

Champaign County EMA

Search and Rescue Core Group Meeting

Thursday, September 26, 2013

- **Welcome**

- **Review of the Watson SAR**
 - Great CC SAR response and turn out.
 - Efforts of CC SAR were noticed by other organizations.
 - Use of GPS in search and later to depict the times and area searched.
 - Arrival on-scene into a confusing situation.
 - “Professionals” leading CC SAR teams did not follow GSAR protocols, “rushing teams” to finish, dismissing clues identified by team members. No consideration of duration of search, heat, distance and impact on SAR team.
 - Leader of team must lead/manage the team and not be an active searcher.

Lessons learned from the Watson SAR

- Need for flashlight, the higher the lumen the better.
 - Standardize the type of batteries used in all electronic equipment. Keep to a specific size (i.e. AA) for easy swap out and distribution among members.
 - Long and short sleeve shirts should be packed.
 - Tennis shoes and boots as options for the Kit.
 - Formal, established two-way communications between search teams and CC SAR HQ.
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- **CC SAR**
 - Highly motivated group of team players.
 - Not familiar with searching in Houses- met the challenge
 - Adapted to the situation and applied skills (identifying clues, paths, homes), even though Non CCSAR Team leads were not interested.

- **Future activities.**

- Develop an Operating Guide for arriving on-scene to assist in a search.
- Get mission briefing- what is being searched for, area to be searched, conditions within the search area, weather considerations, and physical review of situation on maps.
- Preparing individual kits for the assigned mission. Adjusting equipment needs as required.
- Establishing CCSAR management scheme- Personnel broken into teams, personnel assign as CC SAR HQ controller.
- Issue radio, GSP or other CC equipment to members (with hand receipt)
- Establish listing on personnel on each team, contact methods (phone, radio); establish radio/comm check with the CC SAR HQ.
- CC SAR HQ records team time out, area of operation, Maintains periodic contact with teams.
- CC SAR HQ keeps CC EMA informed of situation and on request.

- **Training Opportunities**

- Training requested on conducting home searches, shallow grave, urban and water based operations. Familiarization with drug materials and related evidence/situations.
- Training on HT field radios, GPS devices.
- Practice protocol as described above for deployment.

- **Open Discussion**

- Need for recognizable CC SAR outer wear: Short and long sleeve shirts, Hats, Safety vests- with appropriate CC SAR logo.
- Consider the need for a CC SAR flag/banner-for long range recognition at large events.

- **Next Meeting**

- **Adjourn**

Attending

Staci Weber
Bryan Schlueter
Steve Hilberg
Scott James
Kitty Schlueter
Mike Schlueter
Larry McMasters
Jeremy Ausnwe
Peggy Staske
Brian Bohlman
JW Hamiltion
Bob Doty
John Carlson
Bill Bogner
Heidi Morris
Bill James
John Dwyer.