

Open Space Search & Rescue (SAR)

31

P490 FUNDING

Mountain and Search Rescue enhancements funded; COSSAR fields the only municipally-based wide-area SAR capability with NASAR canine teams.

GROUND SAR

Ground SAR capabilities in development.

COLLABORATION

Parks and Preserve · Conservancy · Scottsdale Police · Scottsdale Fire.

SFD is one of 31 Automatic Aid System contributors to Technical Rescue.



Scottsdale PD — COSSAR Contribution

Park Ranger Unit serves as PD lead on the team

- COSSAR (City of Scottsdale Search and Rescue) operates under Scottsdale Fire, with Police participation.
- Park Ranger Unit is currently the only PD component on the team.
- PD and Fire continue to develop and grow the team with additional trained personnel.
- Primary K9 handler: Officer Hayden Scott. Secondary: Officer Amber Fleming.

Park Ranger Unit

CURRENT

3 Officers

+ 1 *part-time Sergeant*

GOAL — LATER THIS YEAR

6 Officers

+ 1 *full-time Sergeant*



K9 Ploy — Live Find Canine

NASAR-certified search and rescue canine team



K9 Ploy — American Black Lab



Officer Hayden Scott with K9 Ploy

What is a Live Find canine?

A dog trained to cover large areas of open space, working scent back and forth to locate people. When Ploy finds someone, she returns to the handler and leads the team back to that person.

Team at a Glance

CANINE

Ploy — American Black Lab

CERTIFICATION

NASAR Live Find

(National Association for Search and Rescue)

PRIMARY HANDLER

Officer Hayden Scott

SECONDARY HANDLER

Officer Amber Fleming



K9 Cory — Human Remains Canine

NASAR-certified search and rescue canine team



Team at a Glance

CANINE

“Cory” — Belgian Shepard

CERTIFICATION

NASAR Human Remains Find
(National Association for Search and Rescue)

PRIMARY HANDLER

Captain Chad Gibby

SECONDARY HANDLER

Captain Matt Fleegle.

What is a Human Remains canine?

A dog trained to cover large areas of open space, working scent back and forth to locate human remains whether surface found or subterranean.



Park Ranger SAR Tools & Training

Capabilities supporting COSSAR operations

Equipment

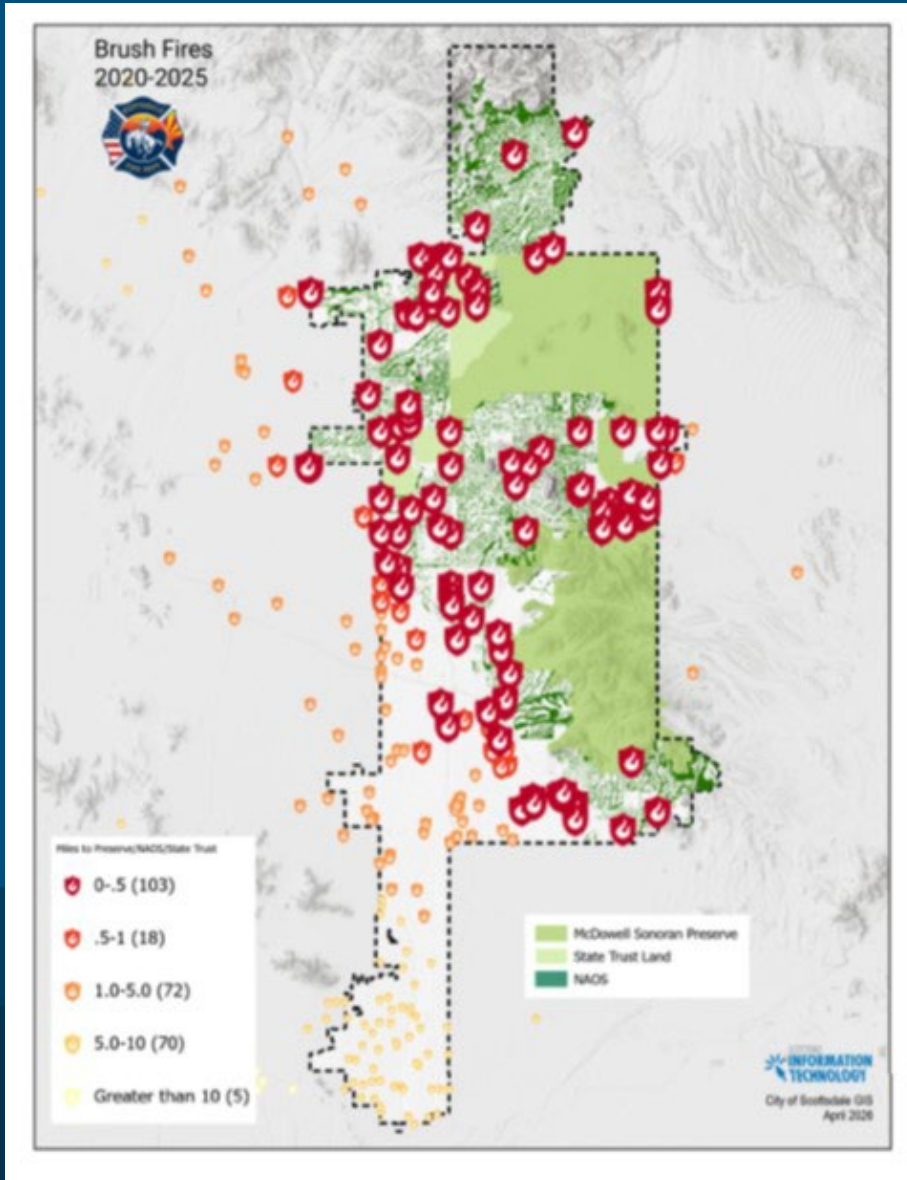
- **Drones**
 - Thermal cameras for nighttime search operations
 - LOC8 software — AI flags defined colors in drone footage to identify people or objects across large open areas
 - BlueFly (planned this year) — drone-mounted device detecting Bluetooth signals from phones, earbuds, smart watches, and headphones in wilderness areas
- Mountain Bikes
- Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV)

Training & Certifications

- OHV trail driving
- Wilderness First Aid
- Basic Aviation Training (work in and around helicopters)
- Tracker Training
- SARTech Certifications
- FUNSAR Certifications
- AZ Extended Basic Search & Rescue Academy
- Canine First Aid
- Wide Area Search Training
- Arizona Inland Search Management



Wildfire Preparedness



ESL/NAOS Ordinance status.

Hot work permit notification requirement status.

2026 Brush Patrols underway.

Increasing with conditions and resource availability of partner agencies.

Annual Hazardous Vegetation Assessments underway using first-due companies, light-duty personnel, and volunteers.

