**UN-INSARAG Certified Rescue Team**

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31st October 2019 was the day, when Winston Chang from United Nations (UN) INSARAG Secretariat made the official announcement at Governor House that Today “Pakistan Rescue Team stands tall amongst the world elite as officially United Nations Classified Urban Search & Rescue Team”. This was a milestone achievement as International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) is the official certifying body of the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA) for International Search & Rescue Teams. Becoming part of the Global Network in the field of disaster response is a milestone achievement for the country and after this classification, Pakistan Rescue Team of Emergency Services Academy Rescue 1122 Lahore Pakistan is certified by UN-INSARAG to conduct search and rescue operations anywhere in the world.

It is further added that after this achievement Pakistan Rescue Team of Emergency Services Academy (Rescue 1122) Lahore has also become the first UN-INSARAG Certified Team in South Asia. This highest level recognition was achieved after completing an extensive evaluation process of several years under the supervision of UN-INSARAG Mentors. PRT has become a great honor for Pakistan, the professional capacity of the country for training of other countries in the country and South Asia region and international disaster response. Today on 31st October Pakistan Rescue Team has completed three years of its UN certification and is celebrating its 3rd anniversary.

[PM Shehbaz to discuss CPEC revitalization with China](https://www.nation.com.pk/01-Nov-2022/pm-shehbaz-to-discuss-cpec-revitalization-with-china)

On this special day we would like to recall the final evolution of the Rescue Team that was carried out by a team of United Nations International Classifiers from Austria, England, Germany, Switzerland, Morocco, Jordan, and United Nations – INSARAG Secretariat in Geneva. This evaluation was like a final world cup for the disaster response players as a single safety breach can cause disqualification of the Team.

Every citizen must know that this specialized Search & Rescue Team is stationed at the Emergency Services Academy Lahore Pakistan strategically located almost in the Centre of the country and can be deployed within the country or internationally in case of any disaster. This Academy has a purpose-built rubble field for urban search & rescue training facility with trained staff and specialized equipment as per INSARAG guidelines essential for international deployment in case of a disaster. Although, this Academy is situated in Punjab, it is playing the role of a national organization as over 23,000 emergency professionals across Pakistan have been trained in this Academy. Besides that, the Academy has already organized SAARC Rescue Challenge in 2018 for capacity building of Emergency Services of SAARC countries and eleven National Rescue Challenge in order to improve coordination and uniform standard of Emergency Services in the country.

[12-year-old girl allegedly raped at gunpoint in Bahawalpur](https://www.nation.com.pk/01-Nov-2022/12-year-old-girl-allegedly-raped-at-gunpoint-in-bahawalpur)

The process of Final 36 hours Evaluation for INSARAG External Classification (IEC) was a complete simulation exercise. All steps from disaster alert, team activation, pre-deployment process including team registration, medical screening, logistic issuance, and team briefing, mobilization, and custom and immigration check of the Team to reach the affected country. During all these functions different injects were given by Exercise Control to check the team professionalism and understanding of the assignments as per INSARAG guidelines.

The collective and tireless efforts of the Team Commander Dr. Rizwan Naseer, Team Leader Dr. Farhan Khalid, Exercise Controllers, all squad leaders, and team members globally raised the flag of Pakistan after this international achievement. The Pakistan Rescue Team highly acknowledges and appreciates the selfless services of Mr. Edward G Pearn, first Team mentor from England, and the efforts of all international experts from different countries for capacity building of Team. The support of Government of the Pakistan, Punjab, NDMA Pakistan, UN-OCHA PAKISTAN, UN-OCHA INSARAG Secretariat, UNDSS, SDC, and all concerned organizations is also highly acknowledged. Happy 3rd Anniversary to Pakistan Rescue Team and best wishes for the mission to save more lives with professional excellence.