



RAMPART

SEARCH AND RESCUE

Showing up on scene

Before you receive a call out.

Are you dressed for the occasion? Do you have the necessary equipment and training? Is your equipment safe and functional? These items should be addressed before you ever leave the house.

It is advised to have a "go bag" ready for any event. The contents of this bag will vary by season and should be inspected regularly. (Contents may include, clothing, lights, batteries, notebook, etc... see the team equipment checklist for ideas).

- Ensure response vehicle is in good working condition and fueled.
- Ensure functionality of radios (regularly) and they are charged.
- Ensure batteries are good/charged and lights are working.
- Check your gear **often** and regularly.

The majority of RSAR call-outs are at night. Do you have high visibility vest/coat? Do you have multiple sources of light? Do you have clothing appropriate for the foreseeable forecast?

Never show up intoxicated, inebriated, tired or otherwise mentally or physically altered. Do not show up on scene unless you can affect positive and actionable change or support.

Before you leave the house.

Ensure at RSAR is at level 1 before leaving (this will be denoted in the callous message). Before or at vehicle radio in as "Responding" (if no radio call or text mission coordinator). Radio message as follows:

"R# responding and en-route" or "Command, R#, responding, I am # minutes away"

Wait for response and acknowledgment. If no response try again or call/text to notify Mission Coordinator that you are on the way. This is to ensure that your time is logged and should anything happen to you, the Mission Coordinator is aware that you are responding (especially if you never show up). If you decide to turn around or leave an active call-out, communicate this clearly with the Mission Coordinator and ensure acknowledgment. Note: Initial Call-Out response is always dispatched from the "Squaw" channel.

Navigation

Follow instructions in text to guide you to scene. It helps to use Google Maps™ to locate scene before leaving. (do not use Apple Maps™ as it is currently unreliable at the time of writing this) , there may be other navigation options available (GPS, in car navigation, know these systems and use at your own risk).

If city is or zip code is not provided, look to see if contact is provided. (I.e. "Thornton PD officer Smith" would indicate that the location is in Thornton)

If still unsure of location, radio Mission Coordinator for directions. (Or call)

While on the way.

If description has been provided, be on the look out for the missing party. You are part of the mission the minute you call in. Utilize the time while arriving on scene to look for potential subject.

When responding, drive safely. Do not speed. When responding to events, we are generally worked up and excited, this can lead to carelessness which may result in an accident. Commit this phrase to memory.

"Do no harm."

Should you cause an accident, you not only denied the subject rescue, but you have ultimately removed your self from the mission. On top of that you may be diverting needed resources to respond to your situation.

Do no harm.

Absolutely under no circumstance run Code 3 (lights and siren) unless specifically told to do so by command staff. Driving carelessly with lights on may cause secondary accidents and will may in charges filed against you. We are not the police. Do not speed. There are times when urgency is present. It is safer to drive the speed limit than to make a mistake on the way. Even when driving with lights and siren to an emergency, you are only allowed to exceed the speed limit by 5mph over the posted speed limit (by state statute). Remember, the majority of first responders die in the line of duty while arriving or leaving the incident in a vehicle related accident. One of the most dangerous things you will do on a regular basis is drive to and from an incident.

Arrive on scene.

The scene will (usually) have one or more police cruisers on scene. (Note that some scenes may have more than one grouping). Police cars in the area is a good indication your close. Look around for a green flashing light, this will denote the current and active command center. Report to the green light. Often times there will be no flashing green light, you may need to ask LE or other members where to report.

You should have the proper identification should it be requested by LE. This may include your State ID, vehicle windshield sticker, marked vehicle, or identifiable clothing. Be courteous and patient if requested for identification.

At every incident, be conscious of where the staging location is and availability of parking. Emergency vehicles will need to ingress and egress from the location. Make sure not to block traffic or any other vehicles on scene. It is advised you park at an out-of-the-way spot. The situation may escalate requiring heavier equipment (mobile command centers, fire trucks ambulances) make sure you are not blocking the way. If other vehicles block you in, you are committed until the very end and it may impede your task if your vehicle is needed. Be conscious of where you park.

Do you see other RASR members on location? If so, head to the mission coordinator and await for debrief and assignment. Ensure you:

- Check in with mission coordinator
- Sign in if "Sign-In" form is available (this may be done by MC)

At no point should you self-dispatch from the scene without the prior knowledge and consent of the mission coordinator. The mission coordinator should:

- Know where you are at all times
- Be able to reach and communicate with you at all times.

Are you the first on scene?

Congratulations, you are now the interim mission coordinator. Are you completely overwhelmed and out of your element? If so, stay in your car and wait for the next unit to arrive. Do you feel up to the task? Here is what you must do as the first on scene.

Radio in as "On scene"

"Command, R#, I am on scene"

Before approaching Law Enforcement (LE) ensure you have a notebook and pen. It is a good idea to print off the (NOTES_Missing Person.pdf) ahead of time to use as reference.

Make contact with officiating department. They will already have someone in charge running the show (usually a sergeant or detective). Introduce yourself as "Rampart Search and Rescue", they will be expecting you (if not ensure you are at the right location).

"Hi, I am John Smith with Rampart"

You will want to gather as much preliminary information about the incident as is available. Use the Missing Person sheet as reference for possible questions you may need to ask. This list is only a guide, and does not contain all the things you may want to consider. You only need enough information to relay to arriving units.

