#### Probability of Detection

POD – How likely were you to have detected the subject (or clue, object) if it had been present in the area you were searching?

#### $POS = POC \times POD$

- > To a Searcher, search is binary
  - $\oplus$  We found the subject (POD = 100%)
  - $\oplus$  We did not find the Subject (POD = 0%)

#### POD is primarily for Planners

However!!... A desired POD can help determine the recommended spacing for a search and the tactic utilized to search an area.



#### Probability of Detection...Why it is important

- > Has two basic applications (National SAR School)
  - Searching an individual segment
    - Helps to determine track spacing, as well as time and resources required to search a segment.
  - For the overall search
    - Measure the effectiveness of individual searchers and the progress of the overall search effort -> POS
    - \* A factor in determining when to re-search an area
    - \* Helps in determining when to suspend a mission.

# POD is a challenging parameter to measure and estimate



# Probability Related to Searchers (POD)

- Factors that influence POD?
  - Subject (Search Object) behavior and physical characteristics
  - Environment weather, season, vegetation, terrain, available light
  - Searchers
    - \* Type of resource
    - Track spacing
    - Tactics/methods
    - Search speed
    - Available technology
    - Information provided
    - Searcher physical/mental state
    - Searcher capability







## **POD Estimation**

POD is estimated by searchers in the field

- Very subjective and often times unreliable
- Imagine having to estimate the likelihood of finding something that you did not see and providing that estimate for a large area (some of which you did not search).

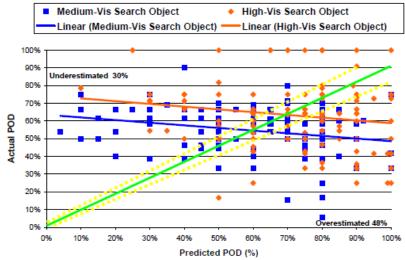


Fig. 8-14. Actual versus predicted POD for medium and high visibility targets.

Green line represents a perfect predict with the yellow lines at +/-10% a linear correlation

Actual data fits for high and med visibility targets suggests significant inaccuracies (78% of the time) in predicting POD

*1. Koester, Cooper, Frost, Robe, "Sweep Width Estimation for Ground Search and Rescue"* 

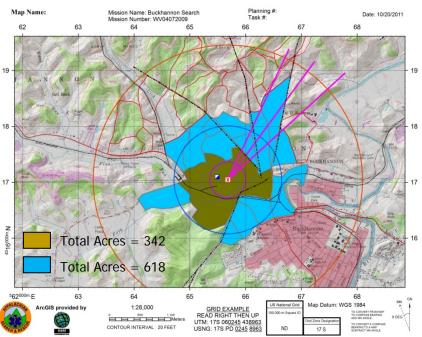


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# **POD - Determining Resource Demands**

#### ICS Form 202

| INCIDENT OBJECTIVES  | 1. INCIDENT NAME<br>Buckhannon S<br>WV20080623A  |   | 2. DATE<br>07/04/2009                                  | 3. TIME<br>1300 |
|--|--|---|--|-----------------|
| 4. OPERATIONAL PERIOD (DATE/TIM)<br>04 July 2009, 1300 - 2200  | -  |   |  | -               |
| 6. GENERAL CONTROL OBJECTIVES  | FOR THE INCIDENT (INCLUDE ALTE   | RNATIVES)   |  |                 |
| 1. Re-search the immedia<br>(based on Dementia) to   | te area around the IPP (P<br>a POD of 75%.   | LS) and se  | arch the 25%   | SSA             |
| 2. Search high probability   | locations outside of 25%   | SSA with  | a POD of 90%   | 6.              |
| <ol> <li>Request additional res<br/>operational period.</li> </ol>   | ources to search out to th   | ie 50% SS <i>I</i>  | for the next   | t -             |
| 3. Maintain searcher safe  | ty during night ops (ensu  | e adequat   | e <b>co</b> mms).                                      |                 |
| IPP - Initial Planning Poir  | it, PLS – Point Last Seen, S   | SSA – Stati   | stical Searc   | h Area          |
| 8. WEATHER FORECAST FOR OPERA  | TIONAL PERIOD  |   |  |                 |
| Showers, mainly after no<br>and 20 mph, with gusts a   | NTIONAL PERIOD<br>on. High near 48. Breezy,<br>s high as 32 mph. Chance<br>na tenth and quarter of an  | of precipit   | ation is 80%   |                 |
| Showers, mainly after no<br>and 20 mph, with gusts a<br>rainfall amounts between<br>See attached map<br>7. GENERAL SAFETY MESSAGE<br>Hazardous areas indicated of  | on. High near 48. Breezy,<br>s high as 32 mph. Chance  | of precipit<br>inch poss  | ation is 80%<br>ible.<br>cem particula                 | . New           |
| Showers, mainly after no<br>and 20 mph, with gusts a<br>rainfall amounts between<br>See attached map<br>7. GENERAL SAFETY MESSAGE<br>Hazardous areas indicated of  | on. High near 48. Breezy,<br>s high as 32 mph. Chance<br>a a tenth and quarter of an<br>on map. Cliffs and rocky area  | of precipit<br>inch poss  | ation is 80%<br>ible.<br>cem particula                 | . New           |
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Use desired POD and size of Search Area to determine resource needs.



