

LAND
SEARCH AND RESCUE
TRACKER
LOG BOOK

Name: _____

From: _____ To: _____

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name:

Address:

City:

Province/State:

Postal/Zip Code:

Phone (Res):

(Bus):

Medical Profile:

EMERGENCY CONTACT

Name:

Address:

City:

Province/State:

Postal/Zip Code:

Phone (Res):

(Bus):

LAND SEARCH AND RESCUE TRACKING LOG

PURPOSE

To facilitate the recording of training, courses and SAR incidents for each individual on a land search and rescue tracking team.

When a person moves to another town or province/state, the log may be presented to the head of the team he/she wishes to join.

The log is a personal record of all TRACKING related activities. The log is proof of participation.

CERTIFICATION

Each entry must be certified by a qualified person from the team which the individual is a member of. Certification is done by UTS staff only.

STANDARDS

The standards appearing herein are the minimum standards considered necessary for TRACKING levels.

The standards are the UTS (Universal Tracking Services, Inc.) sign-cut program standards. These standards are recognized in Canada and the United States.

UNIVERSAL TRACKING SERVICES

SIGN CUT PROGRAM

OBJECTIVES

1. To provide an accredited, certified and recognized source of “tracking” training, consultation and expertise.
2. To promote and provide tracking as a viable tool or resource for law enforcement, search operations, military and industrial/installation security or other governmental and lawful organizations through a comprehensive training program.
3. To provide an accredited program of progressive levels of knowledge and skill development from Track Aware through to Sign Cutter.
4. To provide written performance standards equated to each training level.
5. To provide an evaluation program relative to stated performance standards with which to measure student performance of demonstrated knowledge and skill development.
6. To provide certification of student training achievement.
7. To provide an adequate staff of skilled and qualified instructor personnel to accomplish requested training courses.

SIGN CUTTING (TRACKING)

Sign cutting, or tracking as it is generally known, is the step by step following of an animal, person, or thing. Tracking is a skill that was developed by early man to obtain food and locate his enemies.

Tracking can be a valuable information gathering source. Tracks are clues, and can be the most numerous clues that a lost individual or law violator leaves behind. Experience has shown that trained trackers can soon establish the most likely area to identify sign, determine the number of persons, the direction of travel, age, sex, and psychological state, and physical condition of the subject. Tracking skills have contributed to finding scores of lost persons in the bush, and trained trackers successes in the apprehension of fugitives from the law are well documented.

UNIVERSAL TRACKING SERVICES

PROFESSIONAL TRACKING TITLES AND CERTIFICATIONS

The UTS program is skill development training that utilizes the following four training levels:

- | | |
|----------------|------------|
| 1. Track Aware | Beginner |
| 2. Tracker I | Apprentice |
| 3. Tracker II | Journeyman |
| 4. Sign Cutter | Artisan |

Progressive criteria for each training level are based on knowledge, practical experience, responsibility, and complexity of issues. Instructors evaluate the student's ability to demonstrate the practical application of tracking criteria factors during successive field training courses.

Certification of student training and skill level achievement is the decision of UTS instructors. Certification is not based on number, type, or title of courses attended but on demonstrated knowledge of tracking use, experience, and skill in practical application simulations and actual tracking mission operations.

UNIVERSAL TRACKING SERVICES students are undoubtedly the most formally schooled, best trained and most experienced tracking students in the United States (and Canada). UTS classes are all college accredited and police standards certified to meet or exceed Search and Rescue and Law Enforcement requirements. College accreditation is available through the community college systems in Washington, Oregon and California and the University of Alaska.

Certification of professional tracking skill levels will remain the decision of UTS STAFF and CHIEF INSTRUCTOR based on achievement of stated criteria and demonstrated ability, and not on number, type, or title of course attended. With a stated skill level certification program, trackers could be held accountable for decisions and opinions made in the field. Therefore the UTS SIGN CUT PROGRAM and instructional staff must ultimately be responsible for student certifications.

UTS is designating the following training skill level titles for which certification will be awarded upon achievement of stated criteria and demonstrated ability:

NOVICE; TRACKER I; TRACKER II; SIGN CUTTER.

