

Judging the age of sign



Judge the age of sign

Lesson aim

Demonstrate understanding of the principle of aging sign.

Why?

Knowing the characteristics of sign aging will greatly assist with locating the person with visual tracking means.

Judge the age of sign

How is human sign created?

Any disturbance or foreign object or mark created or placed in an area where a person has travelled.

Categories of Sign

- Ground Sign
- Top Sign

Phase 1: Characteristics of Sign

The common terms used to describe sign are:

- Transfer
- Colour change
- Flattening
- Regularity
- Straight Edge
- Disturbance
- Discardables

Phase 2: Determining direction

Transfer



Dirt is transferred onto the clover from the underside of the boots.

Phase 2: Determining direction

**Colour
change**



The underside of the leaves are normally lighter in colour.

Phase 2: Determining direction

Flattening



Depressions and leveling out of an area.

Phase 2: Determining direction

Regularity



Items in nature don't normally occur in regular patterns.



Phase 2: Determining direction

**Straight
edge**



A foot fall will break a stick in two places.

Phase 2: Determining direction

Disturbance

Note the rough up of the leaves compared to the surrounding flat leaves.



Phase 2: Determining direction

Discardables

Tissue



Things that a person drops leaves sign and assists with the sign picture.

Phase 2: Determining direction

Sign is affected by:

- other sign
- weather affects
- terrain
- time.

Other Sign



Weather Effects



Terrain



Phase 2: Describe the effects of the environment on Sign

Time



Phase 2: Determining the age of Sign

Bracketing

Placing the age of the sign between known events.

e.g.	9.00am	Missing person reported
	10.15am	Rain
	11.26am	Rain stops followed by strong sun
	1.42pm	Missing person foot print located with pock marks.

Conclusion: Sign made before or during the rain = at least 3 hours.

Phase 2: Determining the age of Sign

Comparison

Sign = Broken branches on shrubs and small trees.

Break another branch from the same tree and compare the colour and structure of the fibres in the two breaks.

Sign marking and identifying direction

Summary

The age of sign is influenced by:

- Where the sign is located
- How the sign was made
- What has happened in the intervening time
- The activity of the person.

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