Processing Wilderness Clue Sites

Student Notes

Contents of Student Folder

1. Introduction
2. Timetable
3. Standards
4. Copy of PowerPoint slides and workbook examples

This is your workbook – please make notes in it.
We hope you enjoy the course.

There is a theory assessment workbook plus a practical assesssment workbook to be competed during the course.

Acknowledgements

Course developed by Clarke Creek Consultants Limited for Tai Poutini Polytechnic.
Subject matter experts: John Culloty and others.
Some photos: John Culloty; Ross Browne LandSAR NZ.

References

Foundations for Awareness, Signcutting and Tracking. Robert Speiden. Natural Awareness Tracking School, LLC. 2009.
The SAS Guide to Tracking. Bob Carss. The Lyons Press. 2009.
LandSAR Field Guide. LandSAR New Zealand.
LandSAR Aide Memoir. LandSAR New Zealand

Processing Wilderness Clue Sites

- ***SAR121 Analyse wilderness clue sites to inform decision-making for a search operation***
- ***SAR123 Demonstrate knowledge of processing complex clue sites in a wilderness environment***

What is a wilderness clue site?

Clue rich environment

A higher concentration of sign in a specified area compared to the amount of sign in the greater search area.

Clue Density

- The number or ratio of clues per square metre / unit of search area.
- Which of these sites would have high clue density?
  - Camp site
  - Wilderness site
  - Road end
  - Remote camp site
- Search decision based on clue density

What information can be gained from a wilderness clue site?

Implications of interpreting clues

- State of subject (health, fitness, mental)
- Search intensity
- Resource application
- Scenario analysis
- Time frame

STOPPER

Record and report signs and clues.

- Verbal (radio or Dictaphone)
- Diagrams
- Photographs
- Videos
- Plotting sheets
- Notebooks

Advantages and Disadvantages of Recording Methods

Method	Advantage	Disadvantage
Verbal -radio	Info back to IMT fast	Not recorded
Verbal – dictaphone	Permanent. Easy	Needs to be carried in
Camera/video	Permanent. Easy	Quality/ batteries
Plotting sheets/ diagrams	Good visual	Can get wet
Notebook	Easy to use, can include diagrams	

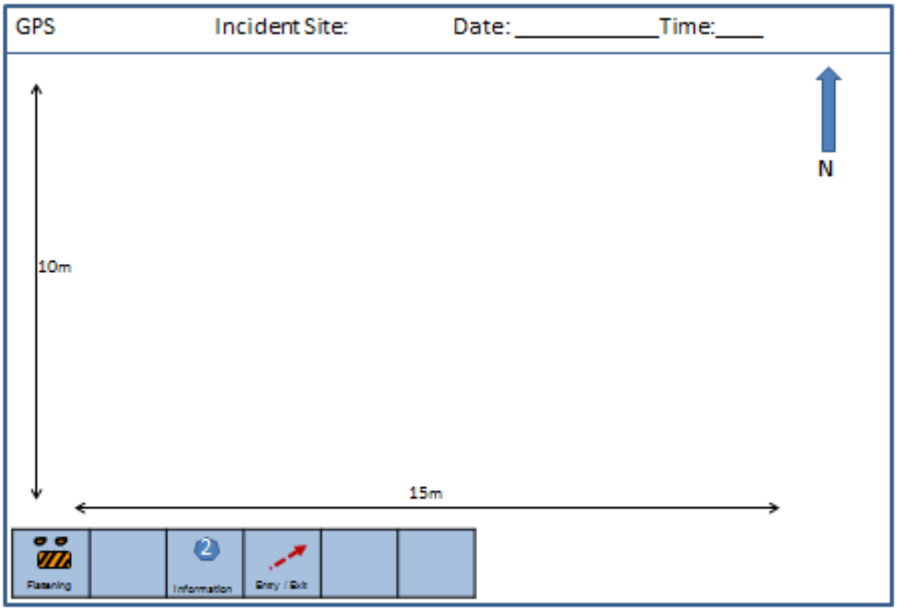
Sign can be broken into 2 categories

- Conclusive sign .
- Substantiating sign

Student Workbook Examples.

