



GUIDELINES

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR ALL TERRAIN VEHICLE (ATV) SEARCH TEAMS

SAFETY FIRST. Each member of the TEAM is responsible for his/her own safety as well as that of other team members and the patient/subject. Any differences on procedures that can not be resolved by the TEAM LEADER should be resolved by the Incident Commander.

TEAM. A TEAM shall consist of not less than two people and their ATVs.

TEAM LEADER. Before leaving the Incident Base a TEAM LEADER will be appointed. This can be changed only by the Incident Commander or Operations Section Chief. It is the responsibility of the Team Leader to report frequently to the Incident Base and make recommendations based on the terrain and weather conditions. Remember, if things are not going well, for what ever reason, discuss with the Base. DO NOT become part of the problem.

GEAR. Teams will not go out without the minimum PACE gear, radios, GPS units, maps, and compass as well as necessary repair gear for the units. It is recommended the teams have all the gear as shown on the attached equipment list. All members will wear helmets. Be sure to have snacks, matches and knife in your pockets.

SEARCHING. While ATVs are not excessively noisy they may be heard by lost subjects but with the units running the searchers may not hear a subject calling. Frequent stops to call for subject, listen and look for tracks and other sign are very important. Searching is not a matter of speed but rather a matter of getting an assigned area thoroughly searched for the subject(s).

Team members should be familiar with the various search techniques such as sound sweeps and critical separation.

Under normal circumstances search teams will not split up into groups of less than two and then only with the advance permission of the Incident Base.

Use trail tape with the team number, date, time and direction of travel. to mark your trail. (a Sharpie works fine for this) Do not use white trail tape in the winter time.

LOCATING SUBJECT. When a subject is located, immediately notify the Base. Give what necessary medical aid you are prepared to offer then give the Base a complete report on the subject's condition, the exact location, weather and terrain conditions. You will probably be asked about evacuation and any nearby helicopter landing zones. If you are not familiar with helicopter requirements the Base can help.

If the subject appears to be deceased, notify the Base, using the predetermined death code. But remember that severe hypothermia can slow down all the body functions so it may be necessary to follow standard hypothermia treatment depending on the circumstances. Regardless, the Incident Base will get properly trained people to your location as necessary.

HIKING OUT. The odds of this happening are very slim but if it is necessary make sure you take your day/fanny pack with your emergency supplies. Before you start out make sure you notify the Incident Base your position and the route you plan on taking. It may be that the Incident Base can figure a way to have you transported. If hiking out, make sure you mark your route with trail tape marked with team number, direction of travel, date and time.

INJURIES/ACCIDENTS Report all injuries and accidents to the Incident Commander immediately. The Base can usually be part of your solution.

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BASIC GEAR FOR ALL TERRAIN VEHICLE TEAM MEMBERS
(BASIC PACE REQUIREMENTS)

Boots appropriate for season. Not athletic shoes
Extra Clothing as appropriate for season including;
 Head cover, both for sun and warmth
 Gloves or mittens
 Extra socks
 Rain jacket with hood
 Extra layers for cold (middle layer)
 Non-cotton inner layer
 Note; Clothing must follow the three-layer system. Cotton is not appropriate for any layer except for some cases in the summer time..
Food for 24 hours
Minimum of 2 quarts of water
Knife
Pack
Fire starter
Compass with 5-degree accuracy
Whistle
Signal mirror
Flashlight or headlamp with extra batteries
Personal first aid kit
Space blanket
Pencil or pen and paper
10 feet of 1" nylon webbing
Leather work gloves (for working with ropes and a litter)

These items are those required for PACE Certification for Ground Searchers. Most all are applicable for members of ATV teams. There should be a good reason for not including any of the above in your personal gear.

ADDITIONAL GEAR FOR ATV SEARCH TEAM MEMBERS

Approved DOT helmet
Goggles or face shield
Riding gloves
Long sleeve shirt or jacket
Sun screen
Radio with 155.160 and team frequency capabilities and extra batteries.
Radio must be compatible with helmet or use a speaker mike.
GPS with instruction book
FRS radio (optional but good for intra team use)
Small day pack or fanny pack
Snowshoes, if winter
Small propane stove with fuel and pot
Forest and USGS maps of area
Sunglasses (optional)
Trail marking tape
Gaiters (optional depending on season and other equipment)
Insulating pad
Tarp style space blanket 6' X 8'

REMEMBER AN ATV IS MAN MADE AND MAN MADE THINGS CAN BREAK DOWN AND YOU MIGHT HAVE TO WALK IN. ALSO THERE MIGHT BE THE OCCASION YOU MIGHT HAVE TO SPEND THE NIGHT OUT WITH THE SUBJECT. MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE PROPER SURVIVAL GEAR.

ADDITIONAL ALL TERRAIN VEHICLE GEAR

Tools and Repair Parts As appropriate for each unit
Snow shovel (winter use)
Tow Strap
Extra Fuel and Oil
Large Spot Light
Tree Saw
Emergency Flares (highway type)
Webbing, 25ft. of 1 inch
Air pump and tire repair gear

EQUIPMENT FOR RECOVERY / EVACUATION TEAM

(Aka Mule Team)

Trailer	One per "mule team". For evacuation of subject or for taking in an EMT, litter or ropes and technical gear.
Technical Rescue Gear	Rope pack with gear and harnesses, if team qualified in this skill
Come-A-Long	Cable and/or recovery strap, snatch block etc.
Bivouac Gear	4 man tent, sleeping bags, blankets
Medical Gear	Trauma pack, oxygen as per team's qualifications.
Stokes Litter,	With shield, straps, tarps, blankets etc.

Not all teams will necessarily utilize this format. However each SAR Team must keep in mind how they might transport these items when called upon to do so. One contributor in the northern part of the State has one team remain at the Base with this equipment ready to go as needed. Others stated that they could return to Base to pickup the gear. Each team should recognize the differences and write their SOPs according to their own capabilities and preferences.

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