

Nova Scotia Landowner and Forest Fibre Producers Association Emergency Response Procedures

Overdue / Lost Persons Response

- 1/ **Recognize the problem** : Person overdue to check in or returning from field
: Person reported missing
- 2/ **Evaluate the hazards** : Season - current ; forecasted weather
: Time of day / daylight remaining (helicopter searches daylight only)
: Missing persons skill level and level of preparedness
- 3/ **Take control** : Notify fellow workers and supervisor
: Determine expected or last known location
- 4/ **Call for help** : Call 911 and have all location (directions) information ready
: Give a brief description of situation (how long overdue, site access, medical information, etc)
- 5/ **Take action** : Initiate initial search to find vehicle or entry point and exit point if different. Blow horn or whistle three time every few minutes . Make sure the searchers know where to start . Drive along nearest road ways .
: When search team arrives make sure they are fully briefed on the situation including any medical issues the lost person may have .
- 6/ When the search is over do a **debriefing** . If necessary have a professional do a critical incident stress debriefing if needed . Complete the necessary report if required .

If you are the lost Person

- 1/ **Recognize the problem** : Stop as soon as you realize you may be lost.
- 2/ **Evaluate the Hazards** : Season, weather conditions, terrain, time of day
- 3/ **Take control ; Stay calm** . Your mental attitude is very important.
: Use cell phone or activate spot devise if you have one and give directions to last known location
: Sit down and take a drink of water if you have one.
- 4/ **Take control : Think** – go over in your mind how you got where you are . Are there any land marks you should be able to see ?
: If you have a map , photo or compass to identify land marks that you should be able to find, This may be enough to get re-oriented.
: Do not start walking unless you have a reason for doing so . Remember that with random walking you have a greater than 75% chance of going in the **wrong** direction.
- 5/ **Take Action** ; If you believe that you are re-oriented than start in that direction but time you length of

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travel and observe the land marks so you can return if that does not work out.

: If you are unable to get re-oriented than try to find a opening in the forest cover so you can be seen from the air . Stay in that ,spot until help arrives.

: If you have a whistle blow it in a series of three blasts

: Try to stay dry and warm , start a camp fire if you have the resources

: **STAY CLAM**

6/ When you hear the searchers, let them come to you, especially at night.