Incident Site Diagram

An Incident diagram should be set up so that information is relevant and easy to read.



Location _____

Date Time _____

Type of Incident _____

Border _____

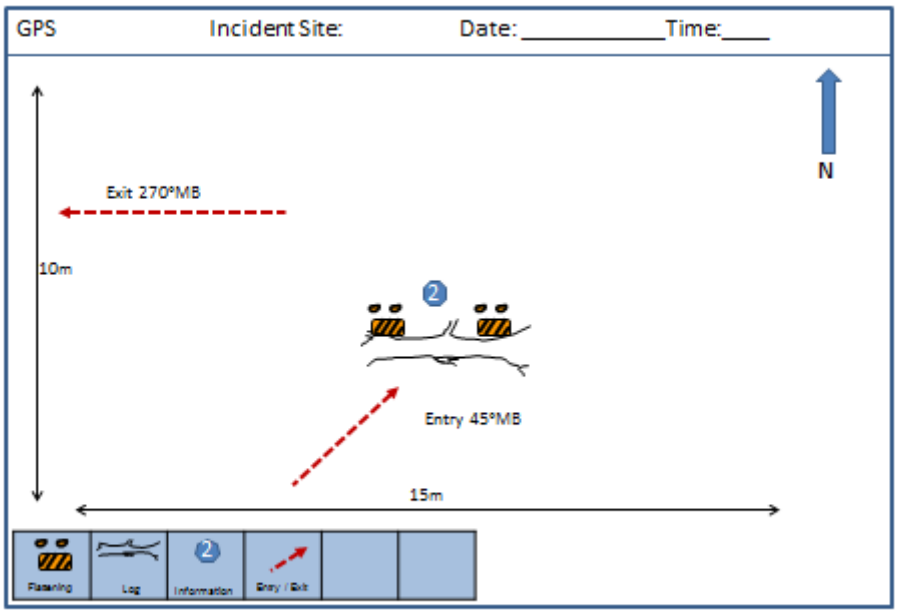
North Pointer _____

Dimensions _____

Route In and Route Out. _____

Key. _____

INFORMATION GAINED AT INCIDENT SITE



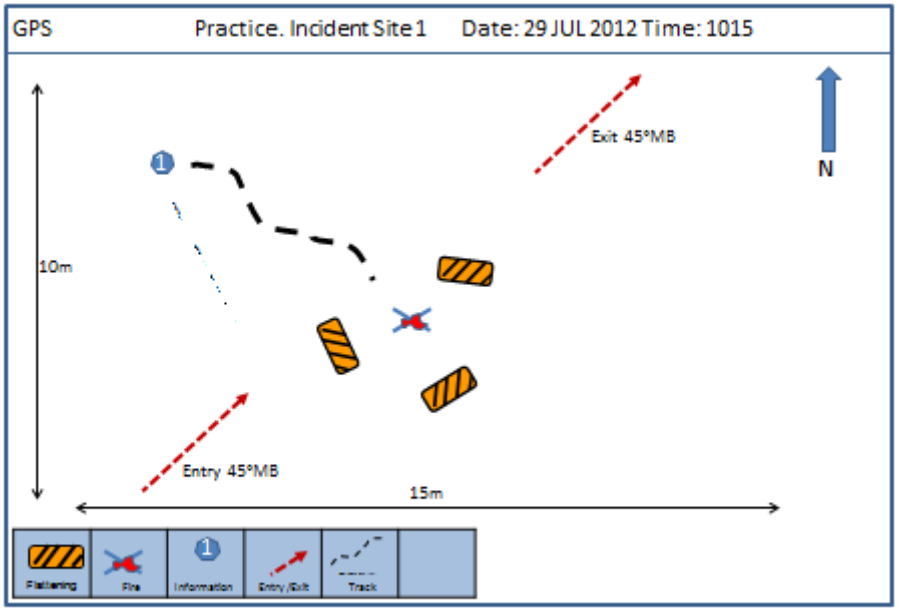
Sign no	FACTS	DEDUCTIONS	ASSUMPTIONS
1	2 x small areas of flattening		
2	1 x used teabag		
3	Entry of 045°Mag, exit of 270°Mag		
4	Small round depression		
Search Decisions from above assumptions:			

Note that not all Facts need a Deduction,

When reporting this Information, you would report the Assumption, as well as location and new DOT.

