



FACT SHEET

Delaware County Community Emergency Response Team Supplemental Training Series

INTRODUCTION TO WILDERNESS SEARCH & RESCUE

Section VIII - SAR Resources

Resources

Refers to a person, group, or piece of equipment that has the ability to contribute to an operation or organization.

Personal Resources

Single Resource: A single person trained in the skill needed to perform a given task. This is also called an "individual resource."

Strike Team: Is a group of people with the same skill needed to perform a given task as a cohesive group.

Task Force: Is a group of people with varying skills needed to complete a given task.

Resource Categorizing

Categorizing SAR resources consist of three basic subdivisions:

- Human and animal
- Informational
- Equipment and technology

Three types of human search resources; each has its own uses, benefits, and limitations.

- Hasty teams
- Grid search crews
- Human trackers

Hasty Teams

- Small (usually 3 members)
- Well-trained, Highly mobile & Self-sufficient.
- Clue conscious.
- Utilize fast, non-thorough search tactics in areas most likely to produce clues or the subject.
- Should include individuals who are track aware, clue and subject oriented, and familiar with local terrain and dangers.
- Usually operate under standard operating procedures.
- Carry equipment to remain self-sufficient for 24 hours.

Grid Search Crews

- Use vision to search well-defined, usually small, segment of land or water.
- Several individuals stand in a line and then walk together through the area.

Human Trackers

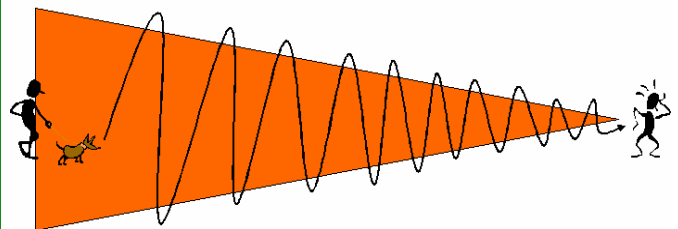
- Use their visual senses to search for evidence left by a person's passing.
- Cut or look for sign by examining the area where the subject would likely have passed.
- Following the subsequent chain or chronology of sign is called tracking.

K9 Resources

- Cadaver Dogs: Are training in the detection of human cadaver (dead person) material.
- Air-Scenting Dogs: Are trained in the detection of human scent that floats on air currents left by the passage of a person.
- Tracking/Trailing Dogs: Are trained in the detection of human scent left on the ground by the passage of a person.

How a Search Dog Tracks

The Search Dog first finds the scent and begins tracking within the "scent cone" left by the missing person until the scent is no longer detected, then it turns, picks up the scent again and continues along this "zig-zag" pattern until the missing person is found.



Other Types of Resources

- Man-tracking Resources
- Mountain Bike Resources
- ATV Resources
- Water Rescue Resources
- High-angle/Vertical Rope Rescue
- Helicopter Resources