

<b>Tracking Environment Type</b>			
<b>Type 1 Extreme / Complex Environment</b>	<b>Type 2 Rugged Environment</b>	<b>Type 3 Moderate / Gentle Environment</b>	<b>Type 4 Gentle Environment</b>
All terrains, wilderness, backcountry to suburban. Highly contaminated, minimal or old sign. Crime scenes, complex problems, day and night.	Most terrains, some contamination of sign. Rural, off road or trail. Not highly traveled, moderate problems, day and night.	Uncontaminated open field areas, natural light.	Open fields, streets, parking lots, residential yards, natural or artificial lighting.

<b>Recommended Capabilities and Skills</b>				
	<b>Type 1</b>	<b>Type 2</b>	<b>Type 3</b>	<b>Type 4</b>
<b>Can be Deployed to Environment Type</b>	1/2/3/4	2/3/4	3/4	4
<b>Tracking Skills</b>	See Appendix A	See Appendix B	See Appendix C	See appendix D
<b>Operation Periods w/o External Support</b>	Multiple operational periods without external support.	Two operational periods without external support.	One 12 hour operational period without external support.	One 8 hour operational period.
<b>Medical Skills</b>	Current First Aid / CPR, First Responder or EMT recommended.	Current First Aid / CPR	Current First Aid/CPR	Current First Aid /CPR
<b>Radio Communications</b>	In addition to requirements for Type 2, team members should have additional training in the use of radios under difficult conditions.	Familiar with basic radio communications skills. Understand the use of Mutual Aid Radio Frequencies and basic radio etiquette.	Familiar with basic radio communications skills. Understand the use of Mutual Aid Radio Frequencies and basic radio etiquette.	Familiar with basic radio communications and radio etiquette skills.
<b>Knowledge of NIMS/SEMS/ ICS</b>	Current NIMS/SEMS requirement	Current NIMS/SEMS requirement	Current NIMS/SEMS requirement	Must be familiar with ICS.
<b>Helicopter Operations</b>	Basic helicopter safety. Knowledge and familiarity with hot and cold, loading / unloading and establishing a landing site. Knowledge of short haul/hoist.	Basic helicopter safety. Knowledge and familiarity with hot and cold, loading / unloading and establishing a landing site. Knowledge of short haul/hoist.	Basic helicopter safety. Knowledge and familiarity with hot and cold, loading / unloading and establishing a landing site. Knowledge of short haul/hoist.	Basic helicopter safety. Knowledge and familiarity with hot and cold, loading / unloading and establishing a landing site.
<b>Navigation</b>	Determine and communicate position, navigate point to point with GPS and map/compass, route finding.	Determine and communicate position, navigate point to point with GPS and map/compass, route finding.	Determine and communicate position, navigate point to point with GPS and map/compass, route finding.	Determine and communicate position, street address, intersection or location.
<b>Fitness</b>	Fitness appropriate for conditions, terrain and mission.	Fitness appropriate for conditions, terrain and mission.	Fitness appropriate for conditions, terrain and mission.	Fitness appropriate for conditions, terrain and mission.
<b>Rope Skills</b>	Basic rope safety, low angle rope skills. Self evacuation.	Basic rope safety, low angle rope skills. Self evacuation.	Knowledge of basic knots. Assist with packaging and litter work.	None required

<b>Crime Scene Protection</b>	Familiar with basic crime scene protection, chain of evidence and documentation.	Familiar with basic crime scene protection, chain of evidence and documentation.	Familiar with basic crime scene protection, chain of evidence and documentation.	Familiar with basic crime scene protection, chain of evidence and documentation.
<b>Personal / Team Equipment</b>	See Appendix B	See Appendix B	See Appendix B	Equipment appropriate for immediate mission.

## Appendix A

### Specific training and skills requirements:

#### Type 1

- Have the ability to obtain incident critical information, PLS, LKP and other pertinent details from an Incident Commander / SAR manager or other authorities and witnesses as appropriate.

Have the ability to locate and identify specific footprints in highly contaminated environment. Track multiple subjects, follow a complicated routing, with areas of complexity.

- Have the knowledge and experience to evaluate the application of tracking as a viable resource to a particular incident described. Keeping in mind the policies and procedures of the authorizing law enforcement agency.
- Be able to assist the Incident Commander / SAR manager through physical evidence verification of factors to establish or assure identifications, such as sign ageing, direction of travel, number of persons, conflicting witness statements, physical and mental characteristics of the sign maker. All elements which could effect overall operations.
- Have leadership abilities and professionalism in assisting the on scene official to coordinate and brief teams using accepted SAR management concepts. Utilize available personnel to reach a logical conclusion expeditiously.
- Be able to articulate your knowledge, reasoning, experience and tracking skills to recognize and resolve sign contradictions, conflicts and contamination complexities.
- Be able to cut sign effectively and efficiently using all recommended sign cutting practices, procedures and techniques, including techniques from a moving vehicle or animal, i.e. quad runner, SUV, horse, mule, or other.
- Be able to perform an organized, systematic examination of all evidence at a crime scene, both interior and exterior building sites.
- Be able to document your participation in a tracking mission by completing and submitting a timely and comprehensive written report to proper authorities of tracking actions, decisions and operations, and the results based on information provided and actions requested by authorities.