NOVICE (TRACK AWARE)

Recipient must have successfully completed two or more UTS Tracking Aware courses or 60 accumulative hours recorded on the Novice Training Log during In House courses and training as prescribed, and with the recommendation of a qualified trainer, and in addition demonstrate to UTS staff the knowledge and ability to:

- ◆ Accept and understand that whenever a person moves about on foot they leave sign and that trained trackers are most often able to locate the physical evidence of that sign;
- ◆ Use glossary terms and definitions correctly to demonstrate recognition of various types of sign and tracking descriptions found in field training areas;
- ◆ Make an acceptable drawing of subject footprints and identify by using proper measurements and descriptions that would be shared with team members and search officials;

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- ◆ Demonstrate the proper UTS method of setting up and using a tracking stick on an identified line of sign;
- ◆ Demonstrate and explain the recognition and the visual evidence of simple sign aging characteristics found in the sign line;
- ◆ Discuss, explain and identify the functions of each position of the three person tracking team;
- ◆ Demonstrate the ability to function effectively, compatibly, and co-operatively in each position of the three person tracking team in actively moving sign along a simple sign line.
- ◆ Mark and preserve the identified tracks on a line of sign;
- ◆ Demonstrate the ability to recognize specific characteristics found in various different types of footgear impressions in vegetation, loose debris and on open soil areas of a relatively uncontaminated open field area;

Demonstrate the knowledge and ability to advise and assist NOVICE students to understand the pertinent history and progressive development of the UTS tracking program; to understand the concept that trained trackers “see what others look at and do not see” and to understand why trained trackers are a vital resource for land search efforts.

TRACKER I

Pre-requisite: Each applicant for consideration of Tracker I certification must hold a current UTS Track Aware Certificate, and additionally request of UTS staff the opportunity to demonstrate knowledge, experience and tracking skills to accomplish each of the following criteria elements:

- ◆ Respond, report properly and participate in tracking incidents as an apprentice level tracker;
- ◆ Demonstrate basic understanding of MSO/ICS/MLPS management practices and concepts that may be in place on scene of a tracking mission and describe how tracking resources might be affected;
- ◆ Demonstrate the knowledge and ability to recognize and identify, describe and explain all terms and types of sign listed in the glossary of terms;

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- ◆ Demonstrate the ability to locate and identify specific footprints co-mingled with others using measurements and other comparison means, and describe simple aging characteristics observed;
- ◆ Demonstrate the ability and tracking skills to effectively and efficiently assist a tracking team to identify, isolate and determine the direction of travel of one or more persons at and from a specific site;
- ◆ Demonstrate the ability and tracking skills to effectively and efficiently assist a tracking team to move an identified print along a sign line complicated by simple contamination and controversy;
- ◆ Demonstrate leadership is assisting a tracking team to locate and work identified sign;
- ◆ Demonstrate your knowledge of multiple tracking operations, describe and discuss practical use applications of such operations;
- ◆ Demonstrate the knowledge, recognition and proper use of multiple cutting team operations including perimeter cutting, single and double team cutting techniques, open field cutting and natural/man-made barrier cutting;

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- ◆ Demonstrate your knowledge and experience of when, where and how to use sign cutting operations. Use proper procedure and techniques in tracking team format to efficiently perform each sign cutting operation, and discuss the decision the decision factors you employed;
- ◆ Demonstrate your ability to recognize, identify and describe obvious individual sign maker characteristics apparent in a particular sign line;
- ◆ Demonstrate the ability to recognize, identify and describe examples of simple aging;
- ◆ Demonstrate the ability to recognize inter-personal relationships affecting team efficiency and effectiveness and make reasonable suggestions to address these issues and enhance team effectiveness and achievement;
- ◆ Demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the UTS evaluation format, practices and procedures and the need for such;
- ◆ Demonstrate your ability to correctly explain and discuss the certification criteria for the Track Aware and Tracker I certification levels;

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- ◆ Demonstrate your ability to assist Novice and Track Aware students to understand and properly use basic tracking concepts;
- ◆ Provide documentation that you have willingly assisted Tracker II level students with Track Aware presentations, classes, field practices and actual mission operations including note taking and writing comprehensive mission reports;
- ◆ Display a courteous demeanor and remain professional at all times, tactful, sensitive and considerate of all persons and supportive of the UTS program;
- ◆ Demonstrate that you are fully capable when no higher training level tracker is available for actual or training missions, to assume the responsibility as the best available resource and complete the mission to the full extent possible.

