



# NCSSAR GROUND TEAM ESSENTIALS

- Class B Uniform with layered clothing, outerwear, headwear and footwear appropriate for weather and location
- pack appropriate for searcher Type
- updated NCSSAR Alert Roster
- radios - CLEMARS/FRS
- GPS
- food/water for duration of search
- paper/pen
- compass
- flashlight/headlamp
- extra batteries

## RADIO PROCEDURE

- Speak slowly and clearly in plain English, use 10 codes where appropriate keeping message brief and to the point
- Use assigned team number for team radio communication
- Use SAR call sign for one-on-one communication
- Write down information such as coordinates prior to communicating with IC
- Use proper radio etiquette
  - “IC, Ground Team 2”, “copy”, “negative” “affirmative”, etc.
  - Refrain from using proper names while speaking on CLEMARS frequency
- Communicate UTM coordinates in 5x5 format

## GROUND TEAM PROCEDURE CHECKLIST

### Upon Call out

- The search begins when you receive the call out. Be observant while driving to the scene.
- Go to staging area and wait for team formation and assignment

### At Briefing

- Obtain map of search area (if applicable)
- Obtain information on missing person or evidence for search
- Obtain a Team Debriefing Form

### Prior to Deployment to Search Area

- Establish within your team duties such as leader, radio communications, and navigator
- Check battery levels of all electronic devices
- Turn ON FRS to assigned channel
- Turn ON CLEMARS radio and perform a radio check with IC
- Turn ON GPS
  - calibrate GPS compass (if GPS model includes this feature) at beginning of search and anytime batteries have been changed
  - check datum (Nevada County- UTM/UPS—NAD 27 CONUS)
  - waypoint IC
  - add search area segment to your GPS
  - keep TRACKS OFF until you reach search area

### Arriving at Search Area

- Contact IC to advise you have begun your search
- Turn TRACKS ON on GPS
- Look for clues. Clues lead to the subject
- While searching look UP, look DOWN, look LEFT, look RIGHT, and turn around to look BACK

## **While Searching**

- Look up, down, left, right and turn around to look back
- Mark position of clues on GPS
- Flag clues for evidence
- Estimate POD for each area searched
- Make notes
- Call and stop to listen
- DO NOT disturb evidence!

## **Upon Completing Search of Area**

- Turn TRACKS OFF on GPS when leaving search area
- Return to IC with completed debriefing form and report in for debrief
- Turn OFF all electronic devices

## **PHONETIC ALPHABET**

A – ADAM  
B – BOY  
C – CHARLES  
D – DAVID  
E – EDWARD  
F – FRANK  
G – GEORGE

H – HENRY  
I – IDA  
J – JOHN  
K – KING  
L – LINCOLN  
M – MARY  
N – NORA

O – OCEAN  
P – PAUL  
Q – QUEEN  
R – ROBERT  
S – SAM  
T – TOM  
U – UNION

V – VICTOR  
W – WILLIAM  
X – XRAY  
Y – YELLOW  
Z – ZEBRA

## **RADIO CODES**

10-1 – poor reception  
10-2 – reception is good  
10-4 – message received  
10-9 – repeat  
10-19 – return to  
10-20 – location

10-21 – telephone  
10-97 – arrived at scene  
11-44 - fatality  
11-98 – meet at...  
CODE 4 – situation under control