

What we do?

- Search for missing people in the wilderness and urban settings
- Team members are sometimes called upon to assist with evidence searches.

There is a general team meeting once a month and one team training every month. There is additional training for people interested in “type 1”, mechanized (ATV), mounted (horse), K-9 and incident management.

- Team members are trained in medical aid to at least a first responder level (at a minimal cost)
- This is a volunteer organization so there is some personal cost for equipment.
- We have fund raisers to help raise money for equipment
- Sometimes called upon to assist neighboring counties with searches (mutual aid). This is provided as a service between all of the counties in California at no cost to the requesting agency.
- Most searches resolve within 4–12 hours but some may continue on for 48–72 hours or longer (which would normally end up becoming a mutual aid incident). Our members are volunteers so they come to searches when they can but family and work come first, we aren’t expecting you to give up your life. After all, it is a volunteer commitment.

Our mission is to provide responsive, efficient and professional search for those who are missing in the wilderness and other urban areas. Our team consists of volunteers who dedicate their time and efforts to assist the Sheriff’s organization and help find lost individuals. Our team excels to the best of their abilities and relies on their trained knowledge to recover missing people and contribute in any other aid necessary. Our team members are trained in medical aid to at least a first responder level. This volunteer team is a non-profitable organization that may require some personal costs for equipment. We have conducted fund raisers to help raise money for the equipment to keep the cost inexpensive for the volunteer members. Occasionally the Search and Rescue team will be called upon to assist neighboring counties with searches and mutual aid. This is provided as a service between all of the counties in California at no cost to the requesting agency. Most searches resolve within 4–12 hours but some may continue on for 48–72 hours or longer (which would normally end up becoming a mutual aid incident). Our members are volunteers so they come to searches when they can but family and work come first, we aren’t expecting you to give up your life. After all, it is a volunteer commitment.

Search and Rescue Resources?

Ground units – Usually consist of two or more foot searchers are dispatched from the command post, each unit with a radio, GPS device and their 24 hour pack. These teams are given maps of the area, an assignment, and a briefing regarding the subject. They search their assigned areas conducting voice calls for the subject, looking for tracks and other clues. These teams can expect to either stay in the field for extended periods, or go through several shorter assignments.

K-9 - Search Dogs are utilized, and are either bloodhounds or air-scent dogs. These dogs have extensive training before they are certified to be used by OES. Bloodhounds look for a particular person, using a piece of clothing known to have been worn by the subject. An air-scent dog will locate anybody in a certain area; they are good for clearing large areas. These teams consist of the dog handler, the dog (of course), and one or more search team members.

Mounted unit - Mounted team members are used to clear longer, more strenuous assignments. In general a horse mounted team can clear three times the distance that a ground team can.

Mutual aid - Mutual Aid is called from surrounding areas when our search resources are used to their limits. All state agencies have a mutual aid agreement that basically says “.when you need help we will come. If we need help, we are going to call you.” This is an agreement all state agencies have in the state of California that also means that the requesting agency will not be billed for the aid.