TRACKER II

Pre-requisite: Each applicant for Tracker II certification evaluation must hold a current Tracker I certification and in addition: demonstrate or document to UTS staff personnel your knowledge, experience, and tracking skill to effectively and efficiently accomplish each of the following criteria elements with proficiency.

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- ◆ Demonstrate a professional personal presentation as you would in responding to a tracking mission as a responsible UTS certified Tracker II, expressing your knowledge, experience and special training;
- ◆ Demonstrate full understanding of all portions and practices of the UTS training program, the certification levels and all criteria, the evaluation format and all elements, the “train the trainer,” Tracking Field Coordinator, Tracking Field Team Leaders, etc;
- ◆ Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of MSO/MLPS/ICS management concepts and practices that would most probably be in effect at a tracking mission, and a proper professional response of trained trackers;
- ◆ Demonstrate your training and ability to obtain incident information, PLS, LKP and other pertinent details that may be available from the Incident Commander/SAR manager or other authorities and witnesses as appropriate;
- ◆ Demonstrate your knowledge and experience to evaluate the appropriate application of tracking as an incident resource, articulate your reasoning and the decision making process you would follow with on site authorities and other resources and witnesses;

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- ◆ Demonstrate or/and document during training simulations and actual missions your knowledge, experience and tracking skill to render ICS Commander assistance through physical evidence examination and possible gathering additional information pertaining to the incident;
- ◆ Demonstrate during training simulations or actual mission documentation your professional assistance to the Incident Commander/SAR manager through physical evidence verification of factors to establish or assure identifications, informational factors such as sign aging, direction of travel, number of persons, conflicting witness statements, physical and mental characteristics of the sign maker which could effect overall operations;
- ◆ Demonstrate your knowledge, ability and experience to maintain appropriate and adequate communications with incident officials of sign observations and your ability to assist by making reasoned and appropriate tracking team assignments;
- ◆ Demonstrate your leadership abilities and professionalism to assist the on scene official in co-ordinating and briefing tracking teams using accepted SAR management concepts;

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- ◆ Demonstrate the training, experience and ability to work compatibly and efficiently in any tracking team without regard to other members experience or training and remain disciplined to proper teamwork techniques and operations;
- ◆ Demonstrate leadership characteristics, knowledge of inter-personal relationships, decision making techniques and take charge in a Tracking Team Field Co-ordinator role when appropriate to insure overall mission effectiveness;
- ◆ Demonstrate your knowledge and ability to recognize inter-personal relationship issues that negatively effect teamwork and articulate your knowledge and experience in discussing and taking actions to resolve these issues;
- ◆ Demonstrate and articulate your knowledge, reasoning, experience and tracking skills to recognize and resolve sign contradictions, conflicts and contamination complexities;
- ◆ Demonstrate your ability and tracking skills to follow a somewhat complicated sign routing, with areas of complexity and utilize available trained personnel to reach a logical conclusion expeditiously;

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- ◆ Demonstrate and articulate understanding, experience and tracking skills to sign cut effectively and efficiently in using all UTS Sign Cutting practices, procedures and techniques (Single and Double Cutting Operations, Field and Perimeter Cutting Operations) and in locating, selecting and cutting natural and man-made barriers;
- ◆ Demonstrate your ability to document your participation on a tracking mission. Upon completion of an actual tracking mission (may be accomplished during simulated missions) complete and submit a timely and comprehensive written report to proper authorities of tracking actions, decisions and operations, and the results based on information provided and actions requested;
- ◆ Demonstrate your knowledge, experience, and personal aptitude to make track aware presentations, including field practices to requesting regional units and members to introduce tracking concepts and basic track awareness. Further, to adequately prepare novice students to become a viable SAR resource and with your recommendation apply for and receive UTS Track Aware certification; (Students should request opportunities to demonstrate these aspects during training sessions from UTS staff. Applicant novice students submitting com-

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pleted training logs, requesting and receiving evaluation for Track Aware certification is evidence of this criteria element.)

