittman

Address: 129 Nanaimo Ave  
W Penticton BC V9A 1N2

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: sosprideboard@gmail.com

Please provide details of your presentation or request of Council here: (or provide a detailed attachment)

<p><u>Madeline Terbasket (they/them), President of SAS Pride and Jess Wittman (she/they), director at large <del>Madeline Terbasket</del> will be present to hear Council's proclamation of Pride month be read aloud. Madeline will say a few words on behalf of SAS Pride acknowledging the importance of Pride month.</u></p>
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Please note:

- Meetings may be held electronically. Participation details will be confirmed with you prior to the meeting.
- This form and submissions will become part of the public record.
- The Mayor has the authority to determine if the subject matter warrants the delegation to appear before Council and may determine at which meeting.
- Please submit this completed form at your earliest convenience. Written Requests to Appear are to be received by the Corporate Officer, no later than noon Monday, one week prior to the Council meeting. Please include a copy of all materials that will be discussed.
- If you'd like to share a PowerPoint with Council, email it to the Corporate Officer by 9:30 a.m. Wednesday prior to the Council meeting to be included with the Agenda. If presenting via zoom, please be prepared to share your screen.
- **Delegations are limited to 5 minutes.**

Legislative Services  
Angie Collison, Corporate Officer  
171 Main Street, Penticton, B.C., V2A 5A9

Phone: 250-490-2410  
Fax: 250-490-2402  
[angie.collison@penticton.ca](mailto:angie.collison@penticton.ca)

# Proclamation

## PRIDE MONTH June 2024

**WHEREAS:** The City of Penticton cherishes the value and dignity of each person and appreciates the importance of equality and freedom; and

**WHEREAS:** all are welcome in the City of Penticton to live, work, play, and every family, in any shape, deserves a place to call home where they are safe, happy, and supported by friends and neighbors; and

**WHEREAS:** the City of Penticton denounces prejudice and unfair discrimination based on age, gender identity, gender expression, race, color, religion, marital status, national origin, sexual orientation, or physical attributes as an affront to our fundamental principles; and

**WHEREAS:** it is imperative that all people in our community, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression, feel valued, safe, empowered, and supported by their peers and community leaders; and

**NOW, THEREFORE I, Mayor Julius Bloomfield, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM** the month of June, 2024 as **"Pride Month"** in the City of Penticton.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bloomfield".

---

**Mayor Julius Bloomfield**



### Request to Appear as a Delegation

Preferred Council Meeting Date: June 4, 2024

Second choice(s): July 16, 2024

Subject matter: PENSAR - Update & contribution of service to COP and local area

**Name of person(s) making presentation:**

Norman Cole, President, SAR Manager - PENSAR

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: president@pensar.ca

**Please provide details of your presentation or request of Council here:** (or provide a detailed attachment)

-Update council of capabilities and capacities of the PENSAR organization.
-Briefing of calls for service with city limits and surrounding areas by requesting agencies.
-Trends and future pressures facing PENSAR.

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# Penticton & District Search and Rescue



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Penticton & District Search and Rescue

INTRODUCTION

SAR IN BC

SAR TASKING AGENCIES

SAR TRAINING PARTNERS

OUR TEAM

OUR TEAM CAPABILITIES

RESPONSE STATISTICS

OUR BUDGET

OUR FACILITY



# INTRODUCTION TO SAR

Ground Search and Rescue (SAR) in British Columbia is provided solely by volunteer-based teams throughout the Province.

- Currently 78 BC Search and Rescue teams
- 3400+ unpaid professional volunteers.
- On call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- 1500 BC Search and Rescue tasks on average annually\*
- 2100+ people rescued by volunteer SAR Teams.

BC SAR Teams are all members of the British Columbia Search and Rescue Association



\*Data from BCSARA



## SAR IN BC

**In BC, Search and Rescue is divided into 3 categories:**

- **Air SAR**
- **Marine SAR**
- **Ground and Inland Water SAR**



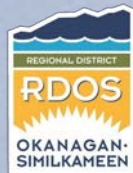


# SAR TASKING AGENCIES

SAR teams in BC are tasked by an agency, they can not self-deploy. All requests must go through 911, or if using a satellite phone through the Emergency Coordination Centre at 1-800-663-3456.

