

How Rescue Dogs Can Assist in Emergency Situations in Whitestone



Emergency situations and disasters can strike any locality whether it's a fire, storm, or blizzard. Currently, [Whitestone has an Emergency Plan](#) to deal with unforeseeable events that might strike this low-population community. Common emergencies that occur in the area include hail, tornadoes, lightning, heat waves and thunderstorms.

Consequences of Emergencies

Nature has a way of unleashing its havoc on the environment causing floods, fires, storm surges and extreme temperatures.

Exposure to the elements can have a severe impact on people, including injuries such as electrocution, drowning, hypothermia or disorientation, among others.

Responders on the Scene

When extreme weather occurs, residents are advised to stay indoors, secure flying objects and protect animals either by putting them in pens or inside homes. However, for those who are caught unaware outdoors, are lost, or have succumbed to injuries, a search and rescue mission is usually launched by authorities or families who report them missing.

Search and rescue operations sometimes deploy rescue animals that are trained in locating humans and other animals. This technique is useful in several aspects:

Locating the Whereabouts of Victims

[Specially trained dogs are excellent](#) in locating and finding victims so that they can be rescued and given medical attention. SAR dogs are also used to locate fellow animals who are missing, such as cats and dogs.

Providing Companionship

Rescue animals are fantastic companions to others. Specifically, people who are sick can benefit from the presence of rescue animals. They provide social contact for an ill person who is incapacitated by a disease or a disability.

Taking Supplies to Those in Need

SAR animals not only are trained at helping others, but they can also lead teams. Stories of dogs steering soldiers to safety during war are not uncommon, and they can even bring urgent supplies to affected people across the most difficult of terrains.

SAR in Whitestone and Ontario

Whitestone is under the Emergency Management Ontario, which is the provincial government agency for ground and inland water search and rescue operations. The Ontario Search and Rescue Volunteer Association spearheads and coordinates volunteer SAR in the province and also provides certified dogs to police agencies. In practice, the Ontario Provincial Police is responsible for ground and inland water search and rescue incidents

including those reported in Whitestone. Currently, there are [four certified K9 teams](#) in Ontario ready to be deployed for incidents and emergencies.

Should SAR operations be required in Whitestone, there are teams ready to help locate and find victims so that they can receive assistance immediately. In dire situations, every second counts and knowing that SAR animals are there can help in mitigating the effects of disasters and emergencies that may strike the municipality.

Image source: <http://bit.ly/2jEV9m7>