

ESGSAR Standard Operating Procedure

Search Technique Minimum Requirements

During any search there are a few minimum requirements that must be followed by each team deployed on a tasking. As there are many different variables that can be encountered it is ultimately up to each team captain to execute the tasking depending on the resources available. Therefore if this procedure is not followed the variances must be outlined on the tasking debriefing sheet so the search managers are aware of the changes when reviewing area coverage (i.e. GPS Tracks) and or deploying other teams to the area.

The overall purpose of this SOP is to provide standardized techniques when performing grid searches, allowing better interruption of the tracks and assisting in decision making by the search managers. Also if these procedures are followed any team member can walk into an area and will be able to determine what has been done and if there are still teams working the area..

Yellow and Black Striped Flagging Tape

Yellow/Black tape is to be used to mark any type of datum, base line or boundary. Boundary's may still be geographic markers and will not need to be marked (i.e. roads, lakes, rivers, trails, etc). Also this yellow/black tape can still be used in conjunction with string boxes. Please remember that if you are marking a boundary that it may need to be followed in low visibility conditions therefore use an appropriate interval to allow it to be easily followed by other teams.

Orange Flagging Tape

Orange tape is to be used by team members to mark all general team flagging requirements. The minimum team flagging requirements are as follows. This procedure will be most applicable for type 2 and type 3 searches.

- ☞ Each team member is to mark their start or beginning point of their sweep with one piece of orange flagging tape. Also each start of each sweep thereafter.
- ☞ Each team member is to mark their end or turn around point of their sweep with two pieces of orange flagging tape. Also each end of each sweep thereafter.
- ☞ During a grid search the team member on the leading edge of the sweep will continue to mark their path of travel with orange flagging tape so it can be followed by the team on the return sweep or another team that has been tasked to continue with the grid search in that area.

Example

A grid search is being completed in some woods between two parallel roads 100 meters apart. The team will line up on the road at a specified spacing. At point where each team member enters the woods they will mark it with one piece of orange flagging tape. The person on the leading edge will continue to mark their path of travel until they reach the second road. At the point where each team member exits the woods they will mark it with two pieces of orange flagging tape. Then the team will line up on the

second road to perform a return sweep The team will take there spacing start point from the flag line marked by the person on the leading edge of the sweep. This same procedure will be followed on the return sweep, one piece of flagging tape to mark each members entry point, person on the leading edge will continue to flag and at the point where each team member exits the wood it will be marked with two pieces of flagging tape. This procedure keeps repeating for each sweep.

Team GPS Requirements

The team GPS that is to be given to the bus to have the track uploaded is to be carried by the person on the leading edge of the grid search. This will provide a consistent technique allowing better interruption of the tracks, reducing confusion on where the GPS was located on the line, plus assisting in decision making at a later date or time if an area need to be search again. Example the search manager at any time or date can look at any track and measure the distance between the two line and know that all team members walked that area between the two GPS tracks.