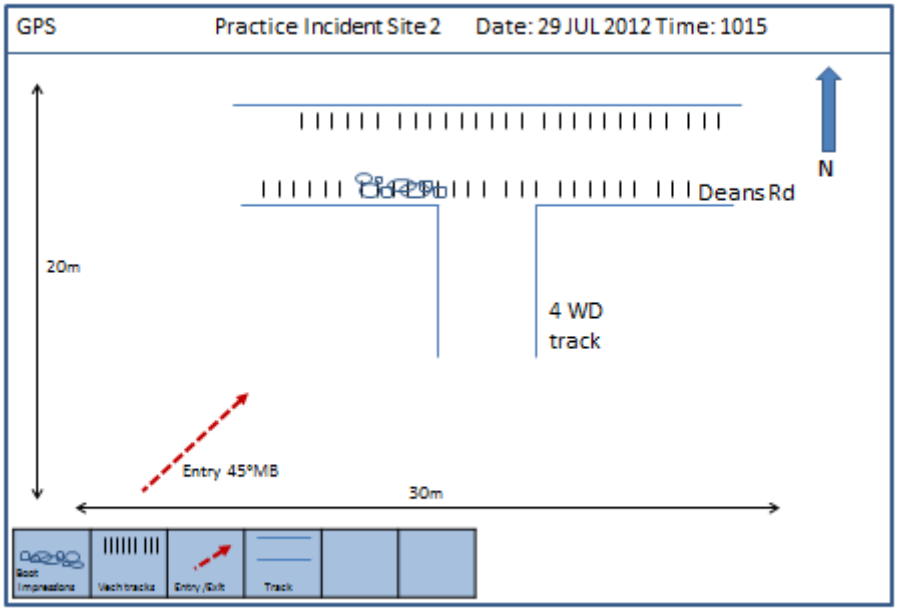
If Base Ops (IMT) want any specific or detailed info about what you have sent, you have your facts and deductions to answer **HOW** you achieved your Assumption

PRACTICE EXAMPLE 1



Sign no	FACTS	DEDUCTIONS	ASSUMPTIONS
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
Search decisions from above assumptions:			