- ◆ Complete and initial Novice Tracking Training Logs noting appropriate evaluation comments and remarks including recommendations for Track Aware certification;
- ◆ Remain professional at all times, tactful, sensitive and considerate of all persons, displaying courteous demeanor and supportive of all UTS program members and aspects.

SIGN CUTTER

Pre-requisite: Each challenging student must have been at the time of application for this certification an active Tracker II student for a period of not less than two (2) years, and in addition:

This is the highest training level certification offered by Universal Tracking Services. Student applicants successfully challenging for this certification must demonstrate a comfortable professional confidence evolved through consistent practical application of all Tracker II criteria over a period of time. Students at this level will be accomplished trackers, frequent missing person mission and crime scene

investigation participants, they will be experienced UTS tracking trainers and presenters. These persons will be true tracking professionals, competent in all mission situations, responsible leaders and incident managers.

In addition to the forgoing each applicant must demonstrate or document to the UTS Chief Instructor the knowledge, experience, and tracking skill to meet each of the following criteria elements:

- ◆ Demonstrate responding to a tracking mission and present yourself as a full field performance UTS Tracker II with training and ability to manage personnel and effect the highest level of tracking knowledge, experience and tracking skills;
- ◆ Explain, justify and demonstrate the reasoning used to evaluate appropriateness of sign cutting as a mission resource in all situations even though initial reports and information may be confused, conflicting, misleading, and including instances and issues of sign more than thirty days old and up to periods of twelve months.
- ◆ Demonstrate ease and professionalism in gaining permission from reluctant on scene authorities and effecting a successful interrogation of reluctant witnesses relative to the instant tracking incident or mission.
- ◆ Demonstrate ease and confidence to tactfully and suc-

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cessfully achieve a secondary interview or interrogation when initial reports and information are conflicting, confused, disorganized, and misleading, even when witnesses may be reluctant.

- ◆ Demonstrate finesse, confidence, unqualified tracking skills and intuition to locate PLS and identify footprints of missing person in areas contaminated by numerous other persons or in complex situations caused by natural elements, untimely reporting, location or other conditions;
- ◆ Demonstrate unqualified accuracy to interpret sign evidence at PLS or crime scene to resolve conflicting and/or misleading witness statements or confusion as to actions, age or events;
- ◆ Demonstrate complete knowledge and experience in adapting MLPS/MSO/ICS management concepts to the instant mission. Co-ordinate with responsible officials to organize, initiate and carry out multiple team tracking operations by making recommendations and directing tracking team make-up and deployment;
- ◆ Demonstrate your ability to garner a request for assistance to co-ordinate with SAR managers, assist decision making based on sign evidence i.e. interview of witnesses, use of SAR resources, new directions or extend/curtail search areas;

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- ◆ Readily assume leadership position while incurring total assent and trust of personnel in assigning and deploying sign cut teams to primary and secondary or perimeter cut areas;
- ◆ Demonstrate knowledge and experience in conducting on-going operational critiques to insure that the most appropriate team deployment to move sign as quickly and efficiently as possible is accomplished;
- ◆ Demonstrate expertise in resolving issues of ageing, mistaken sign, lost sign and contaminated sign in difficult tracking areas for less experienced tracking teams and in such a manner so as to utilize the instance for a teaching or training point;
- ◆ Accurately identify and record sign which illustrates changes of physical and mental characteristics of subject;
- ◆ Make appropriate notes, write reports and be prepared to testify in criminal proceedings as to sign observed, mental and physical state of subject and particular actions of incident participants;
- ◆ Accurately examine and report forensic evidence related to crime scenes including note taking, report writing to include detail discussions of the evidence observed and opinions, judgements, and conclusions.

FIELD TRAINING EVALUATION

Instructors do a field evaluation on each student for each course. These evaluations are performed to give the student guidance in areas to improve themselves. If you have any questions on the evaluation process please ask the Instructors and they will be happy to explain further. Evaluation scores reflect individual performance during each course **only**. Evaluations are determined in the following areas.

- 1. Attitude:** Acceptance of UTS Tracking Training Program and tracking as a resource and methodology. A believing, pleasant, willing and agreeable attitude is necessary to enable instructors and students to be accepting and motivated to the highest degree of learning possible.
- 2. Interest:** **Sincere** interest in learning all aspects of practical tracking skill usage. Interest in a particular skill development is often demonstrated in support of and enthusiasm for the skill, self initiated research, practice, development, and commitment to training opportunities, intense desire for continued insight and advancement.
- 3. Teamwork:** The ability to work co-operatively with all team members in achieving common program/team

goals. Communication, leadership, and responsibility are key issues of teamwork.

