

taking notes (pencil or pen and tablet). Students need to provide their own copy of the ERI book “Search is an Emergency”. Wilderness Emergency Response Institute, LLC provides all other equipment for this course.

## Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

## Course Scheduling Information

For open enrollment Search Management Class visit [www.wildernesseri.com](http://www.wildernesseri.com).

To set up a course or if you have a question contact - Wilderness Emergency Response Institute, LLC.  
PO Box 24  
Windber, PA 15963  
814-659-7017  
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PO Box 24  
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## Wilderness Search and Rescue – Search Management



40-Hour Course

# **The Pennsylvania Local Level SAR Training- Search & Rescue Disciplines**

In Pennsylvania, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) was the first state organization to show interest in Search and Rescue for missing persons. The DCNR is the primary coordinator for search and rescue efforts on state forest and state park lands within the commonwealth.

Over the years, the bureaus of State Parks and Forestry, being responsible for over 2 million acres of forest land, recognized the need for trained personnel in search and rescue. Using the information available at the time, training modules were designed. The 4 modules that were designed for emergency responders are the Wilderness Search and Rescue: Search Responder, Wilderness Search and Rescue Basic Grid Team, Wilderness Search and Rescue: Advanced Grid Team and Wilderness Search and Rescue: Search Management.

The DCNR also created 3 levels of search and rescue certifications: Field Team Member, Field Team Leader and Air

Scent K9. All of the courses and certifications were originally designed for DCNR personnel.

The DCNR realized that these were the only missing person search courses being offered in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The DCNR opened the courses to the emergency responders of Pennsylvania. In 2009 the DCNR decided to eliminate their Search and Rescue courses. However; the DCNR has authorized the PA State Fire Academy and the Pennsylvania Community College System to continue to offer these courses.

It is now left up the State Fire Academy to update and authorize Community Colleges to use these courses. The PA DCNR no longer has any authority over these courses. Only Certified State Fire Academy Local Level Instructors teach the PA Search and Rescue Curriculum.

## **The Course**

The Wilderness Search and Rescue Search Management Course is designed to familiarize the student with search and rescue operations management skills to manage operations and provide organization to the search incident. Although there are no prerequisites for this course, it is suggested that the student takes

the Wilderness Search and Rescue Search Responder Course prior to this course.

The Search Management course provides training in search management techniques, search organization, briefing and debriefing, interviewing techniques, investigation techniques, necessary resources in initial search operations, necessary tactics in search operations, how to determine statistical probabilities for search areas, accessing lost person behavior, how to utilize planning information and how to manage external influences during search operations.

The course is presented in 40 hours: 30 hours are lecture and 10 hours are hands on classroom skills. This course prepares the student for taking the Incident Command position during the initial phases of a missing person incident.

## **General Information**

The PA Search and Rescue Courses can only be offered inside the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. To successfully pass the Wilderness Search and Rescue Search Management Course the student must attend all 40 hours of the class and actively participate in all discussions and hands on skills.

There is no written test for this course. The student needs to provide materials for