

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





Transfer

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



Colour change



The underside of the leaves are normally lighter in colour.



Flattening



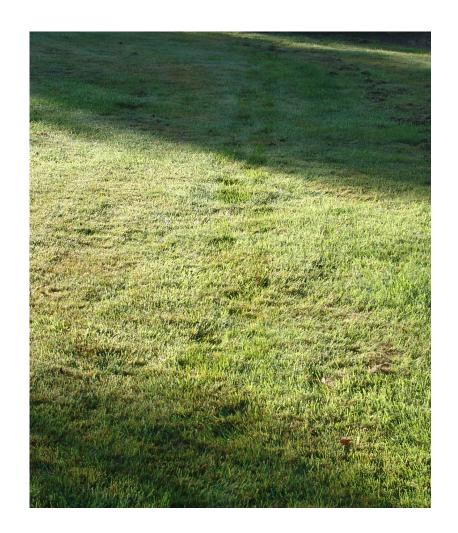
Depressions and leveling out of an area.



Regularity



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





Straight edge



A foot fall will break a stick in two places.



Disturbance

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







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



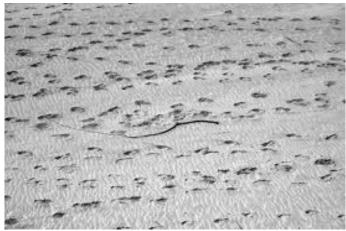
Sign is affected by:

- 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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