



University of Pittsburgh EMS Fellowship
Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference
Wilderness EMS Day 2023

Saturday, October 21: 8:30 AM until sometime after dark
Meet at 0830 (Instructors 0800) at:

Keith Conover's house
55 Sigrid Drive, Carnegie, PA 15106-3062

Field exercise at:

Scott Township Kane Woods Park, Whiskey Point
Trailhead, Junction Old Bower Hill Rd, Main St,
Scrubgrass Rd. Google Maps: 2 Main St, Bridgeville, PA
15017 Lat/Long: 40.382081, -80.090371

Register: <http://www.asrc.net>; and attendance
will be capped, though there will be a waitlist.
Registration opens October 1.

As in years past, we will have Wilderness EMS Day on a crisp, clear October Saturday. Actually, no, we want rain and sleet as it makes a better exercise. It will take place regardless of the weather: this *is* a wilderness EMS exercise. **You will be out in the field until after dark.**

The prime motivator is to provide field training for the University of Pittsburgh's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Fellowship. An EMS Fellow is a physician who has completed medical school and an emergency medicine residency, and is pursuing additional training in the management of EMS systems. This curriculum requires education about Wilderness EMS, including a practical exercise. The Fellows learn by providing over-the-radio medical advice to you as you care for simulated patients in a wild setting.

WEMS Day is also a learning experience for members of emergency medicine, EMS and search and rescue (SAR) organizations. The Fellows need practice dealing with Wilderness EMS providers, and having EMS and SAR personnel there provides this. People of all levels, from medical students through wilderness first aid through EMTs of various levels to field-capable

physicians, will be participating.

We meet at Keith Conover's house at 8:30 AM (earlier than in the past; **instructors meet at 8 to prepare for the day**). Those practicing incident management will brief us, and move us to Kane Woods, a 5-minute drive. We will issue a gridded map.

Once at Kane Woods, we dispatch teams to various grid locations. You navigate to them, keeping in touch via handheld radios. You find an instructor. The instructor gives you a scenario, which you manage, often with radio advice from one of the Fellows. Your team switches locations and scenarios as directed. At some inconvenient point when everyone is tired and cold and it's getting dark, the entire group will have to deal with a complex rescue. Once done, we head back to Keith's for a free dinner in front of a roaring fire, and a debrief.

Attendance is limited to those who register and registration is limited; there is no cost. People from these organizations usually participate:

- University of Pittsburgh ("Pitt") Emergency Medicine Residency
- Pitt Medical School Wilderness Medical Society Student Section
- Pitt Student EMS

- ASRC Groups (**please wear your blue ASRC uniform shirt, not your team shirt**):

- Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group
- Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group
- Maryland Search and Rescue
- Mountaineer Area Rescue Group
- Northwest Pennsylvania K-9 Search and Rescue
- SAR Ohio
- Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

Part of SAR (and EMS) is managing larger operations, and this is indeed a larger operation that needs to be managed much like a large lost-person search or a large multi-casualty EMS incident. So this provides an opportunity to exercise incident-management skills as well.

Having the CalTopo app on your phone, and learning how to use it, will help you navigate. Reading <http://www.asrc.net/pub/ASRC-Essentials-for-SAR.pdf> will help you survive the day in style.

In October, check <https://www.asrc.net/> for more.