



## Search Theory and Response

### Plan for the Lost Person: Staying Found Practices

In and around camp

- Handrails, boundaries, cardinal directions.
- Expectations for gear.
- Informing staff, buddies, signaling.
- Time the walk.

### Plan for the Lost Person: Staying Found Practices

In and around camp, if disoriented

- Stay calm. Look for your landmarks. Listen.
- Stay put. Stay visible.
- Prepare to spend the night out early.

### Plan for the Lost Person: Staying Found Practices

On the trail

- Travel plans.
- Navigation skills.
- Expectations if overdue or lost.
- Whistles and signal mirrors.

### Plan for the Lost Person: Responses

Overdue v lost?

- Parameters for program decision to respond.
- weather, time, terrain, experience, health

### Plan for the Lost Person: Responses

Becoming Found

- Stay or move?
- Visibility and signaling
- Expectations for program response

Search Methodology  
WHO are we searching for?

- Who / since when?
- "LSP"
- Subject's "stuff"
- Search and rescue dogs
- Subject's emotional state of mind

First Steps...

Who's Missing?  
Since When?  
"Last Seen Point?"

Appearances  
are deceiving.

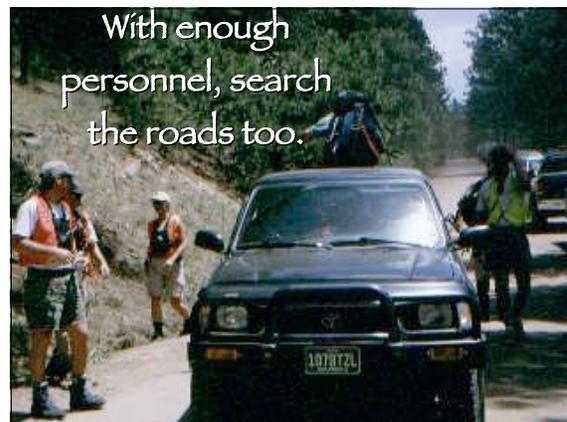
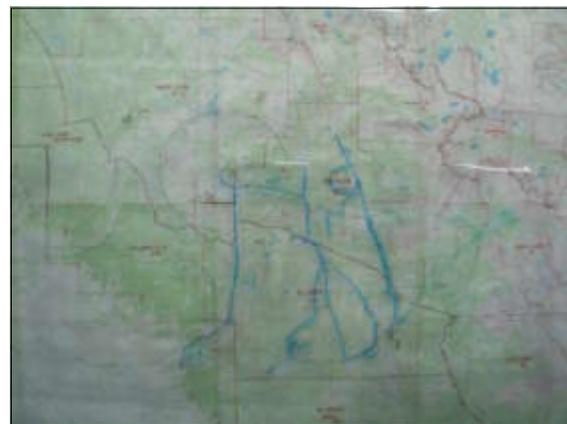
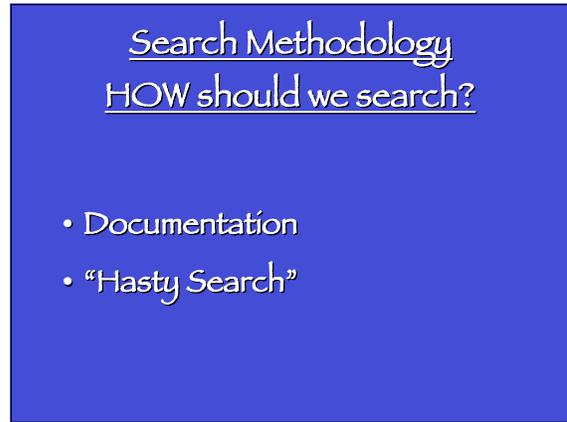
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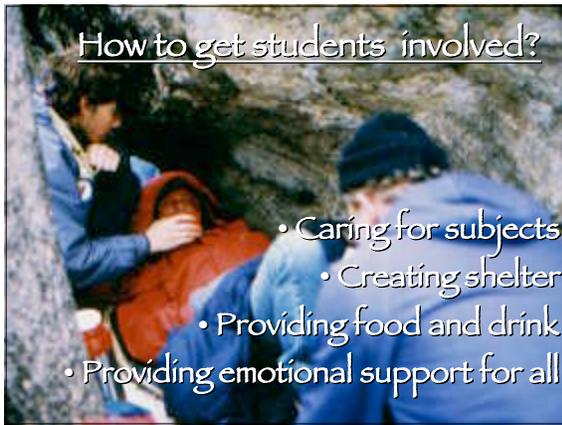
OVER 250 PEOPLE ARE  
RESCUED FROM THE DEPTHS  
OF GRAND CANYON  
EACH YEAR...