4. **Aptitude/Skill:** The natural or acquired ability for quickness of understanding, ability to grasp the concepts and the quality of fitting into this working environment. The demonstrated development of ease or expertness in application of learned techniques resulting in the evidence of specialized ability or training.
5. **Patience / Persistence:** Tracking necessitates the patience to allow observance of complex detail, and to sort and associate appropriate facts. Patience must extend to and include all team members to allow the highest degree of proficiency. Persistence is the quality of continuing despite opposition or difficulties, to stick with the task having the opportunity for final success.
6. **Common Sense/Reasoning:** Reasoning is defined as the mental process of drawing conclusions from known or presumed facts. Common Sense is defined as “practical understanding; sound judgement; or ordinary mental capacity”. This evaluation factor relates to the ability to use these two elements in reaching logical conclusions relating to tracking in consideration of training and experience.
7. **Receiving Constructive Feedback:** Properly addressing constructive feedback is a positive method of learn-

ing and skill development. Tracking students profit by readily accepting positive and appropriate constructive feedback offered by team members and others.

- 8. Giving Constructive Feedback:** Gives positive and constructive suggestions, ideas, and opinions to fellow team members to assist with their skill development (Not evaluated in Tracking Awareness Classes)

AIDS TO SIGN CUTTING

A supplement to the UTS tracking glossary of sign cutting terminology. This addition to the tracking glossary lists some tracking sign aids which will indicate presence or passage of persons.

1. Grass, leaves, sticks or debris kicked by footfalls and indicating direction of travel.
2. Vines, grass or weeds bent in elongated oval shapes, or other unnatural formations may indicate human passage from footfalls or pushing aside.
3. Sap coming from breaks, cuts, scrapes and bruising of plants may indicate footfall damage.
4. Dew or moisture knocked from plant surfaces in regular footfall intervals or shapes.

5. Dry ground surfaces exposed at regular footfall intervals after rain or periods of heavy moisture.
6. Color change to vegetation or ground surface at regular intervals, may be caused by compression of surface by footfalls.
7. Vegetation damage at regular intervals indicated by darkened surfaces after a frost.
8. Texture change of frost or frozen ground surfaces in size and shape of footfalls.
9. Fallen leaves which show signs of weathering are turned, flipped or tipped to expose the contrasting underside surfaces.
10. Broken cobwebs or other insect or animal disturbance may be indications.

INFORMATION OBTAINABLE BY SIGN CUTTING

A visual tracker should be able to determine some or all of the following information:

1. Direction of travel
2. Speed of movement
3. Age of tracks
4. Is the individual lost?
5. If not lost, what is the objective or goal?
6. Number in party
7. Physical condition of individual(s)
8. Whether the individual or party is carrying a load

AGING OF SIGN

The knowledge, experience and skill to determine the age of sign is learned through the practical application of tracking techniques in relating the visual change of footprint damage to natural elements over a period of time.

All natural elements such as temperature and humidity variations caused by sunlight, wind, rain, daylight, and dark effect sign. The varying possibilities of these changes usually seen as color tone or surface texture change in any one piece of sign is

further complicated by variation in the ability of each individual eye to see the same thing with the same degree of detail. In short there is no known method of learning to age sign without seeing the sign itself change with time, subject to the elements.

Expert sign cutters generally attempt to explain or illustrate this skill in classroom or written materials in the broadest of terms and most basic examples such as:

- ▶ grasses stepped on during the cool of night will be revived by the sunlight warmth of the day;
- ▶ distinct colour change in vegetation damage;
- ▶ evidence of rain;
- ▶ morning or evening breezes;
- ▶ dirt transfer from surface dew;
- ▶ night time or day time characteristics;
- ▶ vegetation damage to previously frosted surfaces.

FOOTFALL CHARACTERISTICS

WALKING - Regular sequence of footprint impressions with measured stride, equal depth, and contact of heels, balls of foot and lift off from toes. This type of track best indicates individual mental and physical characteristics.