# **POD - Determining Resource Demands**

#### 1. Specify a desired POD prior to the search effort

"Search segment AA08 to a POD of 50%" POD = 1-exp(-C) POD = 50%, requires a Coverage (C)= 0.693 Coverage = Area Effectively Search / Area Assigned

Area = 85.4 acres Area Effectively Searched = 59.2acres

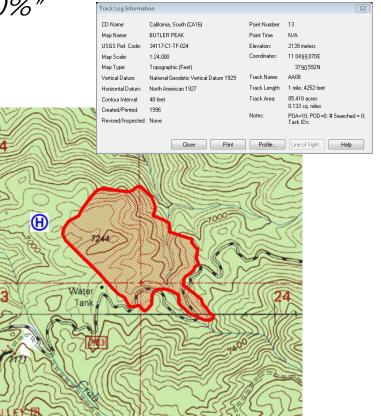
If desire to search the entire area (85.4 acres): Coverage = SW/Spacing

AMDR (Sweep Width) = 30 ft

Spacing = SW/C = 43.3 ft

Area Searched = Effort x Spacing = N x TL x Spacing TL = Search Speed x Search Time = 1.0 mph x 4 hrs

N = 85.4 Acres/ (4.0 mi x 43.3 ft) x 8.25 ft-mi/acre ~ 4





Would require 4 searchers, 4 hours at a speed of 1.0 mph and an average spacing of 43.3 ft. Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference



# POD – Search Effectiveness

- 2. Measure the effectiveness and completeness after a
  - given search effort

Team reports a POD = 40%, N = 5, Spacing = 5 m = 16.43 ft

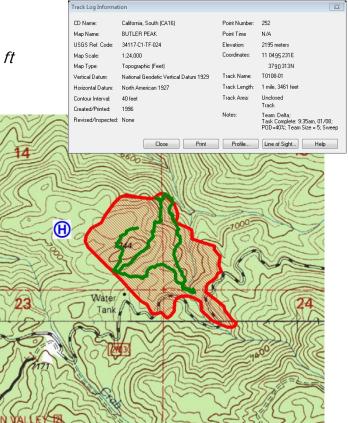
Area Assigned= 85.4 acresArea Searched = Effort x Spacing = N x TL x Spacing = 5 x (1 mi + 3461/5280 mi) x 16.43/5280 mi= 5 x 1.66 mi x 16.43/5280 mi=  $0.026 \text{ mi}^2 = 16.5 \text{ acres}$ 

AMDR (Sweep Width) = 30 ft

*Effective Coverage = SW/Spacing = 30 / 16.43 = 1.83* 

Coverage = Eff Coverage x AS/AA = 1.83 x 16.5 / 85.4 = 1.83 x 0.193 = 0.353

POD = 1 - exp(-C) = 0.3 = 30%





35% of the assigned area was effectively searched (as opposed . to all Gayse) references white in out in a POD = 30% (based on random searched the one) Area Rescue Group



## Area Searched

- Area Searched = Spacing x Effort
  - Spacing Average actual distance between searchers in the field
  - $\oplus$  Effort = N x TL
    - \* N number of searchers on team
    - TL Track length
      - ✤ Obtained from GPS track, or
      - TL = Search speed x Search time
- Area Effectively Searched = Effective Coverage \* Effort



#### Coverage

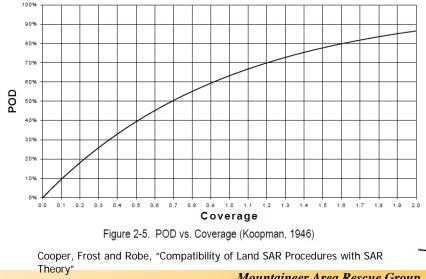
#### Relative measure of how thorough an area has been searched.

