Urban Search Urgency Guidelines

Urgency consideration and analysis should be completed as soon as possible. The relative urgency can be described as low, medium or high. The recommended response depends on the agency protocols and available resources but should progressively include the following steps.

Low Urgency	 Runaway/sneak away adults. Runaway children 14 – 18 years old. Fugitives of non-violent crimes. A miscommunication incident. Missing person is late returning from an activity. Little information available on missing person or incident.
Medium Urgency	 Mild mental disability. Alcoholic, drug users. Elderly. Children 14 - 18 years old.
High Urgency (At Risk)	 Mild to severe Alzheimer's disease (dementia). Children under the age of 14. Moderate to severe mental disability. Abducted children (witness or suspected). Kidnapped people (witness or suspected). Despondent or suicidal.

Low Urgency	 Investigation of the incident including interview of appropriate persons. BOLO for law enforcement agencies. Hasty search of area around PLS and likely places the person might be. 	
	 The above, plus activation of additional law enforcement and search teams. 	
Medium Urgency	 Expanded search effort with additional resources and search teams. Additional public notification, including media and electronic messaging. 	
High Urgency (At Risk)	 Full search effort using maximum available resources and tactics. Maximum public notification (AMBER, Missing Child, College Student or Vulnerable Adult Alert) Calling in mutual aid resources. 	

Increasing Urgency Factors

- Existing medical condition effecting ability to function.
- Lack of required medication.
- Insufficient clothing, food or shelter for the prevailing environmental conditions.
- Extreme environmental condition.
- Increased ability to travel, utilizing urban modes of transportation.
- Increasing time since missing, onset of night.
- Serious precipitating incident.
- Information or clues found pointing to higher urgency.

Decreasing Urgency Factors

- History of running away or erratic behavior.
- Two or more persons missing together.
- For suspected voluntary missing person, increasing time with no clues in search area.
- Information or clues pointing to lower urgency.

Urban Search Managing Missing Persons Searchers in the Urban Environment, Christopher S Young, John Wehbring2007

	SEARCH URGENCY CHART	Remember that the lo the number the more
Α.	NUMBER OF SUBJECTS B. AGE	urgent the response
	1 Person 1 Very young 1	
	2 People 2 Other 2-4	
	3 or more 3 Very old 1 (Unless separation suspected)	
C	$\longrightarrow \qquad \qquad$	\rightarrow ———
C.	Known illness requiring medication	1
	Suspected illness or injury	
	Healthy	
	Known fatality	
	Potential vision impairment	1
P		
D.	TIME Delichle munched (heing late is set of character)	1
	Reliable, punctual, <i>(being late is out of character)</i>	
	Reliability, punctuality questionable	
	Completely unreliable	
E.		
	At risk for any reason	
	Adequate information, low risk Questionable information	
	High probability not in the area	
	Ingli probability not in the area	·
F.	EXPERIENCE PROFILE	
	Not experienced, not familiar with the area	
	Not experienced, knows the area	2
	Experienced, not familiar with area	3
	Experienced, knows the area	4
G.	PHYSICAL CONDITION H. CLOTHING PROFILE	
	Unfit 1 Inadequate or insufficient - 1	
	Fit 2 Adequate2	
	Very fit 3 Very good 3	
I.	WEATHER PROFILE \longrightarrow	\rightarrow ———
1.	Existing hazardous weather	1
	Hazardous forecast (8 <i>hours or less</i>)	
	Hazardous forecast (more <i>than 8 hours</i>)	
	No hazardous weather forecast	
-		
J.	TERRAIN & HAZARDOUS PROFILE Known hazards	1
	Difficult terrain	
	Few hazards	
	Easy terrain, no known hazards	-
К.	EQUIPMENT PROFILE	1
	Inadequate for activity/environment	
	Questionable	
	Very well equipped	
	If any of the eleven categories are rated as (1), regardless of	г
	the total, the search may require an immediate response.	
	10-15 16-27 28-41	TOTAL
Ur	GENT RESPONSE MEASURED RESPONSE EVA;UATE AND INVESTIGAT	