

# POSITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

## UNIT COMMANDER/SEARCH MANAGER

The unit commander is a person of responsibility, a mature person is required. Check your anger at the door, the UC is the public figurehead of the search. The search manager should try to foresee any problems before they occur. Probably the most important aspect of being the SM is the ability to choose the right people for the right job. The ability to stay calm when others are panicking is vital. The ability to communicate in a non-threatening way is also important, remember the reason you are here is to find, recover, save or return a person.

## OPERATIONS OFFICER

The "hands on" person of search and rescue. An organized mind is essential in this position, the ability to focus on a primary goal while chaos reigns around you is necessary for success. This is another multi-tasking position, you will be needed to figure out where each team is, and what is needed by that team, to assist them in their goal.

## LOGISTICS OFFICER

This is a "details" person. The job of logistics is to stop all problems, before they occur. It is important to ask the teams what they will need, and for you to be able to do your best to provide that for them; drinks, tools, clothing, paperwork...always remember the goal is for an efficient, effective search for the missing person.

## STAGING OFFICER

This is an "organizational" person. The job of staging is to work with the unit commander to foresee a central searching area; so that the search teams and volunteers will have a place to gather. This can often be done by contacting a local church, fire station, VFW hall. It is nice to have electricity, shelter from the weather, decent parking and bathroom facilities available. It is also important to try to stay in tune with the needs of the search so that plans for following days may go smoothly.

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### TEAM LEADER

The TL is the real life brains of search and rescue. They are the most vital of the positions in SAR, a good TL must have their teams interest and safety in mind at all times. Make sure your team has equipment, proper clothing and clear instructions before going out. Remain in charge of your team until they are released from searching. You will be responsible for turning in your teams names/ phone numbers and search areas; with the date/time recorded.

### COMMUNICATIONS/RECORDING OFFICER

Receives incoming calls to: search manager, operations, logistics. Sends information calls to team leaders. Records any/all flow of information; and is in charge of knowing where team members and volunteers are at any given time.