



K9 Search and Rescue Team Inc.

Dolores, Colorado



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LOCAL K9 SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM RESTRUCTURES

At its annual meeting on Jan. 1, the local K9 search and rescue team voted to restructure its management format to align with the Incident Command System (ICS).

In response to attacks on September 11 2001, former President George W. Bush issued Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5) in February 2003. One of the key features of the result of this directive is the Incident Command System.

The purpose of the ICS is to provide an interdisciplinary and flexible management system that is adaptable to any situation of any kind or size. ICS defines a clear chain-of-command and provides logistical and administrative support to operational staff responding to the situation. Normally applied to incidents such as earthquakes, wildfires, mass evacuations, it is used in non-emergency situations such as large sporting events and presidential inaugurations.

K9 Search and Rescue Team Inc. has taken this proven system of incident management and adapted it to their own team management. What is unusual about this move is that they are one of the first K9 teams in the country to do this. Chuck Melvin, Team Commander, said "Research did not turn up another SAR team using this model so it has been a bit of a challenge to adapt and implement, but we are very interested to see what benefits may come of this."

Elected as the Command and General Staff were Chuck Melvin, Team Commander, Marcus Appleton, Public Information Officer, Randy Bouet, Operations Section Chief, Kae Skala, Finance Section Chief, Lynda Bouet, Planning Section Chief, and Vicky Ayers, Logistics Section Chief.

For more information about the K9 Search and Rescue Team, visit their website at www.k9team.org.