Most of them look like him.

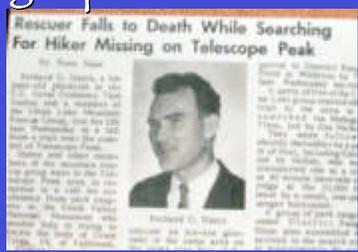
Subject's equipment, food, clothing,  
communications?

Footwear, sole  
pattern?





ALWAYS send people out in groups of two or more...



December 21, 1966 – China Lake Mountain Rescue Group  
Death Valley National Monument



Manage Workload and Fatigue

- Make sure team members are eating, drinking, and staying warm and dry.



### Manage Workload and Fatigue

- Plan transition and rest periods.
- Don't ignore your life outside work.
- Be aware of cultural, personal and organizational restraints to asking for help.



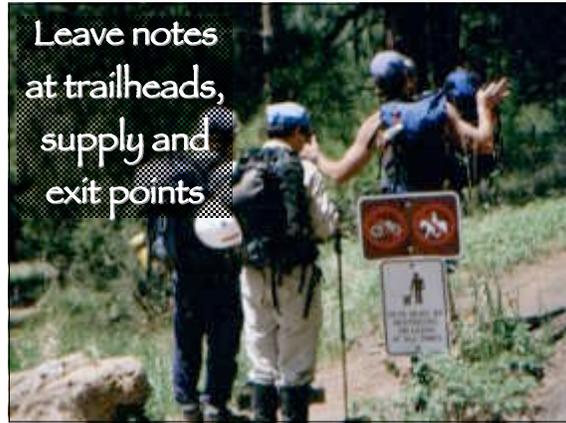
### Search Methodology The SCIENCE of search:

- We're NOT searching for lost people
- What about notes?
- "POA"
- "POD"
- Briefings and debriefings

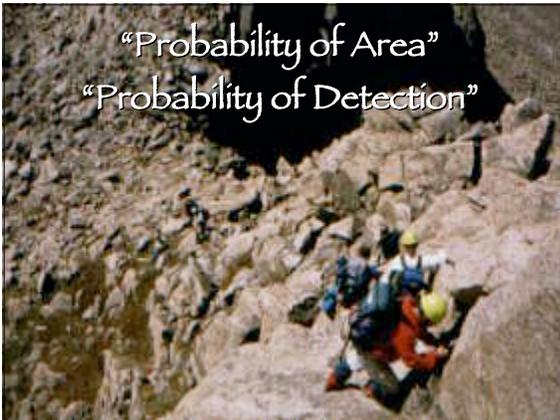
We're searching for CLUES,  
not subjects



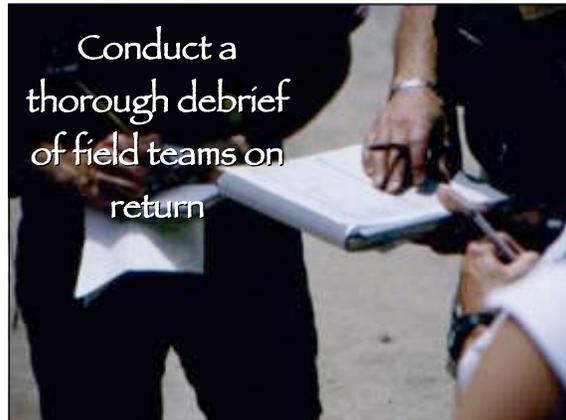
Leave notes  
at trailheads,  
supply and  
exit points



"Probability of Area"  
"Probability of Detection"



