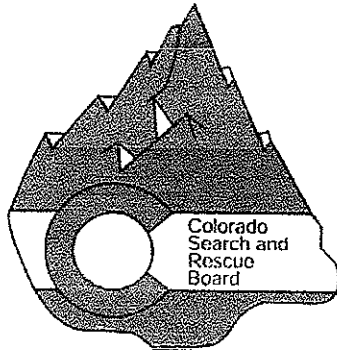


HB 10-1095 Limitation on Charging Victims or Their Families for Costs and Expenses of Search, Rescue and Recovery Efforts

Unintended consequence of 2009 HB-1041

- The general public does not differentiate between the various agencies that "rescue" people -- they are all the same.
- Colorado Search and Rescue concerned about people delaying calling 9-1-1, choosing to not call 9-1-1, refusing help when it arrives because of fear of a bill they assume they "can't afford"
- This bill is not intended to change the ability of fire districts to charge to recover expenses for technical rescue services.
- CORSAR Card - Colorado Outdoor Recreation Search and Rescue Card
- The Colorado SAR teams that conduct 93% of calls reported (2008)

Please support HB 10-1095



CSRB Policy Statement Regarding Charging Victims or their Families for Costs and Expenses of Search, Rescue and Recovery Efforts

Adopted 10/13/1987

www.coloradoSARboard.org

1. At no time, and in no manner, should an individual member of a volunteer search and rescue organization benefit monetarily from rendering emergency service to the subject of a search, rescue or recovery activity.
2. Volunteer search and rescue organizations will not charge for services they provide pursuing or in support of search, rescue, recovery operations, and no request for payment or reimbursement by other agencies or third parties should attribute any portion of the amount requested to any volunteer search and rescue organization.
3. Volunteer search and rescue organizations may call upon the services of other organizations which do routinely charge, and for which services a victim would normally consider it to be customary to be charged. Such services might include rescue or medical helicopters such as Flight for Life or Air Life, ambulance services, or delivery of a victim into the care of a physician, clinic or hospital.
4. Volunteer search and rescue organizations may obligate themselves for extraordinary expenses with the expectation that the victim or his/her family will reimburse them only if the victim or the family has given prior approval to the particular arrangement. This circumstance will be rare because usually either limited time will preclude obtaining such approval or there will be sufficient time to permit the family to contract directly for such services.
5. Volunteer search and rescue organizations are not opposed in principle to request made by themselves, sheriff's departments, or other agencies for reimbursement for actual extraordinary expenses incurred by the organization, department, or agency provided that such request is clearly an appeal based upon a perceived moral obligation under the particular circumstances, and that is not a demand for payment nor apparently based upon either legal right or routine policy. Any such requests should be made privately and not be publicized, so that the victims and their families are not embarrassed and so that the general public does not infer that such requests for reimbursement are routinely made.
6. Volunteer search and rescue organizations will actively oppose and dissociate themselves from any effort to enforce collection of expenses from a victim or his family, and from any effort to obtain statutory or other legal authority to do so.

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Purchase a Colorado Outdoor Recreation Search and Rescue (CORSAR) Card

Why Buy a CORSAR Card?

Colorado residents and visitors are well served by dedicated volunteer search and rescue teams, but mission costs are often in the thousands of dollars. By purchasing a CORSAR card you are contributing to the Search and Rescue Fund, which will reimburse these teams for costs incurred in your search and rescue. Funds remaining at the end of the year are used to help pay for training and equipment for these teams. Anyone with a current hunting/fishing license, or boat, snowmobile, ATV registration is already covered by the fund.

The CORSAR Card Is Not Insurance

The card is not insurance and does not reimburse individuals nor does it pay for medical transport. Medical transport includes helicopter flights or ground ambulance. If aircraft are used as a search vehicle, those costs are reimbursed by the fund. If the aircraft becomes a medical transport due to a medical emergency, the medical portion of the transport is not covered.

Purchase Card

The CORSAR cards are available for \$3 for one year and \$12 for five years, and can be purchased at over 300 retailers in the state. You may also purchase cards online. Please visit one of these links:

1. [Purchase Card Online With Credit Card](#)
2. [Purchase Card From a Vendor - List of Vendors](#)

For the cost of the card, you have helped ensure that trained and well equipped search and rescue teams will respond should you become lost or in need of rescue. Furthermore, volunteers will not have to incur undue expense due to your emergency.

[Division of Local Government](#)
[1313 Sherman Street, #521](#)
[Denver, CO 80203](#)
[\(303\) 866-2156](#)
dola.helpdesk@state.co.us

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