

# CASARA: search and rescue exercise in Thompson on September 23



In a testament to their unwavering dedication to search and rescue operations, CASARA (Civil Air Search and Rescue Association) recently conducted a highly successful Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX). This exercise not only showcased CASARA's commitment to aviation safety, but also demonstrated their invaluable role in supporting Search and Rescue missions across the province.

A SAREX, or Search and Rescue Exercise, is a crucial component of CASARA's ongoing training regimen. It is a simulated search and rescue operation that allows the volunteers to practice and hone their skills in a controlled environment. These exercises mimic real-life scenarios and help

ensure that CASARA is well-prepared to respond swiftly and effectively in actual emergencies.

During the exercise, volunteers took to the skies to simulate what it will be like during a search and rescue mission. These missions included locating downed aircrafts, missing individuals and vessels in distress. Volunteers played the roles of spotters, navigators and pilots. Providing critical assistance during disasters, accidents and other life-threatening situations. One of the aircrafts commonly used for search and rescue missions is the C-130 Hercules, a versatile and reliable aircraft known for its ability to access remote areas and transport personnel and supplies efficiently. The C-130 Hercules is

a remarkable aircraft that plays a vital role in search and rescue operations. Its capabilities, range and versatility make it an invaluable asset in responding to emergencies and saving lives. Upon reaching the designated area, the C-130 Hercules deployed SAR specialists known as Parajumpers via an airdrop and landed at the Thompson Regional Airport.

The ground crew is another vital component to search and rescue. The ground crew hit the road where they were tasked to find an Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT). After hooking up antennas to receive the signal the ELT emits and doing a safety check of the vehicle they were ready to go. Once on the road, they arrived


at Pisew Falls where they followed the signal and located the ELT. In addition to their skills, CASARA members also utilize advanced technologies and equipment, such as radar, GPS and Drone systems that help immensely in effective searches.

After the SAREX, CASARA conducted a debriefing and evaluation to assess their performance and identify areas for improvement. This commitment to continuous learning and refinement is a hallmark of CASARA's dedication to safety and effectiveness in search and rescue missions. One of the key takeaways from the exercise was the importance of clear communication, and the intricacies that different terrain creates for spotting and

locating.

The exercise reaffirmed CASARA's position as a vital player in Canada's search and rescue community. Their commitment to safety, rigorous training and dedication to interagency collaboration ensure that they are always ready to respond to emergencies and contribute to saving lives. Having major support from Thompson Regional Airport, Thompson Air Cadets and the City of Thompson and months of meticulous preparation went into organizing the recent exercise. The hope to re-create a CASARA group in the North is looking promising as significant steps have been made to get the ball rolling. This expansion reflects the increasing

coverage and support needed for search and rescue missions in the northern regions of the province. Northern Manitoba is filled with diverse landscapes. These remote locations often pose unique search and rescue challenges due to the vastness and weather conditions. The creation of a dedicated North Zone within CASARA addresses several critical needs. Such as enhanced response time and improved coverage. But with volunteers in a constant state of need, CASARA is always open to accepting those wanting to help. Those interested in becoming a CASARA volunteer can follow the QR code to get further information and follow the sign up instructions.



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**Casual Counselors Level one**

We are a 24/7 facility so shifts include days, evenings, and nights. The successful client will have a working understanding of Domestic and/or Family violence and related issues. Have one or more years of counseling experience, preferably in the area of crisis intervention or domestic/family violence, with some professional training i.e. Applied Counseling Certificate and/or relevant post-secondary education (Social work, Nursing or work related experience).

Have a current CPR and First Aide or willing to obtain and recent Child abuse registry/Criminal record check. Valid Driver's license or willing to obtain.

Must be able to work cross-culturally, the ability to speak a second language is an asset. Have an understanding and respect of LGBTQ1 issues and the vulnerable sectors.

Be willing to work shift work: including days, afternoons, nights, weekends and stat holidays as required.

Be reliable, dependable, flexible, and punctual and have a good work ethic.

If you are interested in applying for a position please submit an up to date resume to the **Program Manager Christine Fenner/or Executive Director Helen Trudeau** at [tccprogrammanager@shaw.ca](mailto:tccprogrammanager@shaw.ca). Applications are due by October 13/23 at 4 pm.