Lesson Plan: **Lost Person Behaviour**
Brett Wuth

Objectives:

At the conclusion of this lesson the participants:
1.

Time Plan:

Total Time: 60 minutes

Start	Material
00:00 3 min	• Introduce topic title • Introduce Instructor • SAR Fundamentals chapter 21[3] or FOG SAR chapters 14[1] • Present Objectives • *distribute blank question bank cards*
	Why analyse lost person behaviour? • Helps refine search urgency / survivability profile • Helps know where to look first • Helps searchers know what terrain features to concentrate on • Helps searchers recognize clues • Helps decided how to attract subject • Helps determine how to interact with found subject
	What information is needed? • Where, what direction is subject likely to head? • How far are they likely to travel? • How are they likely to have acted prior to their trouble? • How are they likely to act when once they realize their trouble? • How will they interact with each other? • How will they respond to search activities? • How knowledgable are they of this environment? • How skilled are they in this environment?
	Sources of information • Family • Friends • Colleagues / Co-workers • Doctor, medical professionals • Police • Activity experts • Area experts • Statistics: general, local Often conflicting

Start	Material
	What statistical categories can say • Range of distances from IPP where found • Variance from intended direction • Features often found in association with • Objects / features that attract • Typical root cause of trouble • Strategies used to get out of trouble • Reactions to searchers • Survival rates over time
	Major categories • Children age 1-6 • Children age 7-12 • Youth age 13-15 • Despondents • Psychotics • Mentally retarded • Alzheimer's • Hunters • Fishermen • Hikers • Mountain Bikers • Cross Country Skiers • Off Highway Vehicle Users • Miscellaneous Adults
	Search team briefings • Not usually available for first assignment • Areas to focus on • Activities to watch for • How to approach
	Search strategies • Put yourself in subjects shoes, mindset, look through their eyes • Look at things from their height • What would attract you? • What would you do? • *Use 2 examples from powerpoint slides*
	Family liaison • Common role • Understand family dynamic • Get complete story • Past incidents
	Overhead team support • Compile behaviour information • Summarize on briefining information

Start	Material
	Done

Aids:
- SAR SKILLS V1.1.pdf, slides for FOG SAR instructors, page 269-322
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Frequently Asked Questions
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Feedback:
2006-09-16 Wuth presentation at PCSAR SAR Fundamentals

- took 40 minutes

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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 Institute, 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