

O-0408
IDENTIFY AIRCRAFT SEARCH CLUES

CONDITIONS

You are part of a ground team searching for a missing aircraft.

OJECTIVES

Identify search clues for which to look.

TRAINING AND EVALUATION

Training Outline

1. Searching for a missing aircraft is an exercise in locating clues that will lead to the location of the aircraft. These clues are found by conducting air and ground search, airfield searches (“ramp checks”), and witness interviews.

2. Ground team members on searches in wilderness areas should look for the following:

a. Changes in the Terrain:

- 1) Broken or disturbed trees and underbrush.
- 2) Landslides
- 3). Horsetails caused by windblown snow or sand
- 4). Breaks in terrain.
- 5). Blackened or discolored areas
- 6) Smoke
- 7) Presence of scavengers (vultures, wolves)

b. Smells:

- 1) Smoke
- 2) Decomposition odors.
- 3) Fuel, oil, or brake fluid

c. Signs of the Aircraft

- 1) Pieces of wreckage (twisted metal, seats, etc.)
- 2) Fuel, oil, or brake fluid.

d. Signs of the Pilot/Passengers

- 1) Bits of clothing or personal effects
- 2) Trail markings
- 3) Footprints
- 4) Campfires
- 5) Garbage
- 6) Signals (mirrors, etc.)

e. Unusual sounds (voices, creaking metal)

3. Downed aircraft do not usually come down intact and do not usually even look like aircraft on the ground. YOU ARE NOT LOOKING FOR AN AIRPLANE - YOU ARE LOOKING FOR SIGNS OF AN AIRPLANE CRASH. Recognition and detection of clues to the aircraft location is critical.

Additional Information

More detailed information on this topic is available in Chapter 7 of the Ground Team Member & Leader Reference Text.

Evaluation Preparation

Setup: None

Brief Student: Brief the student that he is on a missing aircraft search. Tell him to identify eight clues to aircraft crash locations.

Evaluation

Performance measures

Results

1. Identifies eight specific aircraft search clues from the above list

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Student must receive a pass on all performance measures to qualify in this task. If the individual fails any measure, show what was done wrong and how to do it correctly.