PRACTICE EXAMPLE 2

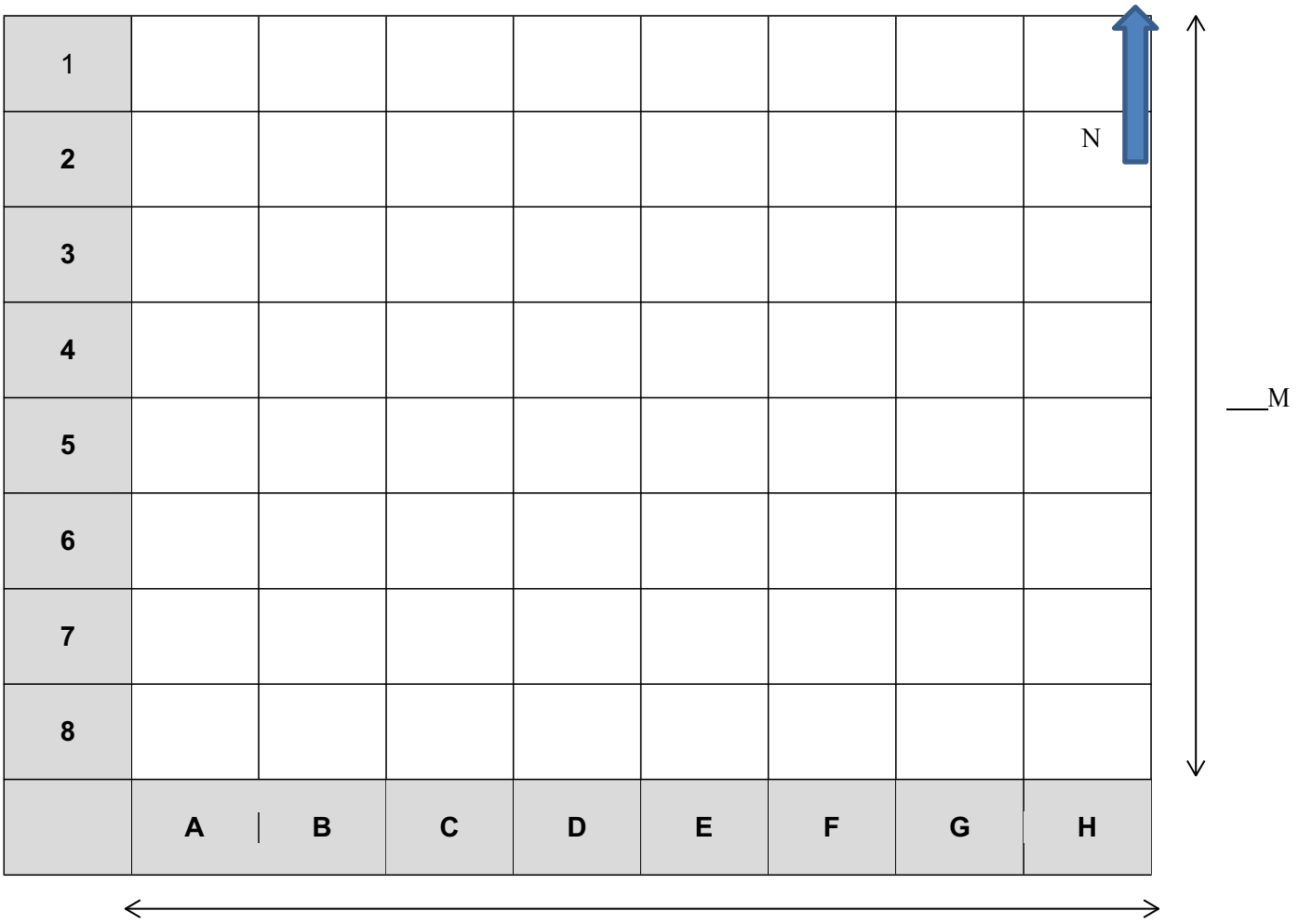


Sign no	FACTS	DEDUCTIONS	ASSUMPTIONS
Search decisions from above assumptions:			

Plotting sheet

Site Processing Sheet. Site_____ Date_____ Time_____

GPS _____ Team_____ Team Leader_____



Key ___M

Remember to fill in the scale. Show entry and exit points.

Use the letter and number grid reference to make notes about any items.

Eg. C3	*abandoned beanie – bright orange, size large*

Reporting Incident Site Information

- Give Incident Site location
- Send your assumption (based on facts and deductions)
- Include DOT and date and time
- Any other relevant info

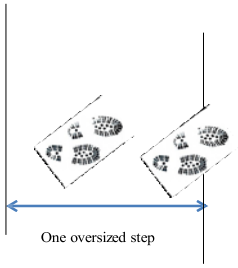
Processing sites

- May need to protect the site – why?
- May need to segment the site – why?
- HOW -

Make search decisions based on people previously present.

- One step / Two step

One Step



One oversized step

Two Steps

2 normal steps

Areas of flattening at halts

Human Body sign – from resting positions.

Position	Observations	Deductions/ Decisions

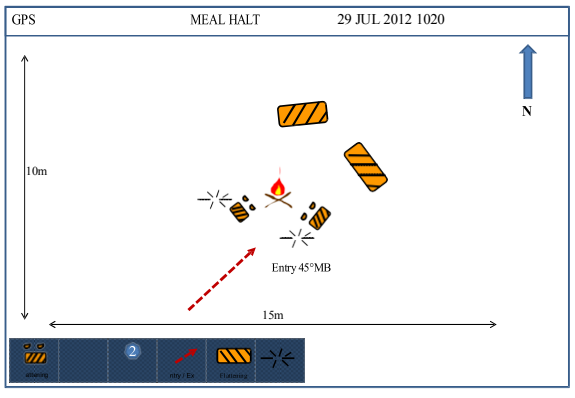
Describe five categories of sign found at a rest halt.