FAST WALKING - Hurried, but not jogging or flight characterized by irregular footprints, irregular heel strikes, deeper toe digs, less care with debris, which may be underfoot.

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JOGGING - Regular footprint interval, deeper heel strikes, longer stride, or shorter strides with feet planted firmly, deeper toe digs often with a very light heel strike.

RUNNING - Irregular stride, deep heel strikes, deep toe digs, less care and concern for debris or ground surfaces.

RUNNING FLIGHT - Full flight or panic, very irregular footprints, deep heel strikes, deep toe digs, skid marks from poorly placed footprints or balance of person, no concern for ground surfaces, debris or obstacles in flight path.

NIGHT SIGN - Indicated by the inability of a person to see obstacles, vegetation, or puddles in the path walked.

STRIDE - Stride will shorten going uphill - lengthen going down hill - change with mental state of sign maker.

TRACKING GLOSSARY

Revised: July 2002

AGING - Process of determining time lapse since sign was made, considering vegetation damage, rain, sun, and other natural elements.

BACKING - Walking backwards, usually across a road or natural barrier, generally associated with an attempt to confound or confuse sign by showing an incorrect direction of travel.

BROKEN TWIGS - Small particles or twigs which are uniquely broken in such a way indicating damage from human footwear.

BARRIERS - A tracking term used to describe those areas that would cause a person to take extra steps, change stride, or travel pattern and leave sign more obvious or observable than the normal travel route to trackers. Most often referred to as Natural Barriers and Man Made Barriers.

BRUISING - Footfall damage to vegetation, usually indicated by color variation contrasting with the surrounding area of the same vegetation

BRUSHING OUT - Using a branch or grass or clothing article in an attempt to brush or erase tracks from an area.

CAMOUFLAGE - To attempt to confuse, disguise or conceal sign by covering with natural substances, leaving footfalls

where there is other foot traffic, brushing out, or any other means used to cover or make sign difficult to see, to deceive or confuse direction of travel, number of persons, or presence of sign.

COMPRESSED AREAS - Areas of ground surface that includes loose debris and vegetation both dead and living, surface moisture, all types of soil surfaces, compressed in a manner consistent with that of human footfalls.

CONTINUITY OF SIGN - The evidence of footfalls in proper sequence and spacing along a line of sign that may or may not be unidentifiable.

COUNTER-TRACKING - Any and all methods, techniques or attempts (see deception, camouflage), to counter a tracker's efforts to find and follow or read sign.

CRYING - The natural weeping of vegetation fluids (sap) resulting from footfall damage.

CUTTING FOR SIGN - An operation used principally along natural barriers to locate human sign.

DECEPTION - Attempting to confuse, disguise or conceal sign by walking backward, brushing out, or other means, to deceive or confuse direction of travel, number of persons, or presence of sign. Leaving a good trail or sign into a poor sign area, then departing on another route.

DELIBERATE VEGETATION DAMAGE - Tips or tops of branches, brush or weeds broken off by persons as they pass through an area or other intentional damage caused to mark a traveled route.

DISTURBANCE - Any disturbance of the natural state of ground surface, i.e. disturbed leaf litter, loose debris, and duff probably caused by a footfall.

DISLODGED STICK OR ROCK - A rock, stick or other object dislodged or moved from its previous position by footfall movement. The dislodged object may or may not be found adjacent to the area from which it was moved or within the prime sign area.

EMBEDDED PEBBLE, STONE, STICK OR OBJECT - Any small object impressed into soil or vegetation due to footfall compression of the ground surface.

FALSE TRAILS - Animal routings or trails or other seeming natural pathways most common through grasslands or underbrush, but not resulting from travel of the person or persons being followed. False trails may be the result of either newer or older human travel as well as animals.

FLAGGED OR FLAGGING - Vegetation such as leaves or branches or grass turned in direction of travel. Often showing the underside of leaf surfaces, small branch entanglement grasses swept into a rounded form or with tops pointing at an angle in the direction of travel.

FLANKERS - The two members to the right and left and one step behind the point person that make up a three person tracking team.

GRASS TRAIL - The shine, flattening, bending or intertwining of grass or brush due to footfall compression and motion indicating human passage.

