

Procedure
Large Area Search

Effective Date
July 3, 2006

Rescinds
August 27, 2004

Reference
Norwich Township Fire Department SOG #25

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Purpose:

Establish a guideline for the fire department's need to conduct a Large Area Search in Commercial and/or Large buildings.

Responsibility:

- I. It shall be the responsibility of the department officers to implement this operating guideline.
- II. It shall be the responsibility of the department officers to train members in the application of this guideline.
- III. It shall be the responsibility of each member to know, understand and use this guideline as it applies to the situation at hand. Each member will use good judgment in the use of this guideline.

Guideline:

EQUIPMENT INVOLVED

1. Primary Rope Pack (for oriented person)

- A. Located in the fire fighter seat directly behind the drivers seat
- B. This is a black rope pack with reflective striping containing 200' of knotted Kevlar rope.
- C. Kevlar rope with a knot(s) at 20' intervals, each series of knots is immediately followed by a metal ring used as attachment points for fire fighters working off of the primary rope.
- D. Each knot on the primary rope represents 20' of rope deployed. (A series of three knots would equal a distance inside the search area of 60'. $3 \times 20 = 60$)

2. Retractable Rope Packs

- A. Retractable rope packs are located at the seat of the driver, the officer, and the seat behind the officer on the apparatus.
- B. This is a smaller black pouch with reflective striping containing 20' of Kevlar rope and does not have knots.

THE OPERATION

1. The search team shall consist of four individuals each equipped with search rope packs and a walkie talkie. A common talk group may be utilized for this operation, possibly a Car to Car.
2. The fire fighter seated behind the driver shall obtain the primary rope bag from the apparatus.
3. The **Officer** and the two remaining members of the team will each utilize the retractable rope packs from their seats. The **Officer** will also be equipped with the TIC.
4. The fire fighter carrying the **Primary rope pack** shall anchor his line on a secure location at the entrance to the area to be searched. This fire fighter will be referred to as the oriented person and designated as the “**Charlie**” member of the search team. *See illustration 1.*
6. The “**Officer**” will direct “**Charlie**” to lead the search team into the area to be searched and proceed to the 80’ indicator on the primary rope line. The “**Officer**” and the two members of the team will follow “**Charlie**” to the location of the first knot. The “**Officer**” will then direct one of the members to anchor in at this point on the primary rope line and begin his **orbital search pattern (example on next page)**. This member will be know as “**Alpha**”. The “**Officer**” and the third team member will proceed to the next set of knots on the primary rope line. At this location, the “**Officer**” will remain and direct the last search team member to proceed to the next set of knots on the primary rope line, hook in and begin his/her **orbital search** at that location. This last team member will be referred to as “**Bravo**”. *See illustration 2.*
7. When “**Alpha**” has completed his orbital search at both the 10’ and the 20’ distance, he/she will disconnect and move forward on the primary line until he reaches the location of the “**Officer**”. The “**Officer**” and “**Alpha**” will remain at the officers location until “**Bravo**” reaches them. *(The “Bravo” member will have met Charlie one time and will be meeting the “Officer” for the second time when his search is complete.)* The “**Officer**”, “**Alpha**”, and “**Bravo**” together, will proceed to the anchor point of “**Bravo**”, he/she will disconnect, and then continue on the primary line to the location of **Charlie**. *See illustration 3.*
8. At this time the “**Officer**” can perform a risk analysis and evaluate air supplies. If decided to continue with the search, **Charlie** will directed to move ahead 4 more rings (160’). The “**Officer**”, “**Alpha**”, and “**Bravo**” will follow **Charlie** to the next attaching point (100”) and “**Alpha**” will attach to the ring there and begin his circular search pattern. The “**Officer**” and “**Bravo**” will continue along the primary line to the next attachment point and the “**Officer**” will stay and direct “**Bravo**” to the next attachment point, hook in and begin his circular search pattern. *See illustration 4.*
9. This search scenario will continue until air supply issues, risk management in regards to survivability in the present atmosphere, or the search team has reached the maximum of 200’ on the primary line.
10. If further searching needs to be conducted beyond this point, consideration should be given to the feasibility of a second search team coming in on this primary line and continuing after attaching their primary search line to the first 200’ line or entering into this area from a different egress point.
11. The “**Orbital**” search pattern described above works well in open large areas and covers a large area quickly. This pattern may need to be altered to provide an adequate search when the environment in a structure prohibits this type of search. Going left or right from the main line at each attachment ring may be a viable alternative.
12. The decision of the search pattern to be used will rest with the officer in charge of the search team.