Tasking agencies include:

- RCMP, Municipal Police Agencies
- BCEHS
- Fire Departments
- BC Coroners Service
- Local Governments





# SAR TRAINING PARTNERS



Justice Institute of British Columbia  
EMCR  
RCMP  
BCSARA

Other partners include:

Rescue Canada  
Ronin Safety and Rescue  
BC Tracking Association  
Avalanche Canada  
Canadian Avalanche Rescue Dog Association  
CASARA



# OUR TEAM



- Established in 1973 (51 years of service)
- SAR Base - 251 Dawson Ave (next to Fire hall #2)



- 48 Operational (GSAR) Members
- 2 Support Operational Members
- 3 Support Administrative Members



- Average 72 tasks annually\*



- Average 425.76 non-paid hours for task response annually\*
- 11,338 volunteer hours given by team members in 2023

\*Average using 2020-2023 annual stats from D4H



## OUR TEAM



PENSAR thrives on the expertise and commitment of professionals from diverse backgrounds to make up our volunteers including:

- Medical professionals (Doctors, Nurses, Paramedics)
- Front line personnel (Firefighters, RCMP officers)
- Local business owners
- And other professionals and retirees.



# OUR TEAM CAPABILITIES



## GROUND SEARCH & RESCUE

- The basis of all teams.
- To assist in locating lost, missing or persons in distress on land and inland water.
- All team members must have completed their Ground SAR certificate to be classified as Operational on their team.
- The GSAR course is 75 hours in length, completed over 6 months, and taught in house at the SAR team through JIBC accredited instructors.



# OUR TEAM CAPABILITIES



## ROPE RESCUE

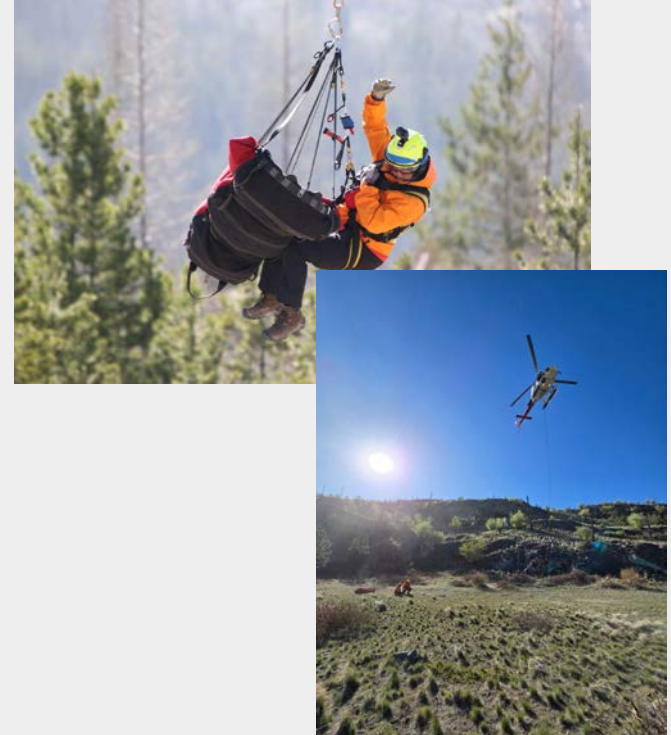
- Rope Rescue refers to any rescue where a rope is required to safely move the subject, the rescuer, or both.
- This may be on terrain where the slope is over a certain angle, on vertical terrain, or in areas where a slip or fall will have dramatic consequences.
- Training standards are high, with certification required for team members, team leaders and the instructor.



# OUR TEAM CAPABILITIES

## HELICOPTER RESCUE: CLASS "D" FIXED LINE (CDFL) & HOVER ENTRY/EXIT

- CDFL, sometimes called HETS, HFRS, "short haul" or "long line" is a type of helicopter rescue where one or more rescuers and subjects are slung on a line attached to a helicopter.
- CDFL allows SAR teams to move people and equipment into normally inaccessible terrain. This technique is used to lower rescuers into areas where tall trees may prevent the helicopter from landing. It can also be used to rescue people off mountainous terrain.
- Hover entry/exit ability allows for team members to still reach a subject with the use of a helicopter; however, they are in terrain that is preventing the helicopter from landing.





# OUR TEAM CAPABILITIES



## SWIFTWATER RESCUE

- Swift water is any moving water that has the possibility of knocking someone off their feet. BC is a province full of rivers and streams and as we have seen over the recent years, can have some significant flooding events.
- Swiftwater Rescue training is very involved, and covers boat operations, shoreline rescue, disentanglement, swimming and “line across” techniques. Recertification every 3 years is mandatory to maintain qualifications and ability to be tasked to a rescue.