Conduct a  
thorough debrief  
of field teams on  
return

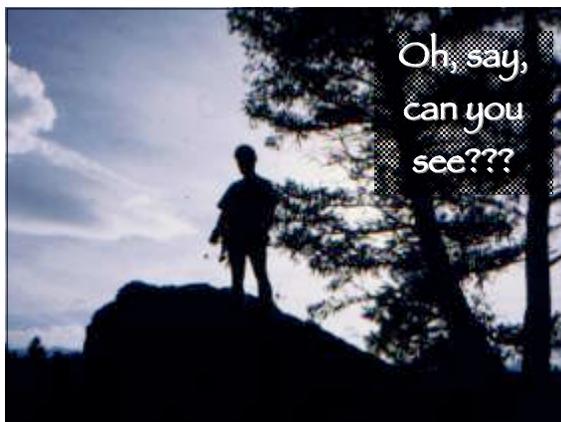
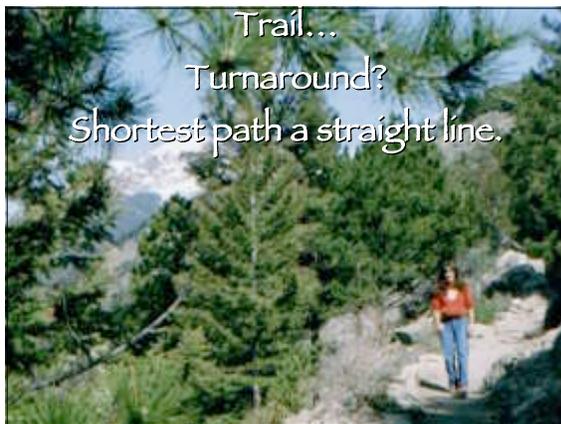


## Plan for the Lost Person: Using SAR Concepts

- Determine your PLS. When?
- Determine urgency.
- Use Travel Plan to ID where they may have gone astray.
- Establish confinement, attraction, hasty search.
- Plan your search areas.
- Record your efforts.
- Ask for help early.

## Lost Person Behavior

- Trail?
- Turn around?
- Shortest path...
- Get high or get down?
- Uphill vs. downhill
- Upstream vs. downstream
- Give up hope?



**Despondent  
Subjects**

- Despondent = EMERGENCY!
- Subject may try to hide
- No tendency to protect themselves
- How far do they travel?



**Rescue  
Response**



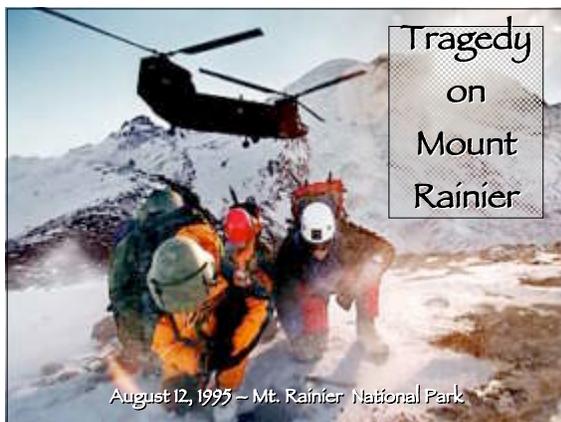
- Less litters, more helicopters.
- Expectations for rapid rescue.



**“RESCUE FEVER”**

Can your people keep their  
composure and avoid trying to  
be the HERO?