Example of "Orbital Search Pattern"

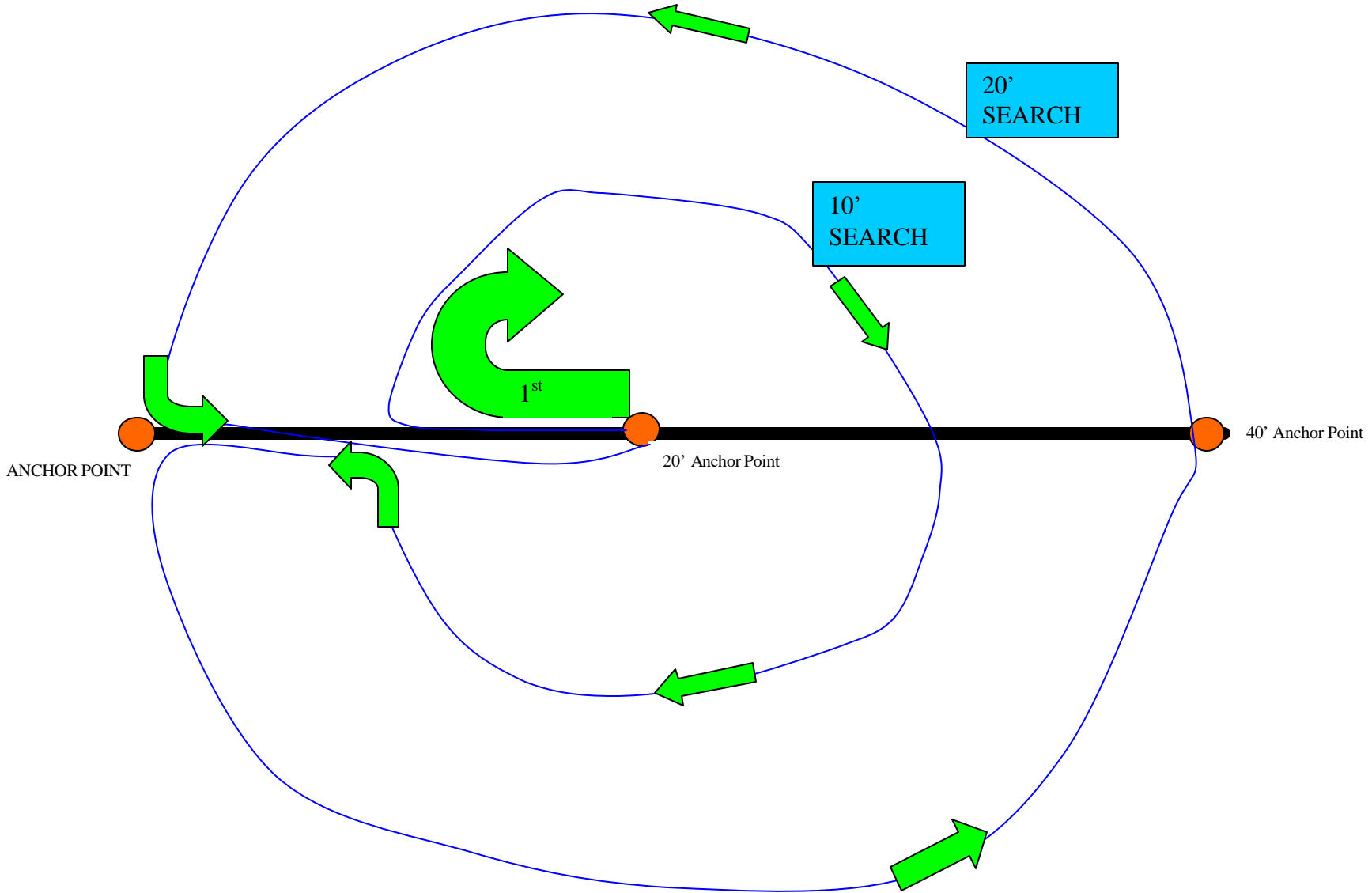


Illustration Key A = Alpha B = Bravo C = Charlie O = Officer