 $Effective \ Coverage = \frac{Area \ Effectively \ Searched}{.}$ Area Searched

Area Searched *Total Coverage* = *Effective Coverage x* Segment Area

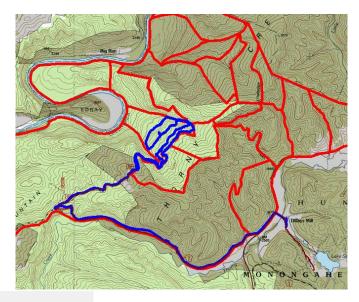
Limited studies are available that relate POD to coverage. The bulk of these studies produce a result similar to that of Koopman's (1946) Random Search Theory.

Koopman's Random Search Theory POD =1-e<sup>-coverage</sup>

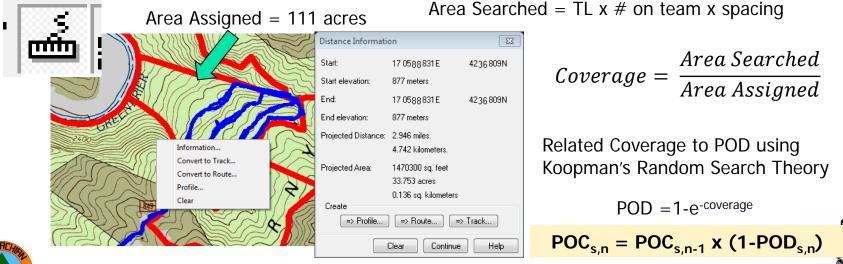




#### **Determining Coverage and Cumulative POC**



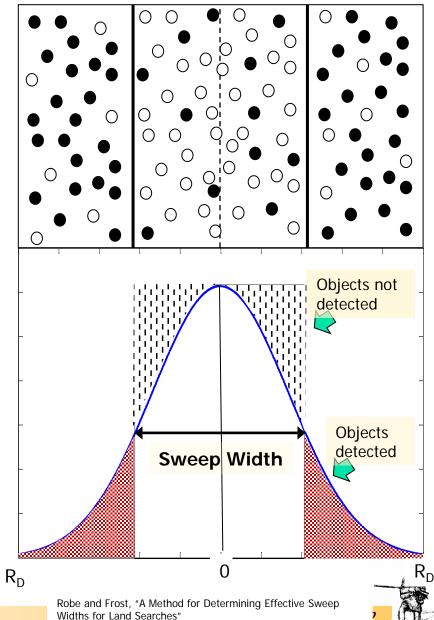
- Use the Measure Tool to trace the section of the track you are interested in
- Right click for "Information" to obtain track length of desired section.
- Combine track length with team size and effective spacing to determine area searched.





# Sweep Width

- Measure of the average ability of a given sensor to detect a specific object under a specific set of environmental conditions.
- Distance at which the likelihood of detection is equal to the likelihood on non-detection.
  - Number of objects missed inside the width is equal to the number of objects outside the width that were detected.





# **Improving POD Estimation**

Researchers have development methods for predetermining optimal distances between searchers to achieve a desired POD.

> Average Maximum Detection Range (AMDR)

> > Leg 8

Leg 1

Leg 2

- Sweep Width is difficult to measure
- AMDR or "one-half critical separation" is a conservative estimate, in absence of experimental data.
- Benefits of predetermined values
  - Improves accuracy of field team estimates
  - Assists SAR Managers with effort allocation and estimating resource needs



Extinguish Still able to detect, so walk farther

Blue Line = AMDR<sub>e</sub> Red Line = AMDR<sub>o</sub>

Lea

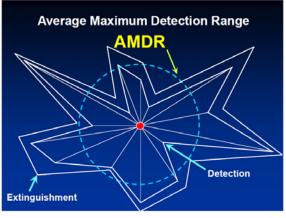


# Average Maximum Detection Range<sup>1</sup>

- Similar in concept to CS
  - Searchers are situated around the object at a range where the object cannot be seen. Searchers then move toward the object to a location where it can be detected. *(Detection Range)* The distance to the object is recorded.
  - Next the searchers move away until they cannot see any part, piece or portion of the object. An average is determined for the distance of Extinguishment for each leg.

