

Search Tactics for the Immediate Response

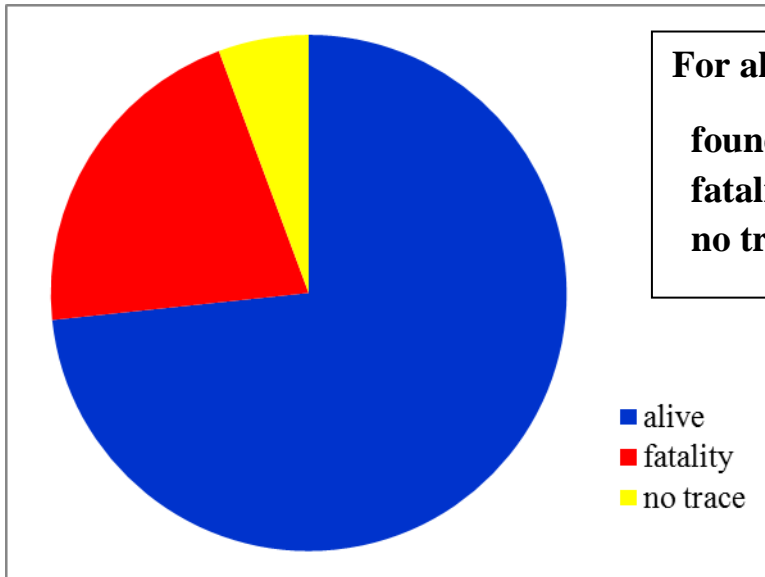
This document provides a set of guidelines for the Immediate Response to a missing person incident. It is based on the statistics published in the 2011 report of the UK Missing Person Behaviour Study, which is available from our website.

These guidelines are based on the assumption that the missing person is still alive; since almost three quarters of missing persons are found alive then that is a reasonable basis on which to formulate your first search plan.

The Immediate Response is the name given to the activities that take place at the start of the incident, when resources are likely to be scarce and search-trained resources are possibly not present at all. This phase of the incident is unlikely to last more than two hours.

The document is in two parts:

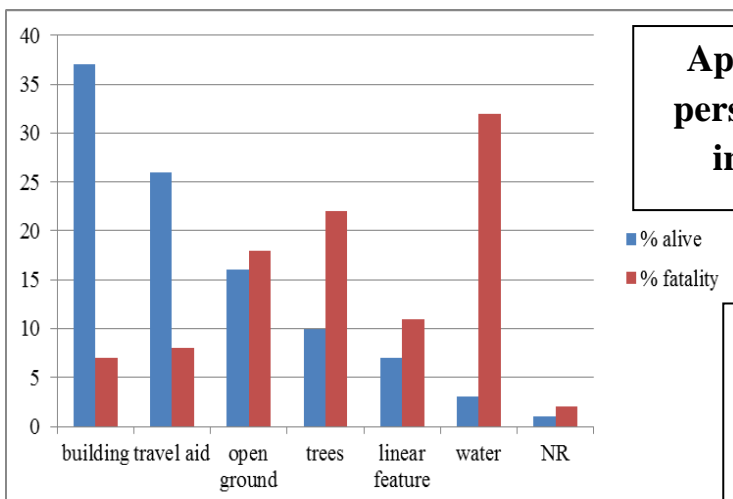
1. Part 1 is intended for people with little or no formal training in search management. It suggests a strategy that will be suitable for any kind of missing person, and means that the search can get started before specialist search managers or search resources arrive.
2. Part 2 is intended for people with some search management training or experience. It provides summary statistics for those categories with sufficient data to support analysis. It is not intended to replace the complete missing person statistics.



For all categories:

found alive **three quarters (73%)**
fatality **one in five (21%)**
no trace **one in twenty (6%)**

Recommended strategy for the Immediate Response: assume that you are searching for a person who is alive



Approximately two thirds of missing persons who are found alive are found in a building or on a travel aid ...

... a travel aid is something that the missing person might have walked along, particularly roads but could also be paths and tracks

Search Tactics for the Immediate Response

- **Search any buildings** that the missing person might be in, particularly houses belonging to family and friends, or care homes, hospitals, schools ...
- **Drive any roads** leading away from the place where the missing person was last known to be that they might have followed

Half of all missing persons who are found alive are found within 2 kms of where they were last known to be; two thirds are found within 3 kms of where they were last known to be

The table on the next two pages gives the following information:

Category: categories in the 2011 report of the UK Missing Person Behaviour Study with insufficient data for analysis are not included

Gender: F female or M male

Total number of incidents: the total number of incidents for this category and gender; this is the same as the number shown in the table in Section b of the 2011 report for each category

% of non-fatal incidents: the percentage of incidents in which the missing person was found alive for this category and gender

80% distance from LKP (kms) for non-fatalities: this is the radius of the circle drawn on the map with its centre at LKP that would contain 80% of the missing persons found alive for this category and gender

% non-fatalities found in two most likely locations: ... for this category and gender, the percentage of missing persons found in the most frequently occurring two types of location; in general, but not always, these will be 'buildings' and 'travel aids' (see next column)

... two most likely locations: the two most frequently occurring types of location; a third location is given when it is present in a significant number of incidents

PART 2

category	gender	total number of incidents	% of non-fatal incidents	80% distance from LKP (kms) for non-fatalities	% non-fatalities found in two most likely locations two most likely locations
children 1 to 16	F	35	94	4.2	76	buildings & travel aids
	M	68	97	3.0	75	buildings & travel aids
dementia	F	59	78	4.0	65	buildings & travel aids
	M	123	79	6.5	63	buildings & travel aids
despondent - farmland	F	54	70	8.6	74	buildings & travel aids
	M	75	59	13.1	77	buildings & travel aids
despondent - urban	F	46	67	2.0	74	buildings & travel aids
	M	51	63	8.0	94	buildings & travel aids
despondent - elsewhere	F	43	65	4.0	60	trees & buildings (travel aids 18%)
	M	166	51	12.8	47	trees & buildings (travel aids 20%)

PART 2

category	gender	total number of incidents	% of non-fatal incidents	80% distance from LKP (kms) for non-fatalities	% non-fatalities found in two most likely locations two most likely locations
development problems	F	8	100	insufficient data	100	buildings & travel aids
	M	28	89	10.1	68	buildings & trees (travel aids 18%)
other vulnerables	F	26	88	3.0	65	buildings & travel aids
	M	52	77	6.9	75	buildings & travel aids
psychological illness	F	20	80	2.3	50	buildings, travel aids & open ground all 25%
	M	35	63	7.5	82	buildings & travel aids
substance related	F	5	80	insufficient data	insufficient data	insufficient data
	M	25	56	7.7	79	buildings & travel aids
walker (group)	M & F	95	98	5.0	60	open ground & travel aids
walker (solo)	F	19	100	3.6	68	buildings & travel aids
	M	105	78	7.0	53	open ground & buildings (travel aids 18%)