# OUR TEAM CAPABILITIES

## FLAT ICE RESCUE

- Most of BC experiences cold enough winters that lakes and rivers freezing and various recreation activities taking place on the frozen surfaces such as Ice Fishing, Skating and Snowmobile operations.
- When someone breaks through the ice, in many areas it is the SAR teams that are tasked to respond to perform the rescue.
- SAR members trained in Flat Ice Rescue require specific and detailed rescue techniques and training to obtain their qualification, regular recertification is required.





# OUR TEAM CAPABILITIES

## WINTER RESCUE

- Training is required in BC for all operations in avalanche terrain regardless of the kind of rescue (avalanche or otherwise) being performed. The rationale is that SAR members may have to travel through a potential avalanche hazard while looking for a lost person.
- Basic avalanche rescue training involves terrain analysis, safe travel techniques, and rescue skills with avalanche transceivers, probes and shovels.
- Advanced training includes managing teams of people for a rescue and team leadership.
- PENSAR also utilize trained members on snow shoes and by ski to gain access to a lost or injured person.





# OUR TEAM CAPABILITIES

## FLAT WATER RESCUE (VESSEL)

- With the mandate of Ground SAR teams to cover land and inland waterways, many SAR teams adjacent to lakes and rivers develop significant marine response capabilities.
- PENSAR maintains a 24 ft vessel with a number of trained boat operators for deployment on either Okanagan Lake or Skaha Lake.





# OUR TEAM CAPABILITIES

## NATURAL DISASTER EVACUATIONS

- Over the last number of years, the volume of calls due to Wildfires and Flooding events having a huge impact on our communities within our response area have increased and become so common that they are accepted as our “new normal”.
- The need for Search and Rescue teams to assist during these events by performing duties such as delivering evacuation orders and completing rescues by extricating individuals trapped by the extreme weather events.
- These events have also directly impacted the need for manpower as the length of these tasks sometimes flows into multiple days and operational periods.

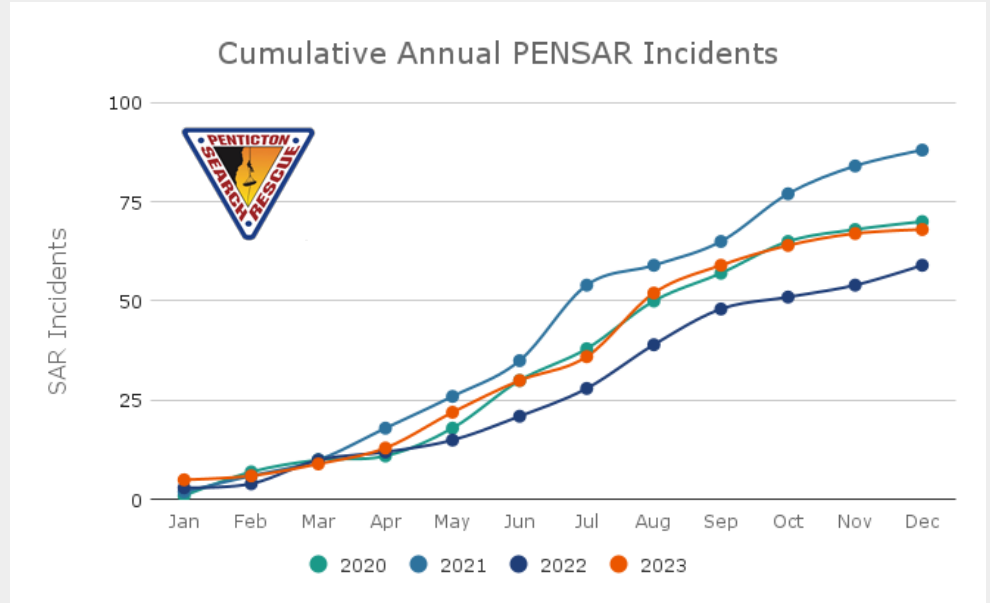




# PENSAR RESPONSES

## ANNUAL OPERATIONAL TASKS

- In BC, SAR teams introduced electronic record keeping nearly a decade ago through the use of our database system D4H. Teams have the ability to track their tasks, task type and volunteer member hours both for training and task response.
- 2021 proved to be a record year for SAR teams across BC. Looking into the future using their data forecast, BCSARA predicts that BC's annual SAR call volume will reach pandemic levels again by 2026 and double by 2046.



