Lesson Plan: Lost Person Behaviour
Brett Wuth

Objectives:

At the conclusion of this lesson the participants:

1.

Time Plan:

Total Time: 60 minutes

Material
Introduce topic title
Introduce Instructor
• SAR Fundamentals chapter 21[3] or FOG SAR chapters 14[1]
• Present Objectives
• distribute blank question bank cards
•
•
•
•
•
•
•
•
•
•
•
•
•
•
•

Aids:

• SAR SKILLS V1.1.pdf, slides for FOG SAR instructors, page 269-322

Frequently Asked Questions

•

Feedback:

2006-09-16 Wuth presentation at PCSAR SAR Fundamentals

• took 40 minutes

License:

• Original content copyright © 2006, Brett Wuth. This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 2.0 Canada License. To view a copy of this license, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/ca/ or send a letter to Creative Commons, 559 Nathan Abbott Way, Stanford, California 94305, USA.

Reference Material:

- [1] SAR Skills Handbook: FOG SAR, Field Operating Guide To Search and Rescue, Richard Smith et al., © ERI Canada et al., 2003, first edition, ISBN 0-9734135-0-6, chapter 14
- [2] some material from Jake Waiboer developed for this section, provided personally.
- [3] Search and Rescue Fundamentals: Basic Skills and Knowledge to Perform Wilderness, Inland, Search and Rescue, D. Cooper et al., 3rd Edition, revised., © 1996 Emergency Response Institute, Inc. et al., ISBN 0-913724-37-8, chapters 21
- [4] Overhead slides distributed for [3]
- [5] Instructor's Outline for Search and Rescue Fundamentals, Draft only for Provisional Use, Donald C. Cooper, Emergency Response Institude, Inc., and National Rescue Consultants, Inc., 4537 Foxhall Drive, N.E., Olympia, WA 98506, pg 141-144
- [6] "SAR SKILLS V1.ppt" Powerpoint presentation distributed for [1]. dated Feb 8, 2005, size: 29,540,352, slides 269-322

Notes:

- info on how subject will behave can help SAR workers in the field [3]
 - where to look [3]
 - what to look for [3]
- based on analysing past lost persons [3]
- consider subject's
 - health [3]
 - experience [3]
 - reaction to being lost [3]
 - reaction to environment [3]
 - category [3]
 - tend to act same as other people in same category [3]
 - study of 100's of past searches [3]
- predict subject's actions [3]
 - tool describing generalities, not abosolutes [1]
- people tend to travel paths of least resistance [3]
- can the subject build a fire or shelter? [3]
- What equipment are they carrying? [3]
- Will they be hard or easy to see? [3]
- Will they respond to calls? [3]
- Will they hide or come running? [3]
- try thinking like the lost subject [3]
 - means you need info on subject [3]
- profile includes:
 - physical description [3]

- clothing, equipment carried [3]
- point last seen / last known point [3]
- likely activities of subject [3]
- standard practices (where they go, how they act) [3]
- personality traits [3]
- previous related incidents [3]
- physical and mental description (health, experience) [3]
- physical abilities [1]
- mental condition [1]
- experience [1]
- personality [1]
- behaviour statistics [1]
- To be able to understand the behavior of a lost person can greatly enhance the opportunity for a good search. [2]
- Search managers rely on LPB to set up their strategy for a search. [2]
 - State of health [2]
 - What is their experience [2]
 - How do they handle being lost [2]
 - What could the subject do [2]
 - What category does the subject fall into [2]
 - What are the averages for this profile. Travel, habits. [2]
- These thought processes work for you. Also: [2]
 - What might he do to affect survivability. [2]
 - Build a fire [2]
 - Equipment on the subject. [2]
 - Responsive, bright clothing, camouflage, (does he want to be found.) [2]
 - Travel of least resistance [2]
 - Put your self in their shoes. [2]
 - what do you see that would attract them [6]
 - what are the short cuts out of the area [6]
- Look for clues to support your thoughts. [2]
- Use Alzheimer patient, and hunter as an example from book. [2]
- You need to have a complete subject profile, if mgmt., doesn't supply one ask the questions you need to know. [2]
- sources
 - family [1]
 - friends [1]
 - co-workers [1]
 - medical professionals [1]
 - study of past incidents [1]
- research done at University of Alberta
- [1] has good summary of categories