

Questions to ask a Lost Subject who self-reports by Cell Phone

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With the increased usage of cell phones, more and more subjects are reporting themselves lost via a cell phone. Interviewing these subject requires a different mind set from interviewing a typical reporting party.

1. Location

- (a) Where did you start from? How long ago?
- (b) Where is your vehicle?
- (c) What does your vehicle look like (make/model/color/plate)?
- (d) What was your destination?
- (e) What does the terrain around you look like? Are you in pines, cactus, wash, landmarks?
- (f) Can you take a photo of your current view plus any shots of your route, and then send by cell phone?
- (g) Can you see the city or lights?
- (h) Can you tell where North is?
- (i) What is the weather like where you are?
- (j) What time did you start hiking?
- (k) How long have you been hiking?
- (l) Describe the route you took to where you are?
- (m) Did you follow a trail or go cross country?
- (n) Were there any significant points along the way?
- (o) Can you hear anything (traffic/waterfall)?
- (p) Is there anyone we can contact to inform and reassure them of your circumstances? (This will enable you to find out more about the lost subject.)

2. Preparedness

- (a) How much food and water do you have?
- (b) How much food and water have you consumed?
- (c) How long were you planning to be out?
- (d) How much experience do you have?
- (e) What gear do you have, foot wear?
- (f) Do you have a light source? Can you signal aircraft or searcher?
- (g) Can you make fire or shelter?
- (h) Cell Phone number, send text if no answer.
- (i) What kind of cell phone (model)?
- (j) Carrier?
- (k) Tracking capability?
- (l) GPS/PLB/SPOT? ID/Provider?
- (m) Cell phone battery life?

3. Medical

- (a) What is your chief complaint (mechanism of injury, nature of illness)?
- (b) What is your current condition? Can you walk? Can you move? Self help? Treat?
- (c) What is your level of pain 1—10, 1 being no pain.

- (d) Do you have any allergies?
- (e) What is your medical history?
- (f) What medications are you taking?

4. Detectability

- (a) What is your description?
- (b) Clothing description? Shoes and prints?
- (c) Can you take a cell phone photograph of your shoe print and send it to us?
- (d) Will we be able to see you?
- (e) Can you signal aircraft or searcher? Do you have a smart phone or camera?
- (f) Can your phone give GPS coordinates?