

An Tir Crown List & Autumn War

Emergency Plan Summary

May 23, 2013



Introduction

The Society for Creative Anachronism is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to medieval reenactment and educational "living history" experiences. This club, now celebrating its 40th year, has local groups on nearly every continent and boasts over 1 million members. Activities range from costumed socials, to the practice of ancient arts and crafts, to armored combat, archery, and more. With the exception of select corporate positions, all members are volunteers.

The Society (a.k.a. SCA) utilizes a highly-structured administration to handle a wide range of responsibilities. Officers from each department file reports with their superiors detailing activities and issues, make arrangements for activities falling under their jurisdiction at group functions, and are our ambassadors to the general public. Advance strategies for large events are outlined for those officers whose duties include acting as liaisons between the SCA and local authorities in case of emergency. For more background on the SCA and its emergency planning policies, interested parties may contact the head SCA emergency coordinator for the events and for the regional tri-state group, Mir Plemmons, or the head of event Security, Edward Graham (see **Contacts**), or examine the documents for which links are provided (see **Resources**).

This report details emergency plans in place for the two back to back events, to be held August 31 - September 9, 2007 in Randle, located within Lewis County, Washington. This festival is sponsored by a local SCA group, the Barony of Blatha An Oir, working with Camel Lot Productions, Inc., the owner of the site where the event will take place (see **Contacts**). All plans are subject to modification in accordance with changes in anticipated guest numbers, and approval of local authorities. **A site walk-through is scheduled for Noon, ????, 2007** for leaders and assistants from all event teams. Members of the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) and other local emergency services are welcome to arrange a meeting for that morning with Mir Plemmons at the site for a personal tour and strategy discussion.

Medical

The SCA requires the presence of a first aid team at large events, such as these. The team consists of a leader, and multiple assistants that vary in number with event size. In our medieval jargon, these individuals are referred to as "chiurgeons." They are in place to perform first aid and, if needed, stabilize patients while awaiting the arrival of ambulance services. Personnel training varies both in level and discipline (MDs, RNs, EMT-Ps, and EMT-Bs), but the care provided is not intended to exceed that of a first aid station. Care will be offered under the guidelines established by the SCA Chiurgeonate (see **References**).

In addition to standard first aid care, the events will host a second first aid team, geared towards critical emergencies. This staff will include licensed and certified EMTs. The level of personnel training varies like that of the first aid team, and like the first aid team the staff is in place strictly for transition care. Specialized equipment for the more advanced team includes an Automated External Defibrillator, oxygen,



suction and airway paraphernalia, as well as first aid supplies. All equipment and supplies used by the EMT team will be labeled with the standard blue Star of Life insignia, and care will be provided under the authority of the caregiver's certification and/ or license.

Both teams will have access to supplies and equipment set aside solely for their use. These include a generator, and a 30' X 50' tent with sterilizable flooring and supply shelves. The EMT team will create an additional room in the tent for patients needing their more in-depth care. There will also be a HAM radio station available, including an antenna mast. Cell phone reception in the area is good enough not to require the HAM station as more than a back-up. Regardless, HAM operators will be on staff. They will use Motorola radios tuned to the standard chiurgeon channel (9.1). In addition, a NOAA emergency alert radio will be at the main chiurgeon base camp. To speed communication on site, the sponsoring branch will be providing radios to the chiurgeon team leader for both her use and for the SCA's EMT team supervisor.

The SCA volunteer staff is fully prepared to handle all first aid needs. They have done so at events considerably larger than these, and on a routine basis since the SCA's inception. However, should it be required by the local authorities, a parking area will be made available to station a county ambulance on site. It is our hope that such stand-by personnel will be offered to us at the County's expense. To my knowledge we have never had stand-by ambulance service on site at any event in Washington State.

There are multiple options for emergency transport. The chiurgeon camp and treatment tent will be near the entrance to the main area of activity, with marked roadways leading out for ambulance runs. Personnel will be in place to direct traffic and clear the road as needed (see next section: **Security**). A helicopter landing point will be marked and kept cleared should airlift become necessary.

Standardized forms have been created by the SCA's Chiurgeonate for ease of patient transition from SCA to ambulance care. The form most commonly used (the Chiurgeon Incident Report) is available for inspection on-line (see **Resources**). Mir Plemmons will develop a form customized for this event or will instruct the SCA EMT team to use Lewis County's forms, as desired by local authorities. She and her assistant will meet with DEM and/ or EMS to determine jurisdiction and documentation preferences.

Mir Plemmons has outlined specific procedures for four situations of greatest local concern. Plans are not considered final until jointly approved by the SCA, local hospital and DEM:

Fire: Depending on the extent, evacuation and sheltering in-place are both viable options. The Cowlitz River is adjacent to the site, but is swift enough to require roping and linking hands to avoid persons getting swept downstream. The site fields are large enough to perform controlled burns and create a safety zone, within variables. Mir Plemmons will ask for Lewis County DEM's preferences.

