



FACT SHEET

Delaware County Community Emergency Response Team Supplemental Training Series

INTRODUCTION TO WILDERNESS SEARCH & RESCUE

Section I - A Brief History of SAR

- Contemporary SAR systems provide the response for overdue, lost, injured, or stranded people in many environments.
- SAR personnel are just as likely to encounter an urban wilderness as they are a natural one.
- Wilderness is defined as an uninhabited region devoid of any synthetic (manmade) amenities.

Search and Rescue: *What Is It?*

- Search: To locate persons in distress
- Rescue: To retrieve persons in distress, provide for their initial medical or other needs, and deliver them to a place of safety

Search (Def) *"The Classic Mystery!"*

WE DO NOT SEARCH FOR VICTIMS FIRST, WE SEARCH FOR CLUES! - The victim may be mobile, unresponsive, evasive, elusive or dead! Clues will always, if located lead you to the victim. A person will leave over 3,000 clues per Km traveled!

SAR Authorities

- Local (Tribal) – (Local PD, ODNR, Sheriff’s Department, & SAR Teams)
- State – (Highway Patrol, State Police & State EMA)
- 2Federal – (DHS, Natl. Parks Svc, FEMA, Coast Guard, AFRCC, U.S. Air Force & FAA)

Incident Management System

- The incident management system must be:
 - Organizationally flexible
 - Usable on a day - to - day basis
 - Scalable
 - Standardized
 - Cost effective
- Used across the United States, many other parts of North America, and some other parts of the world
- Helps manage a wide range of emergency situations including fires, law enforcement incidents, searches, rescues, medical incidents, regional disasters, and even the NASAR
- annual conferences or training.
- Can be “upsized” or “downsized” as applicable to the specific incident, making it a wonderful organizational system.

Primary ICS Functions

- **Command:** provides overall management of an incident.
- **Operations:** section responsible for performing the tactical actions in an incident.
- **Planning:** section responsible for performing the incident planning function.
- **Logistics:** section responsible for all of the services and support needs of an incident including personnel, facilities, equipment, and supplies.
- **Finance/Administration:** section responsible for financial activities required on site at an incident.

Unified Command

The concept of unified command simply means that all agencies that have a responsibility at a multiple agency response situation should contribute to the process of:

- Determining overall incident objectives.
- Selection of strategies.
- Ensuring that joint planning for tactical activities will be accomplished.
- Ensuring that everyone is integrated into the overall effort.
- Making maximum use of all assigned resources.
- Unified command in emergency response is essential for the following reasons: – Incidents have no regard for jurisdictional boundaries. (Searches, wildland fires, floods, hurricanes, earthquakes usually require multi - jurisdictional response)
- The proper selection of participants to work within a unified command structure will depend on: a. The location of the incident; which political jurisdictions are involved (e.g., the incident overlaps into two or more towns, districts). b. The kind of incident; which functional groups of the involved jurisdiction (s) are required (e.g. an air crash requiring fire, medical and law enforcement response in which each chief has authority for his/her functional group).