**Tragedy  
on  
Mount  
Rainier**

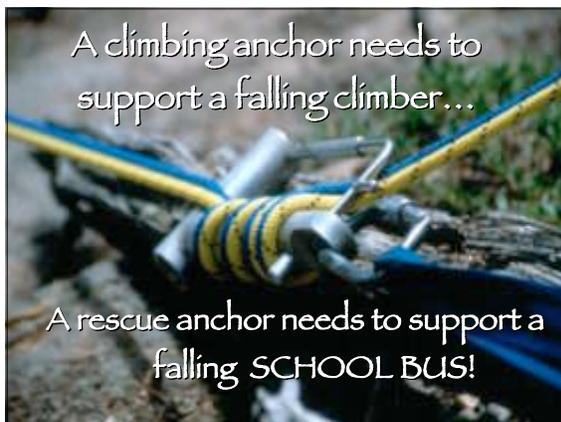
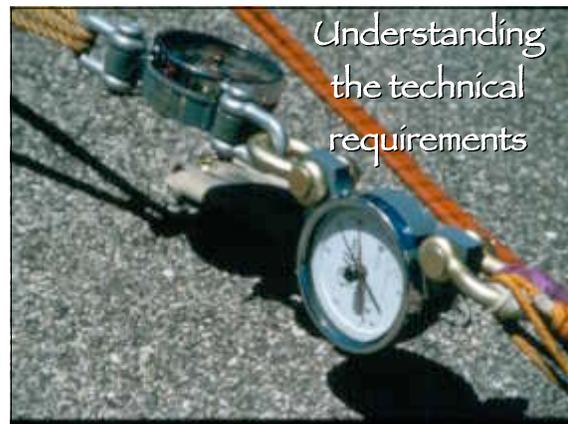
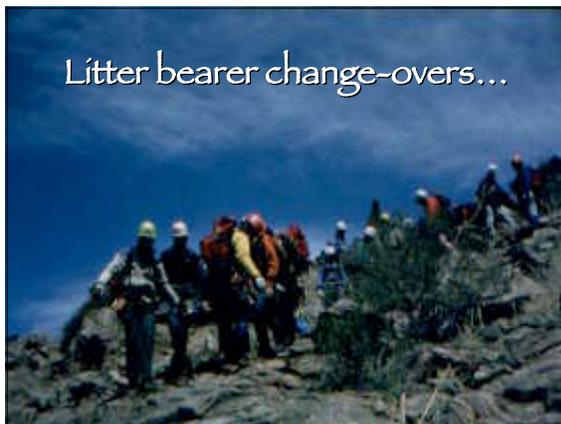


August 12, 1995 – Mt. Rainier National Park

**Litter  
Evacuations**

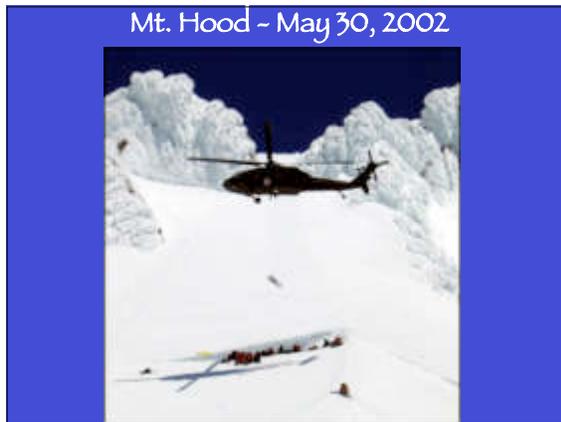
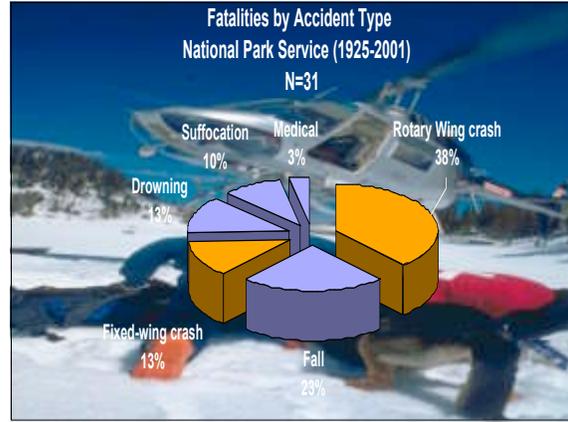
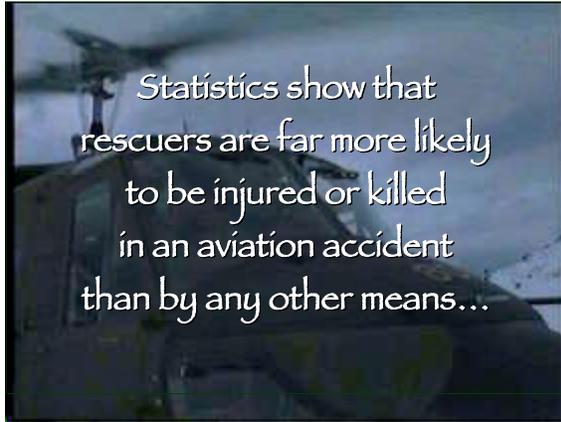


- Anticipate focus and energy change when initial excitement wears off.



### Helicopters in Field Operations

- Chopper protocol
- Helicopter resources – know them
- Staff authority
- How to request
- Flight times
- Communications
- Local law enforcement





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