

Crash Site Procedures

SAFETY FIRST: Yours, Your Team, the Patient

Find Scene procedure for a lost person search

- Approach/Preserve Scene
- Stabilize the patient
- Treat as a crime scene if subject is dead or there is evidence of other foul play
 - limit the number of people on scene
 - Medic and FTL only are to approach the patient until scene is cleared
 - take the same route out as you took in—flag your route
 - DOCUMENT everything, especially for a Status 3
 - Secure the area

Find Scene procedure for a downed aircraft search

- Basically the same as lost person, with some added hazards.
- Approach scene from uphill, upwind.
- Aircraft can be very unstable
 - May slide downhill
 - Aircraft or parts in the trees may fall at any moment.
- Fuel can leak out
 - fumes can be toxic and affect searchers on scene
 - very flammable
- If safe, count victims
 - determine if there are subjects unaccounted for who may have wandered away from the wreckage
- Status 3s make this a Crime Scene, subject to State Police, NTSB and FAA investigations
- Everything on scene is evidence.
 - Keep the number of people in the chain of custody to a minimum and DOCUMENT that chain
 - The more people who handle a scene or a clue, the less viable it becomes.
- Equipment that might come in handy in case you end up at a crash site
 - Old clothing (*everything* you've got on) and shoes that you wouldn't mind having burned post-incident
 - Vic's Vapor Rub applied just under the nose does wonders for the odor
 - multiple pairs of *good* latex gloves
 - inexpensive, thick leather gloves
 - multiple trash bags, heavy grade
 - disposable camera
- Personal Safety Guidelines
 - Decontamination is recommended
 - Be aware of the possibility of infections
 - You can't be too careful!