

Call comes in on NMMSAR WhatsApp.....

Respond, Available or Unavailable

Sometimes with, "Available tomorrow" or "Available in 2 hours", but hold unnecessary chat.

Once you respond unavailable, there will be no need to continue with any responses unless, you become available and there is a continued call for help needed. There will be a POC(Person Of Contact) that will keep the unit informed as needed and when the mission is closed. Once it is closed....No need to comment! The app rings every person in the unit, so we try to keep it to necessary information only.

Once you respond available, a new chat will be started with everyone who did respond available. Within that chat you then begin coordinating your departures with each other. i.e. who can drive, who can car pool, who will meet along the way or meet at incident base.

And timing..... Every incident is different, sometimes we have the luxury of getting the call with a few hours lead time to be at incident base, other times it is ASAP.

Then there is the information about how long one can stay. If you only have an afternoon, a day or perhaps several days that needs to be relayed to each other so everyone can make the correct decision on transportation with or without others.

So.... you've responded "Available" GREAT! Dress accordingly,

Grab your "Go Bags", grab some food and water enough for 24 hours, Load your horse,..... When your on the road send a msg to all involved that your rolling.

Fill up your vehicle so your starting with a full tank. When you are back from mission, fill up again and save That recipe for reimbursement.

When you arrive at Incident Base....

Decide who is your team leader. Depending on each Incident Commander (IC) have your team leader go sign you all in or everyone go sign in.

Team leader gets assignment and briefing unless IC asked everyone to come hear it.

Team leader picks someone to be on Coms (radio) and someone on GPS.

EVERYONE carries a radio (not everyone turns it on, some just as backup if needed) and GPS but only one person is Specifically on that "Job". You begin your assignment.....Pack on your horse what you need and May Need for that particular assignment.

Remember..... The IC, ops and others at incident base have a plan. Based on information and their training, they have given you an assignment that coordinates with all the teams in the field and besides looking to find your subject, you are also establishing where the subject is NOT. Be very careful to stay in task. Often bits of information come in that brings all of us to draw opinions and scenarios that can influence our searching. Cover your assignment as best you can, this is not a social ride so keep chit chat to a minimum. We need our eyes and ears open for the assignment. Return to base when assignment is completed, debrief and wait for an all clear or reassignment.

When released to go home.....

Sign out. Let our POC know as soon as you can of your status and the status of the search.

When home let your team leader know so we know everyone is home safe.