

Surrey Search & Rescue is a 100% voluntary specialist search team which helps the emergency services find missing vulnerable adults and children. We are on-call 24 hours a day, with a team of **50+ people and 8 Search Dogs** to respond across Surrey and surrounding areas.

Any Terrain, Any Weather

We are trained to find and give first aid to anyone who is reported missing or lost and evacuate them to safety. We operate in woodland, farmland, town centres and around water, where the emergency services need help and manpower.

Professional Response, 24-7

Over 2100 people go missing in Surrey every year. Even if a callout comes at 3am we aim to respond as quickly as possible and minimise the time that the missing person is trapped outdoors.

Local Unit, National Team

We are an official member of the UK's Lowland Rescue provision, with the same role as Mountain Rescue, Coastguard Rescue and the RNLI, amongst others. We work closely with our neighbouring county teams and national Association.

Once trained and operational for 6 months, members with pet dogs can begin to train them as Search Dogs. This is a huge commitment, and can take an average of 2 years to get a dog to qualify for operational searching.

Surrey Search & Rescue has a variety of operational dogs of both Route and Area level.

Route Dogs (Level 2):

Many types of missing person are found on or near an established path or route. Our Route Dogs are trained to search up to 25 metres either side of any path, up to 2km in length, for the smell of a person.

Area Dogs (Level 3):

This is a more advanced level of training, and dogs of this level can be tasked with searching an area of 50 acres (50 football pitches) of woodland or scrub for people. A phenomenal task, the handler and dog must be very fit and train regularly to maintain perfect ability.

All our dogs are trained every 2 weeks with the team, and most other days with their handler and smaller sections of the team.

You can see all of our dogs, and even sponsor their equipment and training [here](#).

In charge of the search, the Controller works with the police to devise areas and tactics for each search based on what information can be provided.

The Search Controller is responsible for recording everything which happens on a search and liaising with other agencies including the Ambulance Service, HM Coastguard and Fire Brigades.

Our Search Controllers must have been operational Search Technicians and have undertaken additional training in Missing Person Behaviour – the statistics which help us narrow down the likelihood of people being in particular areas – and advanced search management.

Our Search Controllers currently work from two quick-erect tents which we can deploy from our Land Rover response vehicle in minutes. We have a portable generator so we can run laptops with mapping software, and print off information for our teams on the ground.

We are fundraising to purchase a larger vehicle suitable to use as a mobile office for our Search Controllers. If you are able to help with a donation or vehicle, please do let us know at info@sursar.org.uk, or donate online [here](#).

We often deploy our later-stage Trainee members to assist our Search Controllers and build their understanding of how to manage a search based on live experience, which we find is hugely beneficial when the Trainee becomes operational.