

Rescue Organizations

The search and rescue community in Colorado is made up of many different groups, including sheriffs departments, fire departments, ambulance organizations and specialized mountain rescue teams. Below is a listing of the current MRA teams in the Rocky Mountain Region.

Rocky Mountain Region of MRA

Current Regular Member Teams & date of Accreditation.

1960	Rocky Mountain Rescue Group
1962	Alpine Rescue Team
1966	Mountain Rescue Aspen
1966	Albuquerque Mountain Rescue Council
1976	El Paso County SAR
1976	Summit County Rescue Group
1982	Larimer County SAR
1982	Vail Mountain Rescue Group
1985	Grand County SAR
1987	Western State College Mountain Rescue Team
2005	Douglas County SAR
2007	Atalaya Search and Rescue
2016	Fremont SAR
2018	Chaffee County SAR – North
2019	Park County SAR

Current Associate Teams & date of Membership:

2015	Crested Butte SAR (Regular Member 1991- 2011)
2015	Garfield County SAR
2023	Mesa County Search and Rescue Ground Team

Current Ex-Officio Teams & date of Membership:

1966	Rocky Mountain National Park Rescue Team
1989	Eldorado Canyon State Park

Colorado Search and Rescue (CSAR)

On December 10, 1960, a “Rescue and Disaster Control Conference” was held in Boulder, Colorado. Over 160 participants from 80 agencies convened at the University of Colorado and held a workshop to improve communication and coordination. This led, in the spring of 1961, to the formation of the Colorado Rescue Association (CRA).

On August 4, 1966, Governor Love asked The Adjutant General of Colorado, Major General Joe C. Moffitt to convene an early conference of representatives from interested Search and Rescue organizations within the State to explore the avenues by which this organization and coordination might be achieved. From this conference was the creation of the Colorado Search & Rescue Coordinating Board (CSRCB). The Colorado Search and Rescue Coordinating Board continued until 1969.

On November 17, 1970, eight men had the first Board Meeting of the newly formed Colorado Search and Rescue Board (CSRB).

In May of 2019, the Colorado Search and Rescue Board was registered as doing business as the Colorado Search and Rescue Association, Colorado Search and Rescue and Colorado SAR. Alpine member Margaret Deluca created a new logo for the organization. The Colorado Search and Rescue Association (CSAR) is a statewide organization and in 2023 was comprised of 35 stand-alone non-profit SAR Teams, 13 Sheriff SAR Teams, 5 Dog Organizations, 37 Sheriff's Office's, 4 National Parks and 4 Support Agencies.

During a major mission involving numerous agencies, the CSAR may be requested to act as a statewide coordinator. For 2024 it is expected that there will be 22 State SAR Coordinators, each rotating or sharing the duty for one week at a time. They may be reached by pager through the CSAR emergency telephone number: (800) 593-2772, 24 hours a day. Besides acting as an overall coordination center for multi-team missions, CSAR is continuously involved in providing training programs in areas such as mission leadership, ICS and other topics of inter-team interest. The CSAR Board of Directors hold regular meetings, which provide its members the opportunity to communicate anything from new techniques to lessons learned on a specific mission.