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

Human Body Signs

- Kneeling
- Squatting
- Lying
- Sitting
- Other sign e.g. walking poles

Position	Observations	Deductions/ Decisions
Kneeling	Knee imprints Weight transfer Toe digs	Where are they looking? What are they doing? Lower leg length
Squatting	Foot imprints Pressure at front of foot	Not stopping for long Wet ground Toilet stop
Lying	Indentation More pressure in some areas	Height of person Size Staying for a while or injured?
Sitting	Indentation Heel marks Distance between botto m and feet Hand indents	Why sitting? Injury?
Other	Holes from walking poles Riflesign	May help to confirm if subject is missing person



Location of clue sites

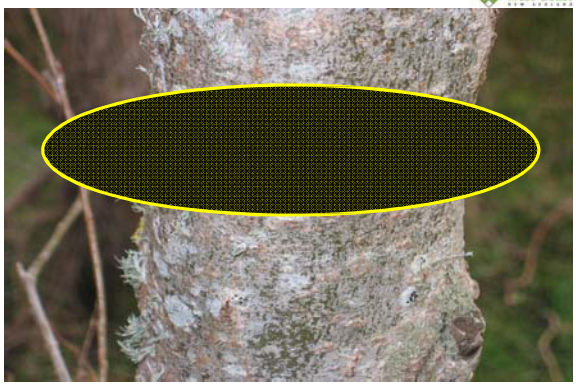
- Rest halts occur frequently along the track. You should be able to anticipate some of the locations of these sites.
- For example:
  - at the top of a hill after an arduous climb.
  - after a river crossing, where boots/socks may need to be changed.
  - a nice scenic location situated on the track.
- The longer you are following the missing person, (track picture) and the more rest halts that you discover, the more likely you will be able to anticipate future halts.
- At other times the rest sites may be completely random and unexpected, a keen eye and inquisitive mind will be needed to locate these halts.

Tent

Fly

Bivvy Bag

Hammocks



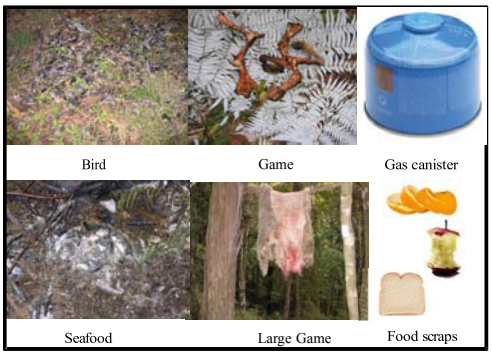
Decisions made from shelter sign

Survival Shelter

SAR Searches

Cooking sign.

The type of sign we can expect to see includes



Search decisions based on cook sites

Fire sites.

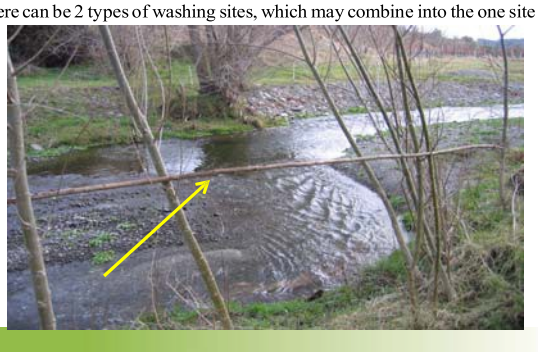
Types of fire sites

Decisions made from fire sign

Washing sites

Types of washing sites

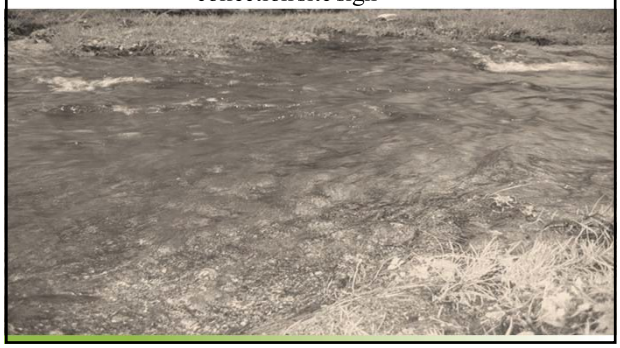
There can be 2 types of washing sites, which may combine into the one site



Search decisions are made based on washing site sign.

