

# Managing the Urban Missing Person Search



- A child safely returned to parents -

At last, a “hands on” practical search management course specifically designed to address the missing person in the urban and suburban environments. The course is packed full of practical information essential for the person tasked with the responsibility to manage a search in these environments.

**- University Accredited -**

## Course Description

Traditional land based search usually involves a person or persons who have gone into the out-of-doors in a remote or rural area, and have become lost or incapacitated. In urban/suburban areas it is very difficult to get lost in the traditional sense. People who go missing in this environment are usually the young, the elderly, or others who may not be in a normal mental state. Many are crime victims.

Investigating a missing person case in the city is routine police work. Managing a resulting search operation is not. While police agencies normally conduct these type operations, many lack the resources or the expertise to conduct urban search effectively and efficiently.

This course addresses these issues. Topics such as missing person investigation, search organization, missing person behavior, selection and use of resources, planning, strategy and tactics, and other urban specific search topics are presented. Two case study map problems bring the academic material into focus.

**The real value of this course lies in the experience base that was used in the development of the strategies and tactics advocated in the curriculum. The training is a well balanced mix of academic presentations and practical management map exercises.**



## Preplanning and Vulnerability Assessment

Preplanning issues are discussed to include the components of a SAR vulnerability assessment for urban and suburban areas:

- History of missing persons in the area
- At-risk populations
- At-risk facilities (nursing homes, care centers, etc.)
- Hazards and attractions
- SAR statistics - what are they in your area?
- Helpful national and international data bases that can be useful in the urban missing person search.

## Who should attend?

- Police Officers and Sheriff's Deputies:
  - Missing person or search and rescue specialists
  - Shift supervisors
  - Area commanders
  - Training officers
  - Detectives
- Federal law enforcement officers
- Search and rescue team managers
- Search and rescue field team leaders
- State and local search and rescue coordinators
- State and local emergency managers

## Course Content

- Differences in rural/wilderness and urban/suburban SAR.
- Using the Incident Command System for urban search management.
- Categories of missing persons, in all age groups, and their potential behavior:
  - Illness           → Mental Retardation
  - Dementia       → Runaway
  - Despondents   → Crime Victim - Abduction
  - Psychotics     → Lost Child or Adult
- Selection and use of traditional and nontraditional SAR resources: Transitioning from the woods to the city streets.
- The planning process, the key to efficient operations.
- Review SAR theory and principles of incident management.
- Investigating the urban missing person case.
- Developing effective strategies and objectives.
- Tactical operations and efficient use of resources.
- Information management and the effects of external influences.
- Managing the media, the family and the casual volunteer.
- Logistical support and operation of the incident base.

**Much More !**

### Emergency Response International

- ✓ Proven quality of training in nine countries around the world.
- ✓ Accredited courses at university level as well as London's City and Guilds Institute.



84 year old Alzheimer's subject returned to her family after an urban search.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

**Participants attending this course should be able to:**

- ✓ Apply the fundamentals of missing person search management in both urban and suburban environment practical map exercises.
- ✓ Demonstrate familiarity with the Incident Command System in a first response situation.
- ✓ Describe appropriate actions in a missing person scenario to include appropriate protocols for the following:
  - Obtaining sufficient information for a complete initial report.
  - Determining possible subject behavior that may influence search strategy.
  - Evaluate the need to search as apposed to waiting for more information.
  - Determining and applying appropriate resources for an urban setting.
  - Determining initial strategy and tactics that will produce the greatest chances for success.
  - Organizing and managing the initial search effort.
  - Communications and management of casual volunteers and family members in an urban setting search.

## Training Course Options

**2 Day (16 hour)** orientation to the essential elements of managing an urban missing person search. This course is designed for mid-level law enforcement personnel who may not have a SAR background, but need to know and understand the crucial components of running an effective search in a city or suburban area. Includes two actual search case studies conducted as map exercises with hands on application of urban search resources.

**3 Day (24 hour)** course designed for SAR trained personnel to expand knowledge about conducting search operations in city environments. This course includes components that deal with planning issues, gathering planning data, more in-depth investigation issues and the actual detailed management of searches in the urban and suburban settings. Includes three actual search case studies conducted as map exercises with appropriate forms and hands on application of urban specific resources to solve the problems.

**5 Day (40 hour)** full component search management course. This training is based on the 40 hour "Managing Land Search Operations" course presented around the world for the last two decades. However, we have now modified the standard land search course to focus on the urban environment. The course is designed to provide a thorough understanding of managing search operations in the city and was developed for those who have the specific responsibility to manage those type search operations.

**Courses can be run independently for single jurisdiction departments on a contract basis or offered regionally with individual tuition fees. Please contact us for details, locally planned courses or other training options.**

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