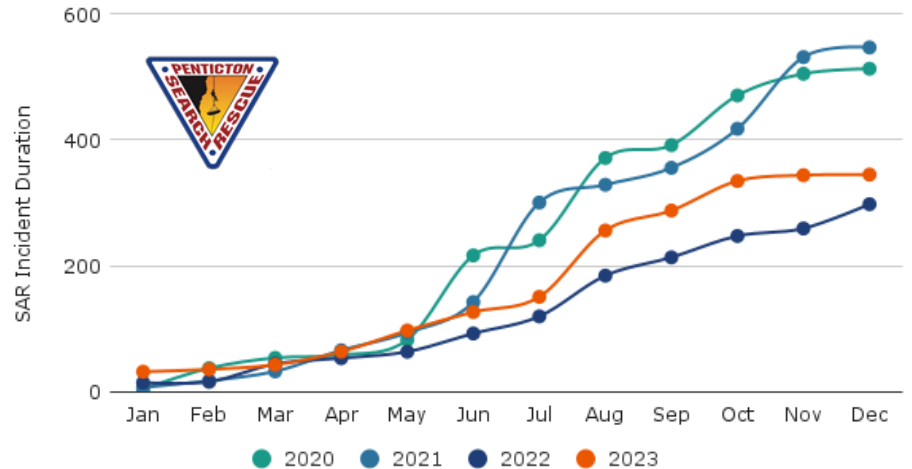


# PENSAR RESPONSES

## ANNUAL OPERATIONAL HOURS ON TASK

- SAR members are available for call outs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- A SAR manager may receive information in the middle of the night and begin organizing the team for deployment at dawn to maximize hours available for the task.
- Teams can also find themselves on tasks that stretch into multiple operational periods lasting a few days due to the complexity or nature of the task.

Cumulative Annual PENSAR Incident Duration

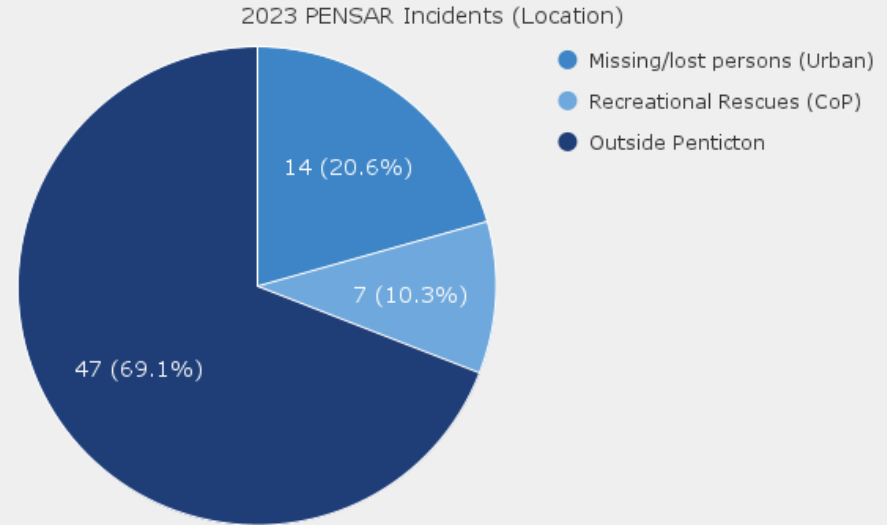




# PENSAR RESPONSES

## CITY OF PENTICTON - INCIDENTS

- PENSAR is not selective on where we respond, as such we will respond to tasks locally, regionally and as a mutual aid resource to other teams.
- Due to technical capabilities, PENSAR is often deployed to assist in the rescue of injured cyclists and climbers within the City of Penticton. PENSAR has also been utilized on a number of occasions for urban searches involving children and elderly citizens .
- Tourism is high in our area and even with calls outside of the City of Penticton limits, these individuals requiring PENSAR's assistance are often residents of Penticton or visitors staying in our community.

