



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 07 – 23

SEARCH AND RESCUE POLICY COMMISSION

Pursuant to my authority as Governor of the State of Oregon, I find that:

Earlier this year, I created the Search and Rescue Task Force by Executive Order 07-01 to conduct a close examination of Oregon's search and rescue system and make recommendations as to how to improve that system. The Task Force presented to me a report of their findings and recommendations in March, 2007. Several of the Task Force recommendations were enacted into law through Senate Bill 1002 in the 2007 Legislative session. Among the non-legislative recommendations made by the Task Force was a recommendation to create a state-wide search and rescue policy commission. The Task Force found that a commission is necessary to continue policy analysis and make ongoing recommendations for improvement and increased coordination and communication among search and rescue stakeholders at all levels of government and in the volunteer community, the private sector and the public.

The work of the Task Force was an excellent start, but it is incumbent upon us to be vigilant and continue our efforts to ensure that Oregon's search and rescue system allows for and encourages effective and timely communication, coordination, and the pooling of all available and necessary resources. To that end, the Search and Rescue Policy Commission should take up where the Search and Rescue Task Force left off, and work to reach resolution on the issues that the Task Force did not have time to resolve. The Commission should also stand ready to address new issues as they develop and make future recommendations about improving Oregon's search and rescue system. The Commission will also facilitate communication between the search and rescue community, the legislature and the Governor's Office regarding search and rescue policy, legislative issues and needed resources.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED AND ORDERED:

1. The Search and Rescue Policy Commission (the "Commission") is established.
2. The Commission shall consider search and rescue issues that are state-wide in scope and make recommendations as to any changes to the laws, administrative rules and related policies of the State of Oregon that are necessary to ensure proper coordination and communications between federal, state and local authorities in search and rescue operations.



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3. In the course of its work, the Commission shall review the report of the Search and Rescue Task Force and work to reach resolution on the issues that the Task Force identified but was unable to resolve due to limited time and resources.

4. The Commission shall consist of 14-17 members to be appointed by the Governor. The Commission membership shall include:

- a. At least one representative of the Oregon State Police;
- b. At least one representative of the Oregon Military Department who is not employed by the Office of Emergency Management;
- c. The Oregon Office of Emergency Management Search and Rescue Coordinator;
- d. The Director of the Oregon Office of Emergency Management;
- e. A representative of the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association who is not the chair of the OSSA Search and Rescue Committee;
- f. The Chair of the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association Search and Rescue Committee;
- g. A representative of the Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police;
- h. A representative of the Civil Air Patrol;
- i. A representative of the United States Bureau of Land Management;
- j. A representative of the United States Forest Service;
- k. A representative of the United States Coast Guard;
- l. At least two certified search and rescue volunteers;
- m. A representative of each of Oregon's Regional Search and Rescue Councils that are recognized by the Oregon State Sheriff's Association and the Oregon Office of Emergency Management
- n. At least one member of the Oregon House of Representatives;
- o. At least one member of the Oregon Senate; and
- p. At least one member of the general public.



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5. The Oregon Office of Emergency Management shall provide staff support to the Commission. Other state agencies shall assist the Council upon request.

6. The Commission shall submit a report summarizing its findings and conclusions to the Governor annually, beginning June 1, 2007.

7. Members of the Commission shall not receive compensation for their activities as members of the Commission, but may be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in the attending Commission business pursuant to ORS 292.495(2) and subject to availability of funds.

8. This Order expires on January 31, 2010.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 29 day of November, 2007.



Theodore R. Kulongoski
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Bill Bradbury
SECRETARY OF STATE