

A collection of police and search and rescue memorabilia is displayed on a light-colored surface. On the left, a blue and white checkered board with several small, round, light-colored pieces is visible. Below it, a pair of gold-rimmed glasses with thin temples lies horizontally. To the right of the glasses, a silver compass with a white face and black markings is partially visible. In the upper left, a red ribbon with a circular emblem is attached to a gold star-shaped medal. Below that, a blue ribbon with a circular emblem is attached to another gold star-shaped medal. A small, gold-colored star-shaped object is also visible near the center of the image.

APDST Anchorage Police Department Auxiliary Search Team

Volunteers in Police
Service (VIPS)

National Association
for Search and Rescue
(NASAR)



History/Statistics

Created in 1999 by Sgt. Barry Reid who saw a need for volunteer assistance when APD was tasked with a Search.

Since inception the APDST has contributed over 7000 man hours of service to the community.

Through 2003 we were called out on searches for

- 34 missing children
- 18 missing adults
- 12 evidence searches

Who We are!

The APDST is made up of men and women from all walks of life. From an Alaskan Fish and Game officer to a CPA. From an entrepreneur to a retired Anchorage fire fighter. From a National Guard SAR instructor to an Alaskan state attorney.





Finds

We have found children, adults and Alzheimer's patients. Bodies of suicide victims and inebriates. Guns used in robberies, and kidnappings and items from a sexual assault. We have recovered bullet casings fired at a float plane and an officer. We have gassed from tear gas used in a hostage situation while looking for and recovering the gun used and thrown in the snow.

Why we volunteer

We want to serve the community. We see the need for trained SAR manpower to assist APD due to the significant resources expended during search and rescue efforts. If we are at the scene more officers are available to respond to other community needs.





Types of Searches APDST Is Called to Assist With

Missing Person
Evidence

When to call us

APD Officers spend significant time looking for reported lost citizens.

Depending on the age of the individual, weather conditions and circumstances the APDST may be called out once the officer has spent time looking for the individual and is unsuccessful. This could be as little as 15 minutes. The earlier the team is put on standby the faster it can respond.





Type of responses needed by APD

1. Informational response

Officer calls “on call” Incident Command person or Director to discuss appropriate response for team participation

2. Stand by page

3. All page



What happens when you request us!

A page is sent from APD Dispatch or the Director to all APDST members. We all carry Municipality of Anchorage issued pagers
24/7

We turn on our 800 MHZ radios and listen for information from net control then drive to the scene with our gear.



Establishing Incident Command

While one member is gathering information from the on scene officer the IC team is setting up the Incident Command.

Team members are signed in as they arrive

The IC awaits the report from the team member filling out the Missing Person Data Sheet.



IC

Info from the Lost Person Data sheet is reviewed

Characteristics of lost person established

Planning determines Probability of Area
(POA)

Areas determined by POA outlined

Teams are created

IC team determines tasking and priorities

Operations deploys teams

IC team monitors teams in field

Search concluded

After Action Review



Characteristics of Lost people

1 to 3 years old

Unaware of concept of being lost

Navigational skills non-existent

Do not respond to whistles or calls

Often seek out a place to lie down and sleep

Search high priority areas close to last known point



3 to 6 years old

Have a developing concept of being lost
and will attempt to return home

One way explorations
Use tracks or trails
and short cuts not obvious to an adult

May become lost following an animal or a group of older
children

May not respond to searchers having been taught to not talk
to strangers



7 to 12 years old

They are learning to construct primitive mental maps of their environment

Frequently lost while attempting short cuts to a familiar location

May intentionally run away to avoid punishment or gain attention

Often resort to trail running which may take them farther from the Point Last Seen (PLS)

SEARCH TECHNIQUE

Call school roster

Confinement should be high priority

Check with friends for secret places

Look for landmarks, high points, ponds, etc...

13 to 15 years old

More highly developed directional skills
Frequently lost in groups while exploring
Will usually respond to calls and whistles



Despondents

Do not travel far
Seeking solitude
Frequently located at an interface of terrain
Scenic Location
May hide to avoid searchers
High fatality rate





Wanderers

Alzheimer's, Dementia and Autism

Impaired memory to sense surroundings

Hard of hearing

Perceptual distortions

Will not cry out for help or respond to shouts

Usually found a short distance from a road near a creek or
drainage

96% found within 1.5 miles of Last Known Point

Project Life Saver

www.projectlifesaver.org



Historical Searches

Johnson Brothers



Other area SAR resources

AST/Helo 1

AMRG

Nordic Ski Patrol





ASARD

Alaska Search and Rescue Dogs