

## **NorthStar Backcountry Medical Response Team**

### **Mission Statement**

“NorthStar Backcountry Medical Response Team is charged with responding to ill and injured persons in an off-road environment in the forests, mountains, lakes and rivers within the NorthStar EMS response area, and, in collaboration with the Maine Warden Service and other wilderness rescue responders, providing public education as well as emergency medical care using the highest level of wilderness prehospital care providers available”

### **Backcountry Medical Response Team (BMRT) Response Plan**

#### **When to activate the BMRT by on-duty crews (includes but not limited to)**

- Upon receiving a call for a known off-road / backcountry rescue call
- Whenever the on-duty crew has a need for additional help (specialized equipment in an off-road situation)
- If in doubt, contact the on-duty supervisor

#### **How to activate the BMRT**

- Request Dispatch to do an “All-Call” tone for the Backcountry Medical Response Team on all 3 NorthStar channels. Have BMRT members respond to an initial location (NorthStar Bases, Trailhead, Fire Department etc)
- Advise the shift supervisor of the call out
- Have an available NorthStar base crew call BMRT members via phone tree using the BMRT member list located at each base and in each ambulance or use the NorthStar paging system (GMail)
- If no on-duty crewmembers are available for the phone tree, then a responding BMRT member may be assigned to this task
- The 1st BMRT member will assume Backcountry EMS Command, if duty crew cannot carry out the Command function
- Keep radio traffic to a minimum, keep radio traffic log

#### **Responding On-Duty Crew**

- Before leaving base:
- Get as much detailed information as possible from dispatch. There is a checklist at each base and in each ambulance for this task
- Grab the Backcountry Rescue pack(s), litter, spare radios, flashlights and off-road gear as needed or anticipated (based on equipment available at the base)
- After leaving base:
- Respond to scene or appropriate staging area
- Mark route to scene or trailhead well (flagging, reflective cones, light sticks)
  - Check in with Incident Command or Start Incident Command

## Communication

- Radio communication to initially be on NorthStar Division frequency

| Receive | Rx PL Code | Transmit | Tx PL Code |
|---------|------------|----------|------------|
| 155.280 | 179.9      | 155.280  | 179.9      |

- Command to be able to interface with other agencies on common freqs
- May switch over to NorthStar Tactical needed for Medical use
- May switch over / be complemented with FRS radios (CH-1 for trail teams)

## BMRT Members arriving at scene

- Start Command function, if not already set up
- Call for EMA Command vehicle early, if anticipated
- Start Backcountry EMS Command if IC is already setup
- Establish presence with IC – start written Action Log for BMRT
- Complete the Participant Log – Sign-In Sheet to document responders and agencies involved
- Establish Safety Officer position (from any agency)
- Compile and plan for weather reports/alerts.
- Establish HASTY Team – prep, briefing, response plan, send in HASTY Medical Team. Radio comms check before deployment.
- Assess need for additional resources: (See Resource List for phone # / contact info\_
  - Warden Service
  - Fire Departments
  - Specialized Rescue Gear
  - LifeFlight of Maine
  - Maine Forest Service
  - Franklin Search & Rescue (FSAR)
  - Specialized vehicles
  - 112<sup>th</sup> Medevac - Bangor
- Work with other agencies to develop plan of operations
- Stage / Brief / Prep crews for carryout – rope teams
- Plan early for rehab (food, water, nightfall, bad weather, demobilization)

## **NorthStar Backcountry Medical Rescue Team qualifications desire for membership:**

### **Operations Level** (Working on the team in a support / non-mountain climbing role)

- Participate in training and meetings with regular attendance
- IS-700
- Good team attitude
- Outdoor background or willingness to develop it
- Ability to read maps
- Ability to multi-task in a stressful environment
- Ability to operate NorthStar radios and GPS equipment
- Ability to interface and work cooperatively with other agencies
- Have a personal response (24 hr) back prepared and ready to respond

### **Trail-Rated Level** (Climbing to wherever the rescue requires)

- All the items for the Operations Level – Plus
- Willingness to work cooperatively as part of the team
- Willingness to learn new wilderness rescue tools and techniques
- Willingness to share teaching education responsibilities
- W-EMT / WALs / Ski Patrol / WFR / Military / Maine Guide certifications and/or combination of well rounded outdoor and medical education/experiences
- Have a 24 hr ready pack prepared, with gear and tools and clothing, as needed
- Ability to be self-sufficient in a rugged mountain environment
- Fitness ability to climb above timberline w/pack and gear
- Ability to competently navigate w/map, compass, GPS
- Ability to travel through rough terrain at night
- Ability to travel using trail, boat, ATV, snowmobile, snow-cat and other vehicles, as required