

# Wide Area Searching





# Overview

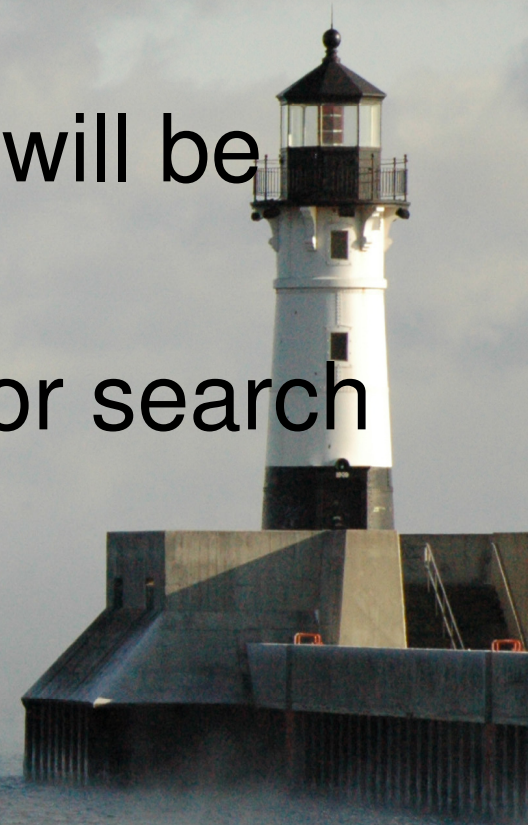
- Establish Command.
- Interview witnesses to establish drowning location.
- Plan your approach.
- Talk with family.
- Setup and maintain search teams.
- Continual updating of plans.





# Establish Command.

- Setup command near where you will be working (near boat landing).
- Clear boat landing parking area for search equipment.
- Discuss local resources and possible needs.
- Start a communication log.
- Missing person questionnaire.



**MISSING PERSON  
QUESTIONNAIRE**

INCIDENT NAME:

DATE PREPARED:

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TIME PREPARED:

BEHAVIORAL CATEGORY:

**PLEASE INITIAL AND DATE ALL ADDITIONS / REVISIONS**

SUBJECT # \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

INTERVIEWED BY:

ICR #

**REPORTING PARTY & WITNESS INFORMATION**

FIRST NAME:

ADDRESS:

MIDDLE NAME:

CITY:

LAST NAME:

STATE/PROVINCE:

ZIP:

DATE OF BIRTH (DOB):

PHONE:

RELATIONSHIP TO SUBJECT:

ALTERNATE PHONE:

 ADDITIONAL NAMES ATTACHED**MISSING SUBJECT INFORMATION**

FIRST NAME:

ADDRESS:

MIDDLE NAME:

CITY:

LAST NAME:

STATE/PROVINCE:

ZIP:

NICKNAME / "ANSWERS TO":

PHONE:

DATE OF BIRTH (DOB):

AGE:

IS PHOTO AVAILABLE? Y N  (CHECK WHEN OBTAINED)

GENDER: MALE FEMALE

HEIGHT:

WEIGHT:

EYES:

HAIR COLOR:

COMPLEXION:

HAIRSTYLE / LENGTH:

TATTOOS / SCARS / BIRTHMARKS:

MEDICAL CONDITIONS / DISABILITIES:

(NOTE RECENT ILLNESSES)

WILDERNESS KNOWLEDGE / EXPERIENCE:

MEDICATIONS REQUIRED / TAKEN:

HOW OBTAINED? (MILITARY / SCOUTS / OUTDOOR SCHOOL)

IS SUBJECT CARRYING NEEDED MEDS?

SMOKER OR CHEWER? Y N

BRAND:

ALLERGIES:

CONSUMED ALCOHOL? Y N

EST. AMOUNT:

OVERALL FITNESS LEVEL / STATE OF HEALTH:

**MOTOR VEHICLE / ATV / VESSEL INFORMATION**

MAKE:

YEAR:

COLOR / ACCENT COLOR:

MODEL:

LENGTH (BOAT):

MOTOR TYPE / HP (BOAT):

LICENSE #:

DESCRIPTION OF TRAILER OR OTHER ATTACHMENT:

**SAR-302 B**

St. Louis County Rescue, 6/07

COPIES TO:  PLANS  INVESTIGATIONS  COMMS  FIELD TEAMS



# Interview Witnesses to Establish Drowning Location.

- Two interviewers per witness.
- Use the “show me” method.
- Have people in boats ready to drive to locations for GPS coordinates.
- “Point last seen.” The very last place anyone saw them alive.
- Be sure to take their full name and phone number for call back information.





# Plan Your Approach

- Shore line checks/Hasty search.
- Deploy side scan sonar.
- Follow up on “B” leads.
- Always consider foul play.
- As your initial plan is getting underway, start planning the next step.
- Consider the need for divers etc.





# Talk With Family

- Be sure you are honest, but kind.
- This may be your 200<sup>th</sup> drowning, but remember this is their first.
- Lay out search ground rules and setup a family liaison.
- Continuously update them.
- **If you are not talking to them others will!!**  
The search can take on a life of it's own.
- Provide the family with a location to be alone.





# Setup and Maintain Search Teams

- Be sure to utilize your resources wisely. Place at least one very experienced person on each team.
- Continuously rotate team members for breaks.
- Be sure to have food brought in to feed team members. Bring in a portable toilet if one is not available.





# Continual Updating of Plans

- Deploy ROV on side scan targets.
- Review resources for next days operation.
- Consider expanding search area if the person is not found.
- At what point do you stop actively searching, and place the search in a passive mode.





# Questions?