1. Stoffel, R.C., "Managing Land Search Operations", ER International, Cashmere, WA, 2006.

The average of those <u>two</u> values (Detection and Extinguishment) will be the AMDR for that object in that environment.





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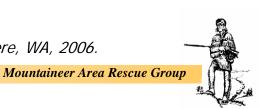
# Critical Separation (Perkins and Roberts, 1989)

- CS the visual horizon for each searcher falls at roughly the middle of the measured distance between any two searchers<sup>1</sup>.
  - Combined both increasing efficiency and establishing a reasonable POD estimation
  - Searchers are stationed around the object at a distance beyond where they can see the object. They then turn and walk toward the object until they can clearly see it.
     Searchers then paces off the distance from "detection" to the object. All of the distances are then averaged. Twice the average distance is what is called Critical Separation.

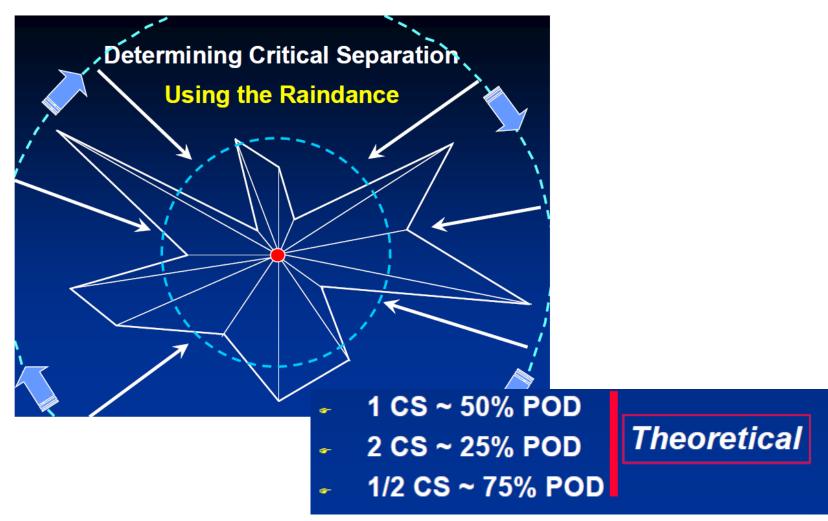


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1. Stoffel, R.C., "Managing Land Search Operations", ER International, Cashmere, WA, 2006.



# Critical Separation<sup>1</sup>



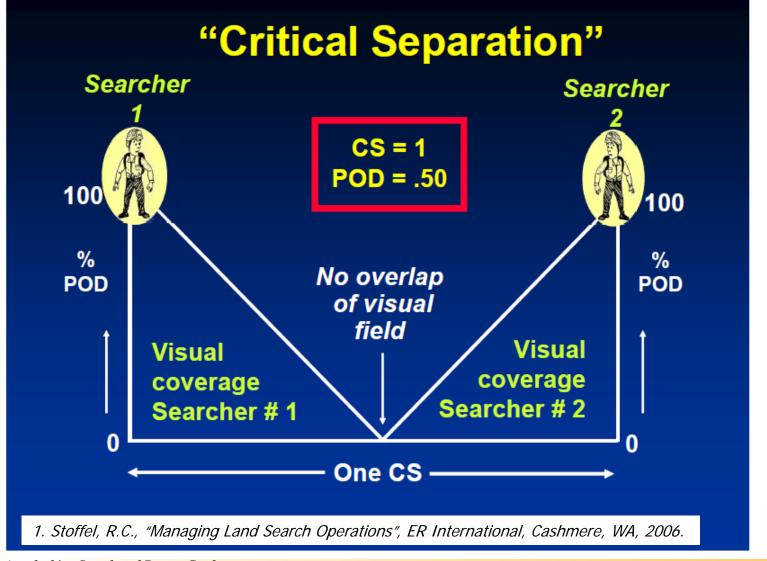
1. Stoffel, R.C., "Managing Land Search Operations", ER International, Cashmere, WA, 2006.



