



MISSING PERSON SEARCH PROCEDURES GUIDE

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1. Once it is suspected a trip participant may be missing:

- Within the group, recall the last seen point?
- Confirm on the map/GPS where is that point is?
- Between that point and where you are now, are there forks in the trail the hiker may have taken?
- If your trip was off trail, what options might have been available to the missing hiker?

2. Considerations prior to launching a search:

- The first step is to use your whistles and/or a team yell.
- Time spent organizing search process may give missing hiker a chance to arrive.
- Consider **proactively** notifying 911/SAR of the situation, especially if is late in the day.
- Organize search team(s) of at least two. Each search participant:
 - ✓ must clearly understand the search plan
 - ✓ is equipped with navigation skills and gear (map + compass, amply charged phone with map app, etc.)?
 - ✓ is confident about their current location/orientation?
 - ✓ will avoid hazards in their zeal to find the lost hiker?
- The present location of the group is designated “basecamp,” and should be manned at all times.

- The Incident Manager should remain at basecamp.
- Don't end up with more missing hikers.
- Will one search team be adequate or should use multiple teams?

3. A search should consist of two phases:

PHASE ONE (short duration):

- Decide how far the searchers will go before returning to basecamp (e.g., 20 minutes).
- Discuss what to do if the search team(s) finds a potential fork in the trail?
- Everyone returns to basecamp at the set time.

PHASE TWO (longer duration):

- If not done already, notify 911/SAR of your situation.
- While waiting for SAR to arrive consider a Phase Two search.
- Set a turnaround time for all search parties (e.g., 60 mins).
- Everyone returns to basecamp at the set time.

- ✓ Consider organizing the Get Help Team based on the Get Help Guide.
- ✓ If requested, the Get Help Team can guide SAR to basecamp.
- ✓ Consider organizing the Bivy Team based on the Bivy Guide.