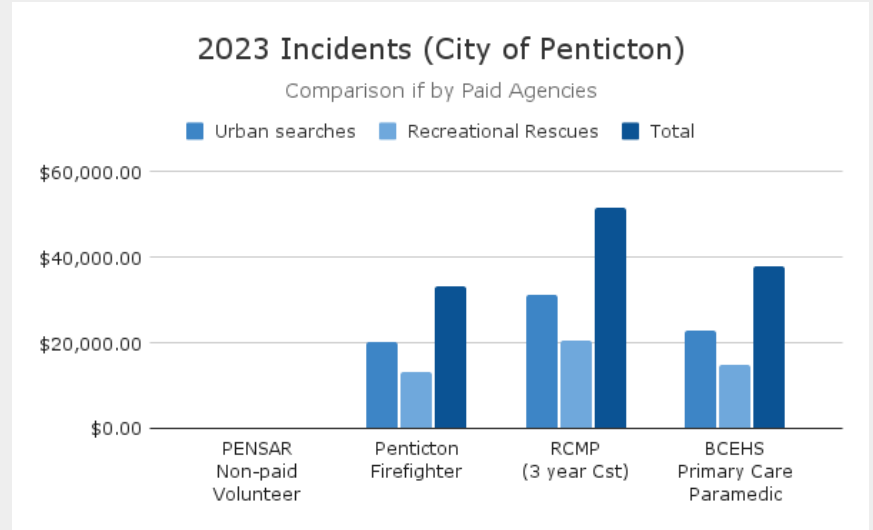




# PENSAR RESPONSES

2023 PENSAR Incidents (City of Penticton)					
	Incident Hours (Total manpower)	PENSAR Member	Penticton Firefighter	RCMP (3 year Cst)	BCEHS Primary Care
Hourly rate		\$0.00	\$33.18	\$51.24	\$37.67
Urban searches	607.83	\$0.00	\$20,167.80	\$31,145.21	\$22,896.96
Recreational Rescues	397.48	\$0.00	\$13,188.39	\$20,366.88	\$14,973.07
<b>Total</b>	<b>1005.31</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$33,356.19</b>	<b>\$51,512.08</b>	<b>\$37,870.03</b>

- All of our members respond on a non-paid basis. Many have invested thousands of dollars of their own money to supplement their gear and training.
- PENSAR members selflessly dedicate their time, expertise and energy to our community, many going beyond mere obligation.





# PENSAR RESPONSE & TRAINING

- PENSAR members dedicate an extensive amount of hours to maintain their qualifications to a high standard.
- Every member that is part of a specialty team must undergo recertification to continue to hold their qualification, as well as attend regular team meetings and training as part of the Ground SAR team.



**\$11,442.79**

Cost of one SAR member if  
not paid to respond to PENSAR  
tasks in 2023  
(at Penticton FD wage)



**\$64,928.95**

Total PENSAR member's non-  
paid hours in 2023 for tasks,  
training and meetings  
(single attendee)  
(at Penticton FD wage)



**\$376,206.45**

Cost if all active member non-  
paid hours were paid out for  
time in 2023  
(at Penticton FD wage)



**\$77,800**

Collectively dedicated to  
the PENSAR team's  
Training Budget  
(2023)



