

WSCMRT Basic Search Concepts and Tactics

BASIC CONCEPTS

1) Search is an Emergency. We need to find lost subjects quickly because:

- the subject may need medical care
- the subject may need protection from adverse weather
- the subject may need protection from themselves - fear & cold cause poor judgment
- time and weather destroy clues making it harder to find and read them
- a quick response = a smaller search area = more chance of success

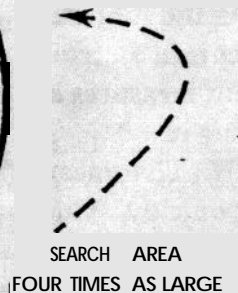
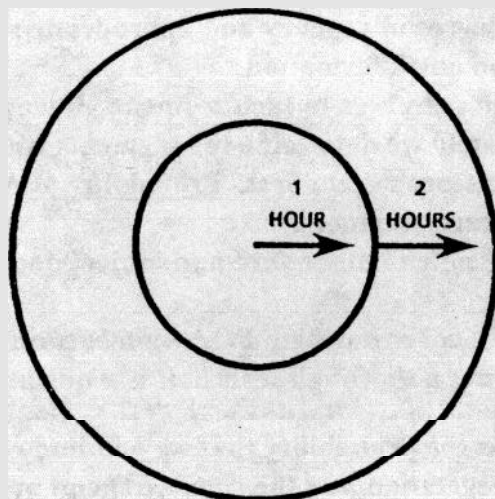
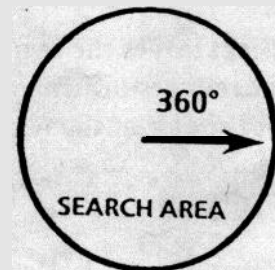
Our SEARCH AREA is the potential maximum distance traveled by the subject.

SUBJECT'S
ABILITY TO
MOVE

X

TIME

=



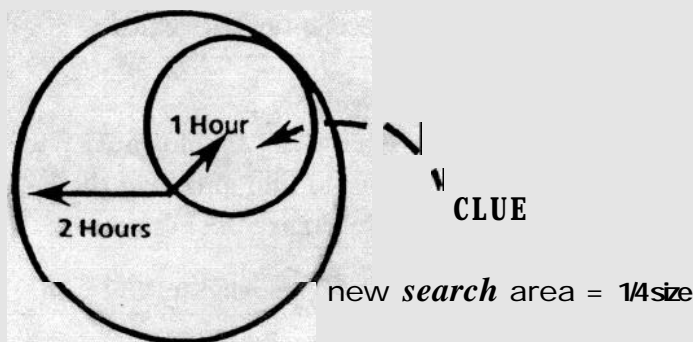
The chances of success are directly related to search area size.

2) Search is a Classic Mystery

- you must be looking for clues
- you must know what clues to look for
- you must try to determine the place where the subject was last seen (LSP)
- you must try to deduce the most probable scenario and destination for your subject
- you must correctly interpret the clues you find and the data you gather

3) Search for Clues not just Subjects

- there are more clues than subjects
- clue detection may indicate a direction of travel
- clue detection increases your chances of success by reducing your search area



4) Know if your subject leaves the search area by using CONFINEMENT tactics

- confinement reduces difficulty by avoiding an ever expanding search area
- don't forget the rest of the world - your subject may not behave as you predict

SEARCH TACTICS

- 1) We start by preparing ourselves for a successful search with proper gear and training
- 2) We keep our personal and team gear ready so we can leave town quickly when we get a call
- 3) We gather information to determine degree of urgency and appropriate response
- 4) We determine the search area based on our information
- 5) We segment the search area and assign searchers to each segment. If we don't have enough searchers to cover each segment immediately we determine the segments with the highest probability of containing the subject and search them first. Probability of Area (POA) is the chance that your subject is in a certain search segment.
- 6) We set up confinement measures if possible to make sure our subject doesn't leave the search area without our knowing it.
- 7) We HASTY SEARCH, That means we cover our high POA segments quickly to see if we can find an obvious subject quickly. This is not a thorough search, it is a quick blitz to see if we can get lucky. Studies have shown this to be the most effective way of spending the early hours of a search. Probability of Detection (POD) is the probability that we will find clues or victims given, the number of searchers, the terrain & vegetation and the time we spend in a search segment.

- Average probabilities of detection:
 - 20' spacing = 90% POD.
 - 60' spacing = 70% POD.
 - '100' spacing = 50% POD.

We can apply these conclusions to a useful standard-sized search area segment.

TO SEARCH ONE SQUARE MILE

<u>SPACING</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u># OF SEARCHERS</u>	<u>SEARCHER-HOURS</u>	<u>POD</u>
100'	3 . 5	53	185.5	50%
60'	3.5	88	308.0	70%
20'	3.5	264	924.0	90%

- 8) We grid search as a last resort - it is our least effective search tactic.