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## Critical Separation<sup>1</sup>

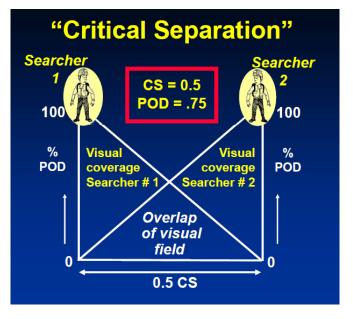


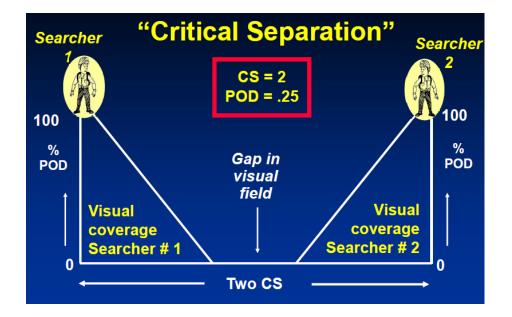


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# Critical Separation<sup>1</sup>





#### Limitations

Doesn't account variations in terrain, environment, search object

1. Stoffel, R.C., "Managing Land Search Operations", ER International, Cashmere, WA, 2006.

Effect of searcher speed not considered.



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#### Incident Objectives (Mapping Support) ICS 202 – Incident (Shift) Objectives

#### ICS Form 202

| INCIDENT OBJECTIVES  | 1. INCIDENT NAME  |  | 2. DATE   | 3. TIME                                       |
|--|---|--|---|---|
|  | Buckhannon  | Search   | 07/04/2009  | 1300  |
|  | WV20080623  | A  |   |   |
| 4. OPERATIONAL PERIOD (DATE/TIM  | E)  |  |   |   |
| 04 July 2009, 1300 - 2200  | 2   |  |   |   |
| 6. GENERAL CONTROL OBJECTIVES  | FOR THE INCIDENT (INCLUDE AL  | TERNATIVES)  |   |   |
| 1. Re-search the immedia<br>(based on Dementia) to   |   | (PLS) and s  | earch the 25%   | SSA   |
| 2. Search high probability   | v locations outside of 25   | % SSA witl   | h a POD of 90%  | <b>%</b> .                                    |
| 3. Request additional res<br>operational period.   | ources to search out to   | the 50% SS   | A for the next  | t   |
| 3. Maintain searcher safe  | ety during night ops (ens   | ure adequa   | te comms).  |   |
| IPP - Initial Planning Poir<br>8. WEATHER FORECAST FOR OPERA   | ATIONAL PERIOD  | -  |   |   |
| -  | on. High near 48. Breezy<br>s high as 32 mph. Chanc   | , with a so<br>e of precip   | uth wind betw<br>itation is 80%   | een 17  |
| <ol> <li>WEATHER FORECAST FOR OPER/<br/>Showers, mainly after no<br/>and 20 mph, with gusts a<br/>rainfall amounts between</li> </ol>  | on. High near 48. Breezy<br>s high as 32 mph. Chanc   | , with a so<br>e of precip   | uth wind betw<br>itation is 80%   | een 17  |
| 6. WEATHER FORECAST FOR OPERA<br>Showers, mainly after no<br>and 20 mph, with gusts a<br>rainfall amounts between<br>See attached map  | on. High near 48. Breezy<br>s high as 32 mph. Chang<br>a tenth and quarter of a<br>on map. Cliffs and rocky ar  | , with a so<br>the of precip<br>an inch pos<br>reas are a co                   | uth wind betw<br>itation is 80%<br>sible.<br>oncern particula                   | een 17<br>. New                               |
| 8. WEATHER FORECAST FOR OPERA<br>Showers, mainly after no<br>and 20 mph, with gusts a<br>rainfall amounts between<br>See attached map<br>7. GENERAL SAFETY MESSAGE<br>Hazardous areas indicated on<br>night ops. Ensure everyone   | on. High near 48. Breezy<br>s high as 32 mph. Chang<br>a tenth and quarter of a<br>on map. Cliffs and rocky ar  | , with a so<br>the of precip<br>an inch pos<br>reas are a co                   | uth wind betw<br>itation is 80%<br>sible.<br>oncern particula                   | een 17<br>. New                               |
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| <ol> <li>WEATHER FORECAST FOR OPERA<br/>Showers, mainly after no<br/>and 20 mph, with gusts a<br/>rainfall amounts between<br/>See attached map</li> <li>GENERAL SAFETY MESSAGE<br/>Hazardous areas indicated on<br/>night ops. Ensure everyone</li> <li>Attachments (2) If attached)</li> </ol>                         | ATIONAL PERIOD<br>on. High near 48. Breezy<br>is high as 32 mph. Chanc<br>in a tenth and quarter of a<br>on map. Cliffs and rocky an<br>has at least two sources o  | r, with a so<br>e of precip<br>an inch pos<br>reas are a co<br>of light and g  | uth wind betw<br>itation is 80%<br>sible.<br>oncern particula<br>lood communica | reen 17<br>. New<br>arly for<br>ations        |
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SAR Managers and Planners often identify a series of Objectives for a given Operational Period.