**1790+ hours**

Dedicated solely to Training in 2022 & 2023



**287 Exercises**

Regular GSAR & Specialty Teams in 2022 & 2023



**37% Increase**

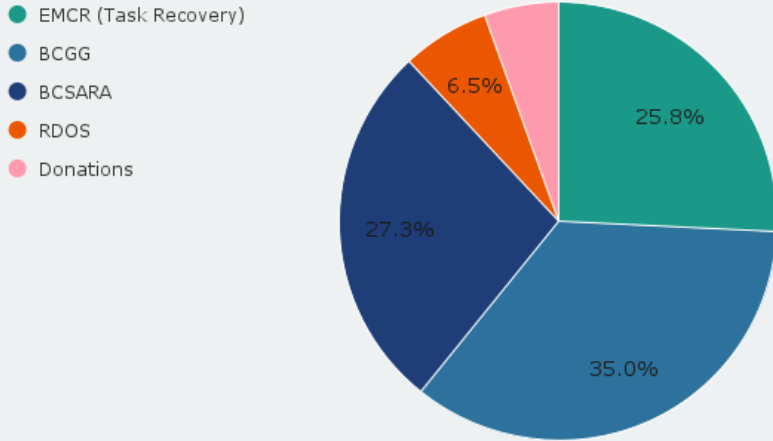
in Training hours over the last 4 years



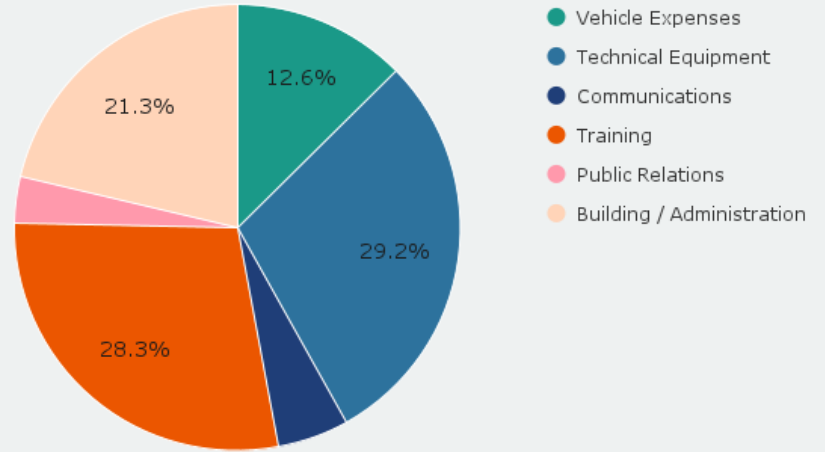


# PENSAR BUDGET

PENSAR 2024 Funding (Income)



PENSAR 2024 Operating Budget (Expenses)



- SAR teams rely on funding through Provincial and local government grants, as well as donations from our community members in order to remain operational.
- Funding is allocated to purchase and maintain equipment, as well as the training and upkeep of skills and qualifications to provide the service our communities have come to expect.



# PENSAR HEADQUARTERS

**PENSAR TRAINING FACILITY**  
 251 Dawson Ave (4200 sqft)  
 (PENSAR uses 2210 sqft)

Room Description	Area (sqft)	Notes
Entrance	90	
Meeting/Training Room	625	Current membership = 53
Kitchen	100	
Washrooms	200	men's washroom & ladies washroom/change room
Office	175	General Administration & Manager's command area
Communication Storage	115	
Men's Change Room	120	Also hold extra storage of administrative files and misc equipment
Back Storage Room	150	Specialized team equipment
Medical/FA Storage Room	110	
Vehicle Bay	525	Houses 2 vehicles, no room for maintenance
Amateur Radio Rooms	225	Used exclusively by P.A.R.C
Fire Dept Vehicle Bay	1750	Used exclusively by PFD



### CURRENT FLEET

- 4 vehicles
- 3 UTV/ATV
- Boat & Trailer
- 3 Utility trailers

### SPECIALIZED GEAR ON SITE

- Swiftwater
- Winter
- Medical
- Evacuations
- Communications

Asbestos Assessment completed November 21, 2017 by Pinchin Ltd. at the direction of the City of Penticton.

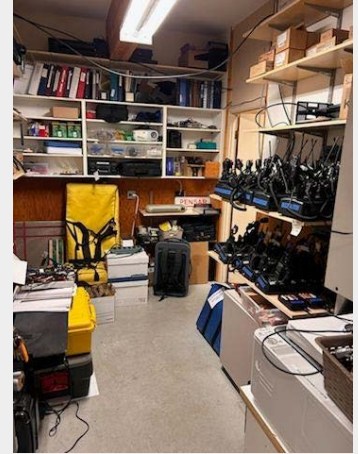
- Confirmed asbestos in a number of locations in the building:
  - Office floor tiles,
  - Vermiculite wall insulation
  - Drywall and joint compound (numerous locations)



# PENSAR HEADQUARTERS



Communications  
Equipment Storage



Main Training/Meeting  
Area

Office / Manager  
Command Area





# PENSAR HEADQUARTERS



Men's & Ladies Washrooms & Change Rooms

Kitchen



Medical / First Aid Training Equipment

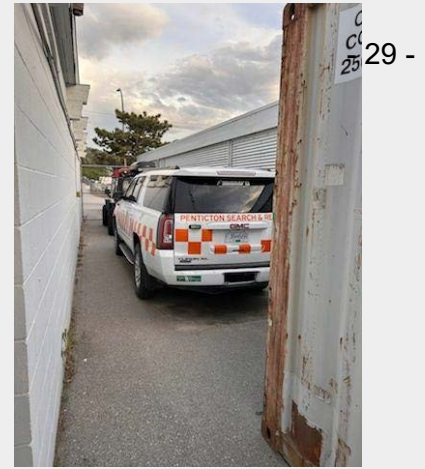
Specialized Gear Equipment Storage





# PENSAR HEADQUARTERS

Exterior





QUESTIONS?