HEEL MARKS - The curved mark, indication or depression on the ground surface made by initial impact of the heel portion of footgear usually a result of the normal walking motion.

HEALING - The process by which vegetation closes and cures damaged areas caused by human footfalls or passage, and animal or other natural circumstances. This is a primary sign-ageing element.

IN-HOUSE TRAINING PROGRAM - A portion of the UTS training program by which novice students may receive UTS credit for training hours when they participate in local or "In House" Track Aware training classes. These classes must be conducted in the proscribed format designed by UTS and presented by Tracker I and Tracker II students certified as qualified "trainers".

INTERLACED VEGETATION - Brush, weeds or long grass stems that become intertwined due to footfall and lower leg travel brushing them in the direction of travel.

INVENTING SIGN - Seeing sign that is not present, usually because of fatigue and/or a “need” to see it. To fabricate sign within the “mind’s eye.” A trackers tendency to try to make footfall characteristics where natural surface imperfections, shadowing, or disturbance occurs.

KICK - The forceful impact of a footfall or portion thereof that makes a definable impression and generally scatters ground surface often throwing surface materials or debris in the direction of travel.

LAST KNOWN PLACE (LKP) - A term used to denote the “Last Known Place” where the subject was. This location is often established as the result of tracking efforts.

LIGHT ANGLE - The correct angle from the viewers’ eye to the sign and to the light source for the optimum observance of sign.

LINE OF SIGN - The sign maker route of travel evidenced by tracker observable continuity of sign evidencing that human passage.

LITTERING - Scattered debris, rubbish, trash or human feces that are sign or evidence of human presence or passage.

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MAN MADE BARRIERS - Those man-made areas such as roads, fence lines, edges of fields, ditches, etc, that generally interrupt human passage or cause change of stride, exaggerated or additional footfall sign that will be more easily seen by trackers.

NATURAL BARRIERS - Those naturally created areas such as stream beds, banks, hill sides, brush lines or other changes in vegetation, or ground surfaces that generally interrupt human passage, or cause change of stride, exaggerated or additional footfall sign that will be more easily seen by trackers.

PLACE LAST SEEN (PLS) - The place where witnesses last saw the person.

PERIMETER CUT - A term associated with the sign cutting operation of looking for sign in relation to a known point or objective often the PLS or LKP, used to limit or eliminate search areas, most often along natural or man-made barriers.

POINT PERSON - The center point of the three person tracking team and described graphically as the top point of the triangle formation, this person is responsible for print identification, determining the prime sign area, and tracking stick location of the “next” print focus in the step-by-step process.

PRIME SIGN AREA - The area where the next footfall should appear, within the 60% arc, beneath the tip of the point person's sign cut stick when the stick is properly "set-up" and on the last identified footfall.

SAND TRAP - Usually open surface soft dirt areas, occurring naturally or man-made, which by their nature will impress, depress or compress easily leaving obvious footfall evidence.

SCUFF MARK - The mark or sign caused by footfalls contacting firm ground surfaces indicating movement in a determinable direction of travel.

SHINE - The light reflection from human footfall damage or compression of ground surfaces. Grasses and loose debris are compressed or compacted together uniformly causing the uniform reflection of light from a mired of surfaces within the footfall shape and size.

SIGN - All evidence, not limited to footfalls, of a person's presence or passage

SIGN CUTTING - A tracking operation used principally along natural and man-made barriers to locate human sign and/or that operation used in conjunction with multiple team operations to advance the prime sign in an organized and regimented manner.

SIGN CUTTING STICK - A stick, or other suitable object, used by knowledgeable trackers as an aid for measuring, marking, and locating prime sign areas.

SIGNATURE TRACK - Footprint evidence clearly displaying unique characteristics so as to be unmistakably identifiable

STRIDE INTERVAL - A tracking measurement from tip of toe of one normal walking step to back of heel of the next successive step. This measurement is commonly associated with the tracking stick and used to locate the next footfall in the prime sign area.

TOE DIGS - The indented mark or sign of exertion evidencing a normal walking motion, the result of the natural bending or flex of the foot and footgear as the body weight is thrust forward from the ball of the foot and tip of the toe onto the next step.