> How does the Planning team estimate the resources needed to accomplish these objectives?

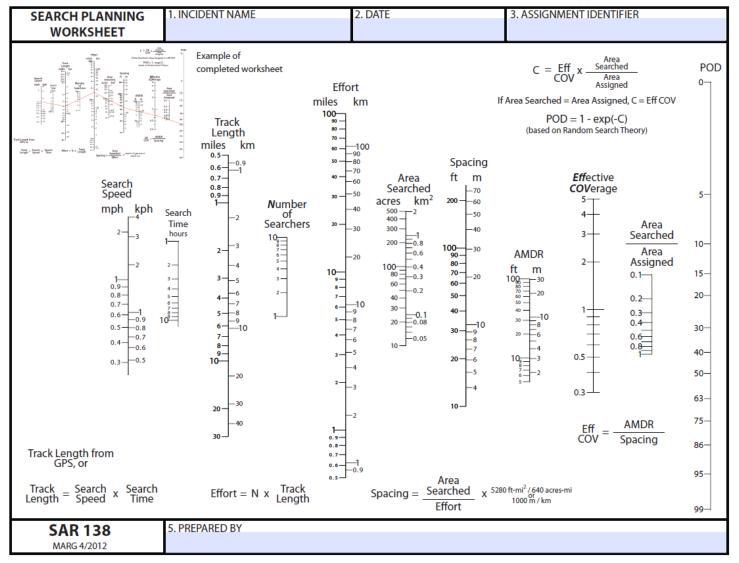


# Search Planner Worksheet

- The latest version of the Search Planner Worksheet was derived from BASARC Form SAR-138.
  - Some corrections were made and the form was expanded.
- This current version of the form is only for ground searchers
- Has multiple uses
  - Estimate time/resource requirements to accomplish a desired POD
  - Estimate post-search POD



#### SAR Planner Worksheet





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# **POD Two Primary Uses**

#### 1. Specify a desired POD prior to the search effort

"Search segment AA08 to a POD of 50%" POD = 1-exp(-C) POD = 50%, requires a Coverage (C)= 0.693 Coverage = Area Effectively Search / Area Assigned

Area = 85.4 acres Area Effectively Searched = 59.2acres

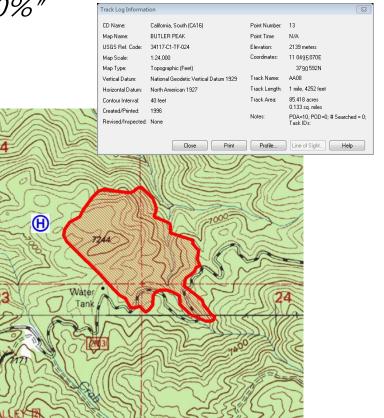
If desire to search the entire area (85.4 acres): Coverage = SW/Spacing

AMDR (Sweep Width) = 30 ft

Spacing = SW/C = 43.3 ft

Area Searched = Effort x Spacing = N x TL x Spacing TL = Search Speed x Search Time = 1.0 mph x 4 hrs

N = 85.4 Acres/ (4.0 mi x 43.3 ft) x 8.25 ft-mi/acre ~ 4





Would require 4 searchers, 4 hours at a speed of 1.0 mph and an average spacing of 43.3 ft. Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference



# Exercise...Search Planning Worksheet

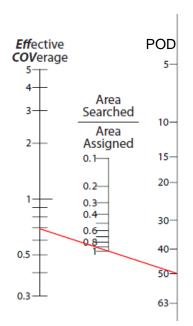
Pass out worksheet



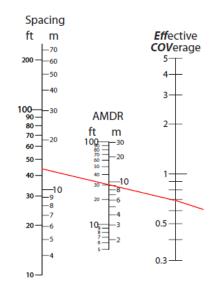


#### Search Planning Worksheet – Resource Needs

- 1. Desire POD = 50%
- Since you are planning to search the entire assigned area (85.4 acres), Area Searched / Area Assigned = 1.0
- 3. Determine the Effective Coverage