Quake: The best option is sheltering in place. As with all outdoor SCA events, there will be ample bedding, food, water, and tents available. The only action required would be stabilization of injured parties while awaiting ambulance or other emergency services. Because of our ability to self-sustain for long periods, we anticipate extraction of our less injured guests to be of lower priority to local authorities, and have planned along those lines.

Volcanic Eruption: Ash clouds would be our greatest concern. Shelter will be available in cars or on-site RVs (priority given to those with health problems). Two RV zones have been designated at each end of the



chiurgeon campsite for proximity of such shelter to caregivers, along with two more RV zones at each side of the site. Should a lahar follow the eruption, the best evacuation route is unfortunately also the most likely lahar path, because of the river's course. In our favor, Mount St. Helens has reduced material left on the north side (nearest the site) thanks to its previous eruption. Mir Plemmons will confer with DEM for suggestions.

Flood: In the event of a flood, evacuation will be necessary. The route will be east or west on Highway 12, or both. This will be the most challenging scenario, as it requires convincing people to leave their belongings behind, and would require considerable traffic control and carpool coordination for those who arrived via means that left them without their own vehicle. The SCA requires an on-site security team for this and other emergency situations.

Security

Events that include recreational combat, camping, archery, or other activities with an element of risk must have a security team on duty at all times. We call members of this team "constables," and their leader the "Constable-in-Charge." The team leaders for Crown and Autumn War respectively will be Edward Graham, the regional coordinator, and Diane Wahlborg, the local coordinator. The constabulary's primary concern at events is general safety and security, with a focus on preventing minor issues from becoming major problems requiring the assistance of such outside services as police, fire, or medical personnel. The constables work in conjunction with the chiurgeons, and many constables maintain current first aid cards. More information is available through the Office of the Constabulary (see **Resources**).

Volunteers are trained "on the job" and in semi-formal class settings; however, many of our constables have had prior military, police, or security experience. Constables are considered the "eyes and ears" of the Event Coordinator. By patrolling the grounds and reporting incidents, constables attempt to discourage such things as theft in the parking lots, shoplifting in the merchant's area, underage drinking, and similar infractions. The constabulary is also in charge of traffic control in emergency situations and crowd control.

Event planning includes setting up a security operations base, known as Constable Point. This base will be located near the site entrance and chiurgeon services. A dispatcher will be on duty to keep a log of all calls handled by the constabulary. A lost and found station will be established at Constable Point, and unattended children will be kept safe in this location until guardians are located. At least nine constables will be on duty at any given time, with access to at least six professional-grade radios and a base unit. One radio will be given to the Constable-in-Charge, one to the Shift Leader (Top Watch / Dispatcher), and the remaining four divided among the four two-man patrol teams. Use of FRS radios by individual constables is encouraged as a means of communication when off-duty, in case of emergency.

Once the site map is finalized, the event area will be divided into four sectors. Each on-duty team will be responsible for monitoring conduct in their sector. Each team will coordinate with the base to direct traffic in emergencies requiring either evacuation or aid car access to various regions of the site. Constables remain behind during evacuations until all guests are safely away, or until ordered to leave by the



Constable-in-Charge or local emergency authorities. The constabulary has, and will continue to review the emergency management information provided by Lewis County regularly for developments pertaining to road and river conditions, or threats of regional volcanic and seismic activity.

The events are not open to the public, and are not publicly advertised. We expect some curious local residents to stop in however. In such circumstances, our policy is to extend courtesy and friendship to visitors, acting as ambassadors to those not familiar with our form of recreation, and encourage visitors to stop by the newcomer information booth (Chatelaine's Point). If unpleasantness develops involving members of the public, the constabulary is instructed to contact the local authorities immediately for assistance.

As with the chiurgeonate, specific details about the constabulary plans are under development and subject to approval of all parties concerned. We will work with the local Sheriff's office as needed to ensure compliance with all essential guidelines.

Summary

Multiple SCA events occur every weekend throughout the year in every region. Participants number from 200 to 10,000, with an average of 1000. The all-volunteer chiurgeonate and constabulary staff receives continuous training to learn to handle all basic first aid and security situations for these events, and to know when to ask for assistance from emergency services. We are always ready to amend our emergency strategies to meet local requirements, and to continue the historically good working relationship the SCA enjoys with the public, and public services.



Contacts

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Resources

A useful introduction to the SCA (geared toward site owners) is available at:

<http://sca.org/docs/for-siteowners.pdf>

The Chiurgeon Incident Report is available at:

<http://chirurgion.wastekeep.org/documents/LongIncidentReport.doc>

For a look at Chiurgeonate guidelines, please see:

<http://www.sca.org/officers/chirurgion/ChirurgeonsHandbook2004.txt>

For an overview of the Office of Constabulary, you may access:

<http://www.antir.sca.org/Offices/Constable/ConstablesHandbook6thEd-2.pdf>