

Feedback from field teams

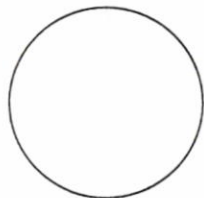
Feedback comes in from every team that goes out in the field. While they provide a wide variety of information, the two pieces most beneficial to the search are the probability of detection (POD) and clues.

Quick review...

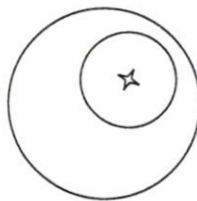
What is POD?

This number is important to base for a variety of reasons. First of all, it shows you how well your segments have been covered. When PODs are placed together for all segments on a map, a picture of previous search efforts appears in front of you. This will tell you what areas have been covered enough and more importantly, what areas you haven't hit well enough yet. PODs are also useful in determining when to expand the search area and when to suspend a search. Finally, PODs are easy to understand. A staff member can quickly explain what has taken place to the responsible agent, family, or media.

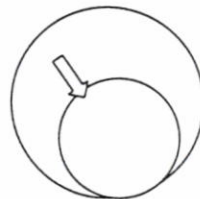
While PODs are a measure of where the subject is not likely to be, clues reveal places where the subject has been at some point. We constantly stress clue awareness because of the effect a clue can have. Every clue that is found refocuses and shrinks the search effort. Some clues such as footprints can even show a direction of travel to narrow in even more. Clues are taken very seriously by base. Every clue, seemingly relevant or not, is documented and followed up on. For significant clues, this means the immediate dispatching of a field team, preferably a specialized resource such as a signcutter or bloodhound, to follow up.



Original Search Area



After finding a clue



After finding a footprint

Return your finished maps to me and I'll hold onto them until the SAR Practical class. We'll use your segments to write up Task Assignment Forms and brief/debrief FTLs with them.