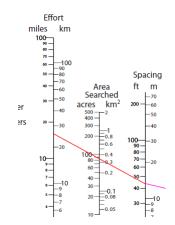
- You have measured your AMDR to be use as a surrogate for Sweep Width, AMDR = 30 ft
- 5. Determine your needed spacing relative to your AMDR in order to achieve a POD = 50%



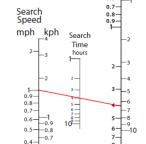


#### Search Planning Worksheet – Resource Needs

- 6. Area Searched = 85.4 acres
- 7. Determine your Effort

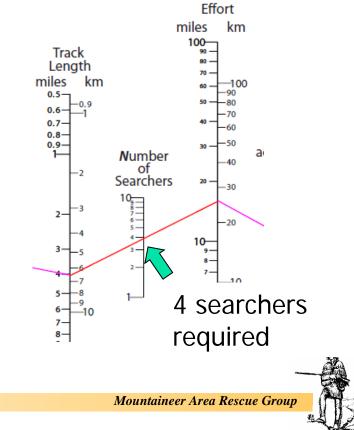


8. Track Length = Search Speed (1 mph) x Search Time (4 hours) = 4 miles

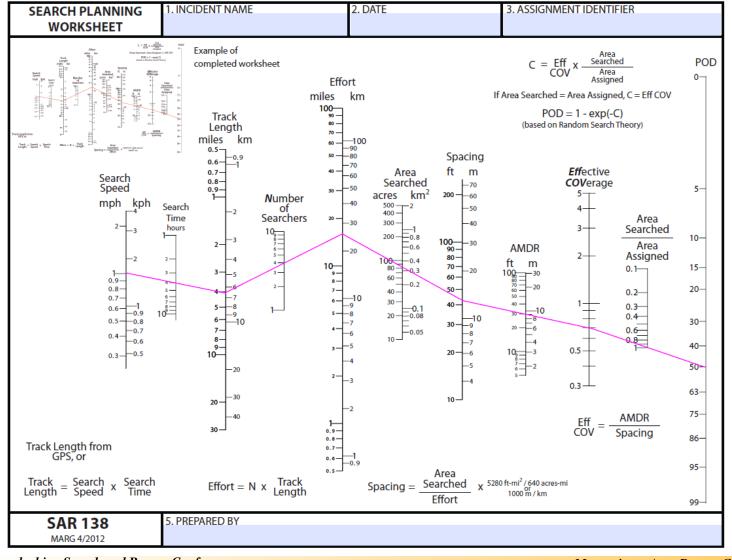


- HERE HERE
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9. Draw a line between Track Length and Effort in order to estimate the Number of Searchers required to complete this task in the alloted 4 hours.



#### Search Planning Worksheet – Resource Needs





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# POD Two Primary Uses

- 2. Measure the effectiveness and completeness after a
  - given search effort

Team reports a POD = 40%, N = 5, Spacing = 5 m = 16.43 ft

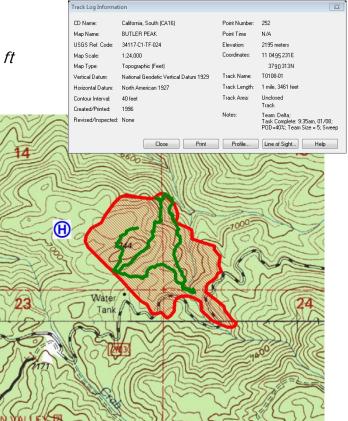
Area Assigned= 85.4 acresArea Searched = Effort x Spacing = N x TL x Spacing = 5 x (1 mi + 3461/5280 mi) x 16.43/5280 mi= 5 x 1.66 mi x 16.43/5280 mi=  $0.026 \text{ mi}^2 = 16.5 \text{ acres}$ 

