



SARA Monthly Update: August 2009

SARA Callout Review

A brief overview of some of our recent calls

Wednesday July 8, 2009 10:46-16:13

A female hiker injured the bottom of her foot while scrambling barefoot up Romero Canyon just below the pools. SARA members as well as GRFD, NWFD and SARCI groups hiked in to assist her. On scene the lacerations were treated and her foot splinted. The subject was able to bear weight on her heel and was able to assist in climbing out of the canyon. A medical helicopter was able to land near the pools and the patient was flown out of the field. The cooperation between the numerous agencies on this callout was exceptional.

From July 10 to July 15 SARA was requested for exhausted hikers five times. The breakdown: four out of the six patients were airlifted out of the field, One was carried to trailhead and one rode a horse out. Two calls were in Saguaro National Park East, Two were in the front range of the Catalinas and one was on the top of Mt. Lemmon. More details on these calls can be found in the SARCI newsletter.

To read about all of our calls this month please visit the SARCI newsletter at <http://sarci.org/newsletter>



Training

02

Recap of the monthly training and a look to next month.



Search Theory

03

Part 4 of a series from David Lovelock

Upcoming events

Basecamp and Beyond Recap

The base camp training on July 11, 2009 covered base camp operations. The exercise was held off Willow Canyon Rd, giving everyone a nice opportunity to escape the heat. Thanks to Gary Copus and Mykle Raymond for bringing the rescue trucks up.

August training: Basic Rock

When: August 8, 2009 0800-1300

Where: Rendezvous 106

Who: All SARA members and candidates are welcome

Basic Rock focuses on off trail movement with rescue loads. We will be exploring Soldier canyon, expect warm weather and a lot of scrambling. This is not a rope training, harnesses are not needed but helmets are required.

August 13' 2009

Have a friend interested in joining SARA? This years recruitment dates are July 14th and August 13th. They only need to attend one session. The hike is scheduled for Sunday September 6th..

September Training: Personal Rope skills

When: September 5, 2009

Where: SARA craycroft house

Who: All SARA members and candidates

This training covers your personal safety while on rope, using a Purcell to mind edges



Construction continues on the Sabino house. Currently the shell is completed and doors and windows are up. Electrical and plumbing are in progress. We are still looking for in kind or monetary donations. Some projects can be completed by SARA members willing to donate time and labor; contact Rich Kunz if you have any questions.

Remember this is *our* house. We need help to get it finished. This is a great way to get involved. The building committee meets regularly on Wednesday nights at 6:30pm at the Sabino house.

Mark your Calendars:

August 8th: Basic Rock

August 14th: SARA recruitment

September 5th: Personal Rope Skills

September 6th: Recruitment hike

Search Techniques part 4

Author: David Lovelock

What is the Consensus Process?

When a hasty search turns into a large-scale search, an immediate task for the command staff is to identify the search area, and then divide it into non-overlapping segments. The region outside the search area is called ROW (Rest of the World). There is always a chance that the subject is in the ROW.

The next task is to identify the “hot” segments, which determines which to search first. We do this by putting together a small team of experienced search planners who are familiar with the search area. This team openly discusses the status of the search, the subject’s habits, and the search area. Then each expert independently estimates the chance that the subject is in each segment by using a Consensus process to prioritize the search segments.

There are a variety of Consensus processes, the three most common being the Mattson method, the O’Connor method (sometimes called the modified Mattson method), and the Proportional method.

- **The Mattson Method.** Here the individuals decide on the probability that the subject is in each of the search segments and the ROW, and assigns a numerical value to all these regions. Each has a value between 0% and 100%, and the sum of all values is 100%. Thus, a value of 30% for Segment 1 means that the individual thinks there is a 30% chance the subject is in Segment 1.
- **The O’Connor Method.** This requires the individual to
 1. Assign a numerical value between 0% and 100% to the ROW, which represents the individual’s opinion of the chance that the subject is not in the search area. Thus, a value of 30% for ROW means that the

individual thinks there is a 30% chance the subject out of the search area.

2. For each segment, the individual selects from the letters A through I according to the table:
 - A. Very likely in this segment
 - B.
 - C. Likely in this segment
 - D.
 - E. Even chance
 - F.
 - G. Unlikely in this segment
 - H.
 - I. Very unlikely in this segment

These letters are then converted to numerical values according to a well-defined algorithm.

- **The Proportional Method.** This requires the responder to
 1. As in the Mattson and O’Connor methods, assign a numerical value between 0% and 100% to the ROW.
 2. Select an initial likelihood for each segment. Each segment requires a number from 1 to 1000. The numbers 1 and 1000 do not have to be used. It is not a percentage. If one segment has the number 100 assigned to it a second the number 25, this is interpreted as saying that the subject is 4 times as likely to be in the first segment than the second. These letters are then converted to numerical values according to a specific algorithm.

No matter which of these three methods an individual uses, each segment and the ROW end up with a numerical probability. To find the consensus, we average these numbers.

Notice, it is pointless going through this process if the subject is moving from one segment to another.

A consensus is performed only once per search, unless the original search area was misidentified.