



Child Abduction Response Team

Search & Recovery

Definitions



- Family abduction
- Non-family abduction
- Lost or otherwise missing
- Throwaway

Source: National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

Definitions



- The term “**missing child**” refers to a person:
 - Younger than 18 years old
 - Whose whereabouts are unknown to his parents, guardian, or responsible party.



- The missing child will be considered “**at-risk**” when one or more of these unusual circumstances are present:
 - 13 years of age or younger
 - Believed to be one or more of the items below:
 - Out of the zone of safety
 - Mentally diminished
 - Drug dependant
 - Potential victim of foul play or sexual exploitation
 - In a life threatening situation
 - Absent from home for more than 24 hours
 - Believed to be with others who could endanger them
 - Absent under circumstances inconsistent with established patterns of behavior

Source: National Center for Missing & Exploited Children



LOST CHILD SEARCH STRATEGY

The Missing Child Search



- Hasty search of all likely areas.
 - House and Place Last Scene (PLS)
 - Parks
 - Vacant Lots
 - Water attractions
 - Pools
 - Streams, rivers or waterways
 - Storm drains

The Missing Child Search



- Open space areas
- Stores
- Door to door
- Investigation
 - Family
 - Friends
 - Runaway?
 - School or day care
 - Public transportation

Source: Presentation on Child Abduction and the Role of Search & Rescue

Lost Child, Possible Abduction



- Does the child know the area, or could they be lost?
- Thorough search of the area with no clues or leads
- Evidence or leads that lean toward an abduction possibly
- Thorough investigation yields no clues
- **DO NOT switch to abduction search strategies until you have ruled out that the child could be lost.**



THE ABDUCTION SEARCH

Missing Child Profiles



Distance Between Victim's Residence and Body Disposal Site

Age of Child	< 100 yards	< 1 mile	< 1-5 miles	< 6-10 Miles	< 11-30 miles	> 30 miles
0-1 month	---	---	67%	---	---	---
1-12 months	---	---	83%	---	---	---
13-36 months	---	56%	---	22%	---	---
3-5 years	58%	---	---	17%	25%	---
6-11 years	---	23%	18%	---	12%	16%
12-14 years	---	27%	---	6%	29%	15%
15-17 years	---	36%	42%	---	15%	---

Source: Book "Detection and Recovery of Abducted and Murdered Children"

Search Strategies



1. Searchers must either rule out that the subject is lost, or must conduct a thorough missing person search before implementing an abduction search.
2. Search area in a abduction search is much larger than a search for a missing person.
3. To conduct an effective search a large number of resources and the ICS system are required.

Source: Presentation on Child Abduction and the Role of Search & Rescue

Search Strategies



4. SAR personnel should work with local Law Enforcement to define the area based on the Abduction Profile.
5. Personnel should use abduction search tactics to define the search area and carry out the search.
6. Once a case is determined to be an abduction is that searchers are looking for a body dump and crime scene, often along or near a remote section of the road.

Search Strategies



- Deploy Ground and Canine Teams
100 to 300 feet from roadways adjacent to fields, vacant lots, and other areas that might conceal a crime scene.
- Teams should be given specific assignments like searching every pullout to 300 feet along a county road. **If there isn't room to park, don't bother searching the area.**

Source: Presentation on Child Abduction and the Role of Search & Rescue

