

PHOTOS: Search and rescue dips into Sooke Potholes for swiftwater training

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JDF SAR spends the day at Sooke Potholes conducting swiftwater training. (Juan de Fuca Search and Rescue/Facebook)



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A trip to Sooke Potholes can mean many things for search and rescue volunteers—usually work, but recently it was all about training. Juan de Fuca SAR spent Saturday (April 11), at the popular swimming hole for swift water training. “While water levels were relatively benign, our team focused on essential skills including safe water entry, throw bag techniques, and operating inflatable rafts,” Juan de Fuca SAR said. “Training like this ensures we’re ready to respond when conditions are far more challenging.”

The operation update comes as Canada enters National Volunteer Week, April 19 to 25. More than 3,200 hard-working, professional volunteers donate hundreds of hours of training in order to search for and rescue hundreds of subjects each year, according to the BC Search and Rescue Association, which represents 78 ground SAR teams in the province.

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Close to home: Locals make up 95% of search and rescue calls in B.C. (<https://vicnews.com/2025/05/17/close-to-home-locals-make-up-95-of-search-and-rescue-calls-in-bc/>).

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