Make search decisions based on water collection sites.

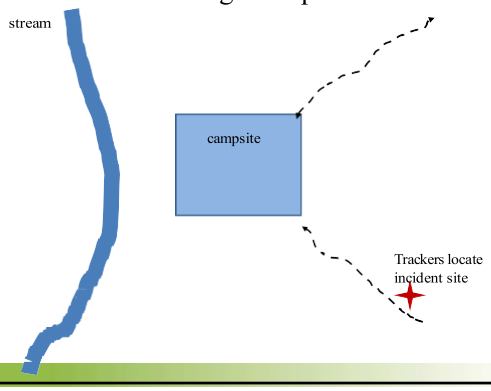
Search decisions are made based on water collection site sign



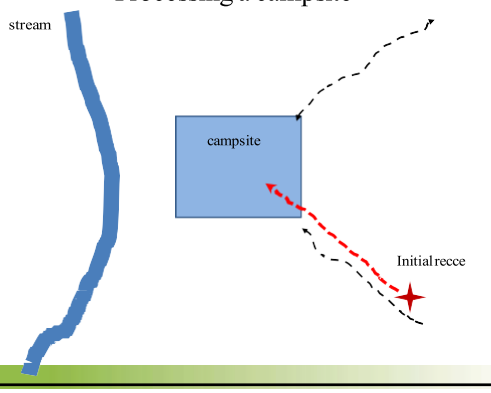
Search decisions that can be made from sign or clues

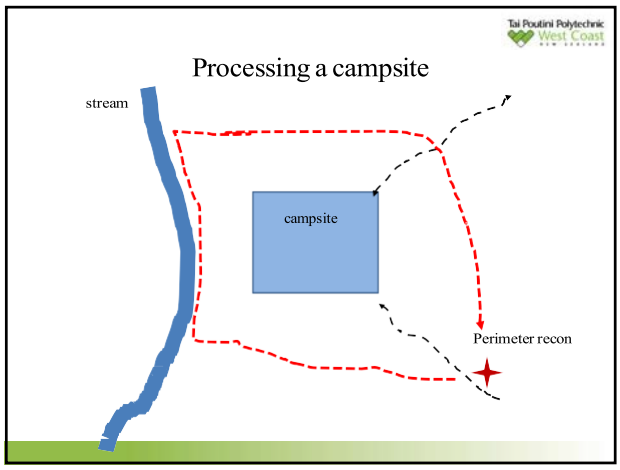
Make search decisions based on abandoned camp sites.

Processing a campsite



Processing a campsite

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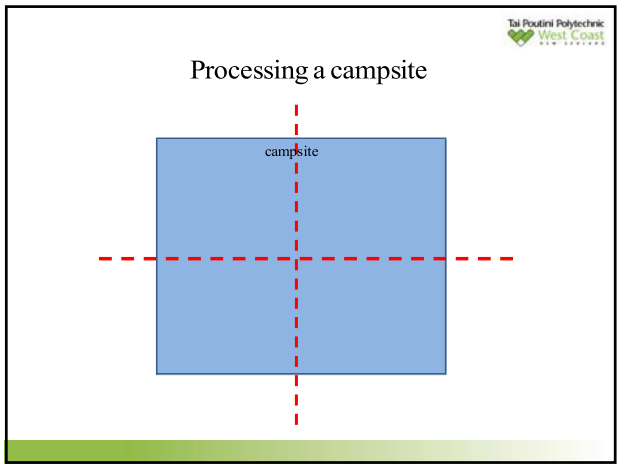
Processing a campsite
stream
campsite
Perimeter recon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campsite

Enjoy your travels