



EXMOOR

## Exmoor Search and Rescue Team

### Special Events Policy

The central function of the team is as a search and rescue organisation with varied skills that suit particular circumstances. Increasing and competing demands on training and time commitment for its voluntary membership require careful balance with operational demand. By the provision of a clear policy, both the team and potential event organisers are able to consider appropriate levels of involvement in pre planned activities that may meet the team's charitable aims.

#### **Key principles**

**Overall responsibility for the health and safety of event participants or officials remains with the event organiser.**

Exmoor Search and Rescue Team is an emergency service staffed by volunteers and must be available to the primary, statutory emergency services at all times.

The team will always seek to support outdoor activities which it has agreed to attend within its area but event organisers must accept that the team may be deployed elsewhere in the case of an operational call out, without notice.

#### **Key features**

The team leadership will review all requests for participation in a planned event on a case by case basis taking into account the necessity for rescue cover, deployment and available resources.

The purpose of the team's presence is to offer prompt rescue coverage in remote areas where access and/or evacuation by conventional first aiders would be impossible or inappropriate.

The team will not engage in any activities that should be performed by properly established marshals or stewards, or take the place of properly established event first aid cover.

Where the team attends an event, assistance will be rendered to any participant if appropriate e.g. immediate medical treatment or direction will be given to the most applicable official.

Attendance at an event does not necessarily guarantee further attendance in the future. All events will be considered annually in the light of operational demands.

### **Payments for service**

The team cannot enter into any formal financial contract either written or verbal. Voluntary charitable contributions to team funds for services rendered are gratefully accepted.

### **Service provision**

Organisers are requested to give the team the maximum notice possible in a request for attendance in order to facilitate resourcing.

Normal expectation of service should be one or two mobile elements comprising four or five team members in each to form a search party. These mobile elements will closely monitor the progress of the event and respond accordingly if their particular skills are required.

Additional team membership present may be located close to the event in case of need but normally undertaking training activities.

The team reserves the right to deploy further assets and modify its response based on the nature of the event.