## Appendix B

### Type 2

- Have the ability to obtain incident critical information, PLS, LKP and other pertinent details from an Incident Commander / SAR Manager or other authorities or witnesses as appropriate.
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- Be able to assist the Incident Commander / SAR Manager through physical evidence verification of factors to establish or assure identifications, such as sign aging, direction of travel and number of persons.
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- Have the ability to locate and identify specific footprints in a moderately contaminated environment, using verbal description, measurements, age of sign and other comparison means.
- Be able to recognize, identify, define and describe simple ageing observed.
- Have the tracking skills to assist a tracking team to determine the direction of travel of one or more persons at and from a specific site and be able to move identified prints along a sign line complicated by moderate contamination and controversy.
- Have the knowledge and understanding of the accepted use of sign cutting procedures in a tracking team format.
- Be able to properly use multiple cutting team operations including perimeter cutting, single and double team cutting techniques, open field and natural / man-made barrier cutting.
- Have the ability to recognize, identify, define and describe obvious individual sign maker characteristics apparent in a particular sign line.
- Be able to document your participation in a tracking mission by completing and submitting a timely written and comprehensive report to authorities. Documenting tracking operations and results based upon information provided and actions requested by authorities.

## Appendix C

### Type 3

- Have the ability to obtain incident critical information, PLS, LKP and other pertinent details from an Incident Commander / SAR Manager or other authorities and witnesses as appropriate.
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- Have the ability to locate and identify footprints in an uncontaminated environment.
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- Use generally accepted tracking terms and definitions to correctly identify and communicate to others the various types of sign and tracking descriptions found in the field.
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- Make an acceptable drawing of subject footprints and identify by using proper measurements and descriptions that would be shared with team members and search officials.
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- Be able to set up and use a tracking stick for the generally accepted “step-by-step” method.
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- Actual field experience in functioning effectively in each position of the three person tracking team in actively moving sign, including marking and preserving the identified tracks.
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- Have the ability to recognize specific characteristics found in different types of footgear impressions in vegetation, loose debris and on exposed soil in a relatively uncontaminated open field area.

## Appendix D

### Type 4

Have the ability to obtain incident critical information, PLS, LKP and other pertinent details from an Incident Commander / SAR Manager or other authorities and witnesses as appropriate. Should be able to advise of additional tracker resources necessary to complete the mission.

Use generally accepted tracking terms and definitions to correctly identify and communicate to others the various signs of tracking descriptions found in the field.

Make acceptable drawings of subject footprints and identify by proper measurements and descriptions that could be shared and documented.

May be the only qualified tracker on scene. Will have to team with whatever resources are available at the time.

## Appendix E

### Suggested tracking team equipment:

Tracking Specific Equipment	Team	Individual
Tracking stick with 3 rubber bands		X
Measuring device (small tape measure suggested)		X
Notebook, tracking cards, writing instrument, flagging		X
Inter-Team radios (FRS or similar)		X
Incident wide radio equipment (Agency radio)	X	
24 hour pack (Type 2 and 3 teams)		X
72 hour pack (Type 1 team)		X
GPS	X	
Digital Camera	X	
Flashlight with standard bulb (non-LED)		X
Mirror		X

### Summary

A Tracking Team usually consists of three persons trained in the specific skills of human tracking and sign cutting. Tracking Teams generally work independently of other types of teams involved in the search and rescue effort, and normally in a capacity that has the capability of determining the overall conduct or direction of the search. It cannot be overemphasized that tracking is best utilized in the early stages of a search when evidence (sign / clues) is least contaminated by well-meaning searchers.

Because of the specialized nature of tracking, and the vital importance that it can play, tracking team members must possess highly specialized skills. The importance of specific, on-going training and skills development cannot be over emphasized. Whether or not tracking can be effective in a particular environment or situation should be the decision of the most qualified tracker. Although wilderness or urban environments should not be a major factor when requesting professionally trained trackers, Type 1 and occasionally Type 2 trackers will have the most field experience in more varied terrain and climate zones.

Tracking team members need to be well trained and experienced in all search and rescue disciplines, and have the tenacity to undertake a difficult tracking mission, and follow it through to conclusion. Trackers experienced in law enforcement and investigations are well suited for criminal evidence or fugitive searches and may not be trained in all search and rescue disciplines.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

<p>Cpl. Walt Jones Nevada County Sheriff's Office SAR Coordinator</p> <p>Scott Woodland Nevada County Sheriff's Office SAR Volunteer Tracker</p> <p>Jo Peterson Siskiyou County Sheriff's Department / SAR Tracking Coordinator</p> <p>Steve Hill Sacramento Sheriff's Office SAR Coordinator</p> <p>Sgt. Steve Huntington Contra Costa Sheriff's Office Volunteer services Coordinator</p> <p>Monty Bell San Diego Sheriff's Office SAR</p>	<p>Sgt. Dave Nicholson Siskiyou County Sheriff's Department SAR Coordinator</p> <p>Bill Balfrey Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office UTS Signcutter</p> <p>Al Nabong Sacramento County Sheriff's Office Tracker</p> <p>Fernando Moreira Washoe County sheriff's Office Mantracking Associates of Nevada</p> <p>George Dresnek Sonoma County Sheriff's Office SAR Volunteer</p> <p>Joe Spier Placer County Sheriff's Office SAR MRT</p>
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