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### National Search and Rescue Week

(ANCHORAGE, Alaska)— With approximately 48 professional volunteer Search and Rescue (SAR) groups and roughly a thousand trained SAR volunteers, Alaskans can take comfort knowing that if something should go wrong in Alaska's backcountry help is on the way.

May 16 to 22 is National Search and Rescue week. Here in Alaska, Volunteers spend thousands of hours honing their skills so they can deploy to help a fellow citizen. Last year alone, these dedicated SAR volunteers logged 55,000 hours of actual searching through the rugged terrain of Alaska, in an effort to return those who found themselves in harms way returned safely to their homes and loved ones. These ever-vigilant heroes logged almost double that amount of time conducting training to maintain their critical but perishable skills in technical rescue, K-9, avalanche, swift water, ice and other specialized fields of training. They consistently take time away without pay from their jobs, their families and friends. There is no question regarding the dedication, and sacrifice, these men and women have in helping bring people home and their commitment to the citizens of Alaska and the communities that they live in.

The Alaska State Troopers and Department of Public Safety thank the Alaskan SAR community for its tireless efforts. Their efforts in Alaska save numerous lives every year.