LE may not have all the answers and these may come at a later time as the investigation proceeds. Some details provided you initially may change over time as well. (clothing description may be amended as new clues are introduced). Ask for photos if available and distribute the photos to units on the way immediately as they can begin searching on the way to the scene (note: initial page description may be inaccurate due to lack of information. As clues are gathered this information will be refined, make sure to update everyone if initial page is grossly different)

You will be presented with a vast amount of information. Some of this information may be provided by the LE officer on scene, some of it may be clues or information gather visually by you on scene, some of it may be derived from personal knowledge of the area or personal experience. All of this information should be documented. Not all information may be pertinent for rescuers arriving, however it should be documented.

As mission coordinator you will need to:

- A. Assess mission hazards and safety
- B. Assess the urgency of the situation
- C. Formulate your own hypothesis of subject and whereabouts
- D. Assess the best course to find your subject
- E. Assess the needs of LE
- F. Utilize the resources you have at your disposal.

A. **Safety** - Arriving on scene, you should always be scanning for dangers in the field (people or subject on the road, downed power lines, destroyed roads, etc.) Depending on the situation, the scene you are arriving at may not be safe - never assume its safe, even in relatively safe urban settings. If you notice hazards near the scene or at the scene make sure to note them down and relay this information to the team.

B. **Urgency** - Based on the safety factors, weather, subject status, you will be able to determine the appropriate urgency level. Urgency levels are necessary to facilitate the appropriate response to the situation. A 3

year old child lost outside during a snow storm is far more urgent than a 30 year old adult on a 70°F day. The 30 yo requires less initial resources unless circumstances change (weather, mental or medical condition).

C. **Plan** - As the first responder on scene (whether you plan on staying in command or not) you should start formulating a plan and hypothesis of what you think happened and potential outcomes and how they can be achieved. This may not be correct, and will change as you gather additional information, your planing should be dynamic and allow for change and adaptation.

D. **Search** - Your training may cover the specific situation you are faced with and you may have a good idea of what needs to be done.

Example: subject has limited mobility and an aversion to water. Subject demographic states subjects often found 50ft from road or structure within a 2mi area. Base on the provided information and your knowledge, you conclude that the 3 closest parks are the best candidates for a hasty search.

You send your k-9 to last point seen, one 4x4 team to one of the parks and a ground team to the nearest park, while the rest of your team assembles. This will eliminate the two of the highest probability areas and start a direction of travel (k-9). Once your team assembles, you will be ready to adjust your course of action based on the findings.

If LE is the first on scene they will designate their own incident commander who will run the planing and execution. When you arrive, you will be reporting to them as a resource. They may or may not have specific needs or plans for you and your team. It will be your responsibility to match their needs with your teams capabilities and resources.

E. **Assist** - If it is early in the investigation, LE may not have formulated a plan and may rely on you to provide actionable insight. You are now the subject matter expert on scene.

If you are not familiar or feel uncomfortable formulating plans, wait for additional resources, and if asked by LE, be forth coming and explain that you are waiting for additional resources or will find someone in charge.

F. **Utilize** - Your team is inbound and will need to be assigned tasks as they arrive. It will be up to you to determine whether you will want to debrief and send out teams as they arrive, or wait for the team to assemble before a single debrief and task assignments. Be mindful of the situation, its urgency, and available resources.

Understand the capabilities of each team and its members. Know your fellow members, their strengths, training, and equipment. It's also good to know what condition they are in. Bob, was in a skiing accident, he cannot stand for long periods of time but he has a mobile radio in his 4x4 with traffic lights. Bob can be effectively utilized.

If supporting LE you will be the liaison between the department and RSAR, it will be up to you to recommend and task the RSAR teams on the behalf of LE or supervising jurisdiction.

LE may make it clear as to what they want you to do. You are to follow the instructions of LE as they have command over the incident. You can however provide insightful feedback or suggestions as to the best course for the situation, should you have intelligible data that would better suit the situation better.

Large Scale Events

Large scale events and mutual aid requests will differ from LE responses. When responding to such events, you will be arriving as a request for additional resources, in these cases your role will be to support and assist.

If you are merely responding within our group, make contact with Rampart members when you arrive. Sign-in with Rampart first, and if necessary sign in with incident command. (very important to sign in). Follow the instructions of our group leader. Be prepared to wait.

If you are the first to arrive and are taking the lead role, follow the previous steps: Make contact with IC, follow initial staging procedures set forth. Introduce your self and inform of all resources you have at your disposal. Your role as team coordinator will be to manage Rampart resources on the behalf of the Incident Commander. It will be your responsibility to know what resource you have available on hand and on call. It is for this reason you should expertly

know your team members, their capabilities, team vehicles and their capabilities, equipment available, and training and knowledge of Rampart capabilities.

Your initial assignment will be to await for your team to respond. You should be able to provide the IC with approximate arrival times and readiness/availability of your team and resources for deployment. As you organize your resources begin to think about potential team structures and capabilities.

Please be familiar with all ICS forms. In large incidents (specifically ICS 211), it will be imperative to keep meticulous records of all SAR actions during the operational period of the event. These forms are available on the RSAR server (under "RF2 -- General Ops Forms").

You will be the liaison between Incident Command and Rampart resources and personnel.

Appendix

Activation Levels

Level 3 - RSAR is monitoring an event - no contact is needed - no response is needed (this is only a notification that an even is occurring)

Level 2 - RSAR is on standby - no contact is needed (monitoring of SQAW is advised for information) - Getting dressed and equipment together is advised.

Level 1 - RSAR is activated - Contact MC to notify of response - Full response with equipment and personnel.

Stand Down - RSAR activation is canceled - Contact MC only if you are en-route or in the field - All units are to stand down and cease all operations and return to quarters/home, if currently in the field report to command post or MC for debrief.