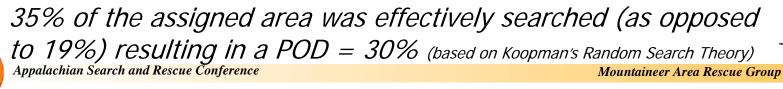
AMDR (Sweep Width) = 30 ft

*Effective Coverage = SW/Spacing = 30 / 16.43 = 1.83* 

Coverage = Eff Coverage x AS/AA = 1.83 x 16.5 / 85.4 = 1.83 x 0.193 = 0.353

POD = 1 - exp(-C) = 0.3 = 30%

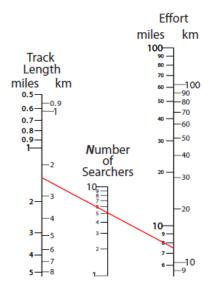




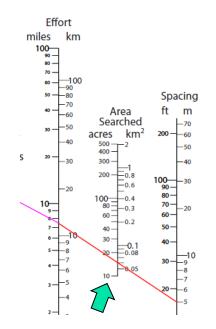


#### Search Planning Worksheet – POD Estimate

- 1. Team estimates their POD = 40%
- 2. Track Length is measured by GPS to be (1 mi + 3461/5280 mi) = 1.66 miles
- 3. Five searchers where assigned to the team, N = 5.
- 4. Determine the Effort



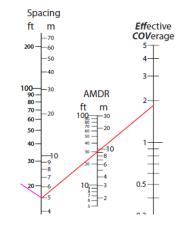
- 4. The team indicated their average Spacing = 5 m = 16.43 ft
- 5. This produces an Area Searched equal to ~ 16.5 acres



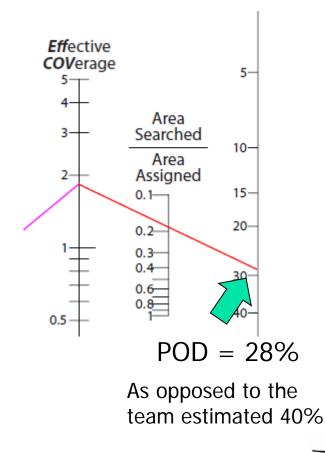


#### Search Planning Worksheet – POD Estimate

- 6. Knowing that the AMDR = 30 ft
- 7. Determine the Effective Coverage

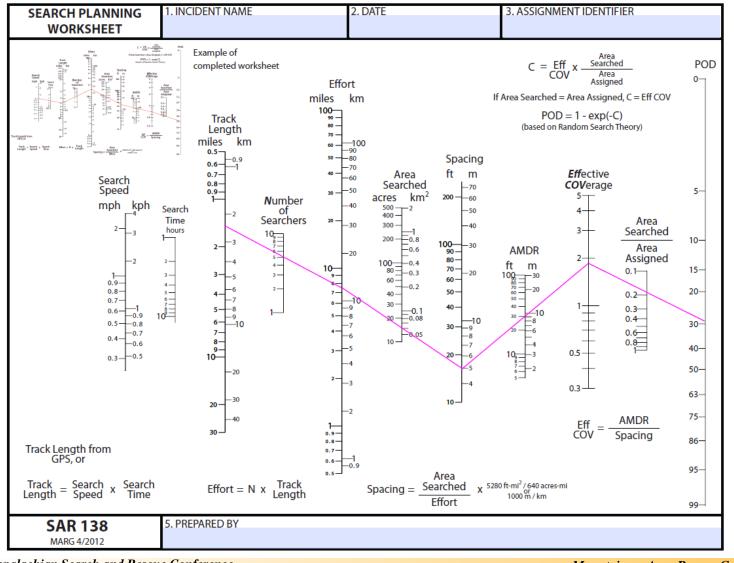


8. Area Searched / Area Assigned = 0.193





#### Search Planning Worksheet – POD Estimate





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# Utilizing GIS to Determine Coverage

- Use GPS tracks, operational team information and search segment/probability region details to calculate the ratio of area search to area of the segment or region.
- Coverage provide a more accurate description of how well the team performed than a Team Leader estimate of POD.
- Often times teams accidentally or purposefully search outside of their assigned search area. Only using reported POD for their assignment does not credit the unassigned areas for being searched.



# Utilizing Coverage to Estimate POD

POD Estimates from teams tend to be inaccurate

Num=0 Pden=0.354

A13

Num=0 Pden=0.239

Num=0 Pden=0.086

Num=0 Pden=0.073

- Estimating a single POD for the entire area
- Only consider area assigned
- Utilize GPS tracks to estimate "Coverage"

