

# SMEAC – Team Briefing Sheet

## Situation

### Overview of the situation

e.g. Car with one elderly female swept into River Dent at 20.00 hours. Point last seen G.R. 473764

## Mission

### What this team is to undertake

e.g. An effective search from bridge G.R. 366366 to bridge G.R. 367488.

## Execution

### Plan of action

e.g. Your team: Jim Beam (party leader), Charlotte Clarke, Ollie Hensman and Tom Jones. Party leader to brief on arrival at search area. Allocate one searcher and two downstream backup.

## Administration

### Essential equipment and resources

e.g. Each person must be equipped with: Torch, Helmet, Throwline, Whistle, Knife, Walking Boots...  
Group Equipment: Radio, Map, Mobile Phone, First Aid Kit...

## Command & Communication

### Who is in control

e.g. John Franks control and coordination, base channel 43b, base phone number 01539 71234, John Franks mobile 0076 3921.

## General

- **Never** work on your own.
- Moving water is extremely **powerful**
- River banks are **unstable** – often undercut and prone to collapse.
- Driving in flood conditions is **extremely dangerous**: You may not be able to see **undermined roads prone to collapse**. Your vehicle can easily be **swept** into the main stream. If in doubt **walk**.
- Regard all water as **polluted**.

## Searching

- **Allocate** a Sub-team Leader and **brief** on arrival at your search area.
- **Know** where all your colleagues are at all times.
- **Deploy** downstream backup.
- **Minimum kit**: helmet, buoyancy aid, knife, whistle, throwlines and good boots.

## River Crossing

- Mountain Rescue has had some very **near misses** when crossing streams and rivers (including casualties strapped to stretches.)
- **Stop, assess and decide as a group**.
- Use a **recognised technique** such as 'line astern' – they work!
- **Undo** rucksack straps and belts.
- If the flow is more powerful than anticipated, **return** to your starting point and **identify** another location; it may be a long walk or you may have to sit it out.

## Notes