

Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference, Inc.

SEARCHER INFORMATION SHEET

R E A D T H I S !

Your assistance in this search operation is greatly appreciated. In order that this operation be conducted in a safe and efficient manner, we ask that you take careful note of the following instructions.

REGISTER at the designated spot. Please fill out the registration carefully and fully, since your team assignment will be based on this information.

REPORT to the staging area. If you have time to spare, take on some food and water, rest, and wait to be assigned to a team. Check to see that you have proper clothing and equipment to go out into the field; your team leader will check on this.

FOLLOW your Field Team Leader's directions. He or she is responsible for your safety and for the quick and proper completion of your assigned task.

SIGN OUT! before you leave. A (presumably) lost searcher is just as much a problem as the lost victim. If you realize after you have left that you have forgotten to sign out, call U. Va. Police at (804) 924-7166 and leave a message.

If you should get lost, STAY PUT. Don't make yourself a moving target.

PROTECT yourself from hypothermia by wearing the three Ws: wool, windproof and waterproof clothing. Nibble to keep your energy up.

AVOID heat exhaustion and heat stroke by drinking plenty of water.

Saturation Search Methods

You will probably be employed as a member of a team performing a saturation search. Such searches are difficult and time consuming, and require diligent effort in order to be complete. Usually all members of the field team form a line with spacing as given by the Team Leader. The line moves slowly forward, as each searcher scans the terrain for clues. Even a single footprint or candy wrapper may mean the difference between success and failure, so be alert.

Each time a clue is found, or a searcher requires a stop for

some reason, he calls out "STOP!" which is passed up the line. Any searcher may stop the line. When it is time to continue, the Team Leader will check the readiness of the line. The question, "READY RIGHT?" or, "READY LEFT?" is passed to the ends, person by person. Any person who isn't ready to move should not pass on the question to the next searcher. If the end man gets the question, he will assume that everyone is ready to go. Then the end man, and only the end man, will start the answer, "RIGHT READY!" or, "LEFT READY!" relaying back toward the leader. The leader will then give the command to move.

While searching, you should pay careful attention to the area you are searching--be careful not to neglect the area between you and the next searcher, check under logs and in tangles of brush, look backwards once in a while. Try to keep even with the line, but feel free to move back and forth in your section of the line to avoid logs or check out possible hiding places. Remember, however, 1) don't neglect an area just because it looks rough or messy; call a stop and investigate, or ask the Team Leader to make a search of just that small area, and 2) try to keep the line spacing. Search lines have a tendency to compress themselves downhill. Don't let this happen to your line.

Thank you for your participation and cooperation.

Telephone University of Virginia Police at (804) 924-7166 to leave messages after the search (lost or found equipment, forgotten sign-out, etc.).