TRACKING FIELD TEAM LEADER - A term used by the UTS training program to identify a training position generally held by a Track Aware or Tracker I student. The person in this position is learning to see and identify sign from a standing and walking position while assisting and enabling Novice and Track Aware students a greater awareness of “sign” indications otherwise missed in the sign line.

TRACKING OPERATIONS COORDINATOR - A term used by the UTS program to designate a tracking coordinator that assists multiple team assignments, efficiency, and communications during field operations.

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TRACKING TEAM - Ideally, a three-person team, each with specific functions, coordinated and communicating in working a tracking mission.

TRACK TRAP - An area occurring naturally or especially prepared such as a sand trap to capture the footfall evidence of the presence or passage of a person.

TRACKER BURNOUT - That condition in which a tracker is totally fatigued to the point of losing concentration, focus and caring about the mission effort.

TRACKER'S BLINDNESS - A tracker's physical condition usually caused by extreme eyestrain and evidenced by the inability to recognize obvious sign and/or creating sign where there is none and/or the inability to determine the difference between possibilities and probabilities of sign.

TRANSFER - Soil, debris, green chlorophyll or other evidence impacted on footgear in one footfall and carried forward to the next and possibly succeeding footfalls and deposited as a part of that footfall impression.

VEGETATION DAMAGE - Broken, abraded or otherwise damaged leaves, stems or branches of plants often described by trackers as bruising, smashing, smooshing, splitting, or other caused by the deliberate or inadvertent footfall damage resulting from the presence or passage of a person.

TRACK IDENTIFICATION

Most sign cut operations should begin with an identification of the suspect or victim's sign. Generally this sign is appropriately located at the "Place Last Seen". Though an ideal, complete and distinct, perfect image of the footgear might not be found, an identifiable print should be located.

A complete drawing of this print should be made. This drawing should carefully note and reflect every detail visible to the sign cutter. Careful measurements of the dimensions of the print should include the length of heel and sole, width of each, and shape as illustrated below.

1.
 - a - overall length of print
 - b - width of ball of foot
 - c - length of heel
 - d - width of heel
 - e - stride - normal walking measurement
from tip of toe to back of heel

2. Basic shoe types
 - flat tennis shoe
 - work boot
 - hiking boot
 - sneakers
 - street shoe
 - cowboy boot

3. Basic shoe shape

- toe:

- round
- semi-round
- pointed
- square

- heel:

- straight leading edge
- concave leading edge
- V leading edge
- square heel

4. Basic sole pattern

- straight bars
- circles
- wavy lines
- lugs
- zig zags
- diamonds
- stars

5. Note: Basic Heel Pattern if different from sole (Especially note worn areas on side of heels or rear of heel)

Note: Overall appearance of print and all worn places, cuts, breaks, or anything that will distinguish this print from all others. Include all unique features.

Once the print has been recorded on paper by the tracker the drawing serves two purposes:

- ▶ To show other trackers and investigators how the true sign appears, and to compare with known suspect sign.
- ▶ Refresh the trackers mental image whenever needed.

The tracker may add to the drawing whenever successive tracks or sign reveal greater detail. A drawing thus made by the tracker also insures a lasting mental picture of the print.

Written notes of measurements and appearance will aid the tracker's print description for information sharing with others.

Latest Reference: UTS Track Aware Manual 2002

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LAND SEARCH AND RESCUE TRACKING LOG

Additions

TRACKING LOG - PRACTICE

File Name, Task #,
Mission # or Incident #:

Location:

Start Date/Time:

Postal/Zip Code:

Search Manager or Supervisor:

Duration:

Prime Duty or Responsibility:

Description of Training Event:

Certified By:

Signature

Print

TRACKING LOG - COURSE

File Name, Task #,
Mission # or Incident #:

Location:

Start Date/Time:

Postal/Zip Code:

Search Manager or Supervisor:

Duration:

Description of Course:

Certified By:

Signature

Print

TRACKING LOG - SEARCH/RESCUE

File Name, Task #,
Mission # or Incident #:

Location:

Start Date/Time:

Postal/Zip Code:

Search Manager:

Duration:

Description of Circumstances:

Prime Duty or Responsibility:

Description of Search/Rescue Effort:

Certified By:

Signature

Print

LAND SEARCH AND RESCUE TRACKING LOG

