

SEARCH AND RESCUE PLAN

BIG STONE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Ortonville, Minnesota

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1988

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## SEARCH AND RESCUE PLAN

### Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge

#### I. Introduction

The primary concern of a search and rescue (SAR) policy is the protection of human life. Wherever there is use of an area by the public, there is a potential for people becoming lost, injured or ill and requiring assistance. Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge encourages compatible public uses on refuge lands, and therefore will maintain the capability to coordinate, cooperate in, or carry out search and rescue operations.

#### II. Authority

Search and rescue operations on National Wildlife Refuges are authorized by the following (8 RM 15.3):

1. National Search and Rescue Plan - 1969 as amended by the Department of the Interior, 1978.
2. Environmental Education Act of 1975.

The Fish and Wildlife Service is under no legal obligation to carry out any search and rescue mission on refuge lands. It is the Service policy, however, that search and rescue capability be maintained, and that operations be effected in a "reasonable, prudent and non-negligent manner" (8 RM 15.8).

#### III. Objectives

Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge management objectives include providing the public with compatible wildlife-related recreation, such as hunting, fishing and nature appreciation. These activities must be safe, wholesome, and of high quality (2 RM 1.4).

Because of the possibility of an emergency arising, the refuge is responsible for preventing the need for search and rescue, as well as carrying out a search and rescue operation if necessary.

Service objectives pertaining to Search and Rescue include (8 RM 15.2):

1. To carry out or assist in search and rescue activities on refuge lands and provide assistance off Service lands to the extent practicable, when requested by the lead agency under a mutual aid agreement.
2. To obtain necessary assistance, training and information related to search and rescue.

Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge functions under concurrent jurisdiction with the State of Minnesota. Since the Big Stone County and Lac qui Parle County Sheriffs have the capability and resources for search and rescue at their disposal, the refuge will rely upon those departments as the lead agencies and assist wherever possible. The refuge manager has primary responsibility for management of refuge lands and protection of the resource. Therefore, he must comply with Service search and rescue objectives in cooperating with the lead agency, while providing sufficient input and direction to minimize disturbance to wildlife and degradation of habitat and refuge facilities.

#### IV. Preventive Search and Rescue

Prevention of situations that might result in a search and rescue operation should be the major area of emphasis. An aggressive station safety program is the best way to accomplish this. All refuge employees will be required to familiarize themselves with the station safety plan. Quarterly staff meetings will be held,

and a timely staff safety topic is discussed. An annual station safety inspection will be conducted and identified. Safety hazards will be corrected. In addition to this formal schedule, each employee and volunteer is instructed to immediately report and/or eliminate potential safety hazards. for the added safety of the general public the following public use regulations are enforced:

General Use of Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge:

- Camping and building fires are prohibited.
- Swimming and horseback riding are prohibited.
- Use of off-road vehicles and snowmobiles is prohibited.
- The refuge is open for day use only.

Hunting on Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge:

- Overnight use of parking areas is prohibited.
- No migratory bird hunting is allowed.
- All state regulations are in effect.
- Off-road vehicle travel is prohibited.
- Accidents or injuries must be reported to refuge headquarters immediately.

Fishing on Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge:

- Motorless boat fishing or boats with electric motors are allowed in the Minnesota River channel only.
- Bank fishing only is allowed on all other refuge waters.
- Boats, canoes, and floating devices are not allowed in refuge pools and marshes.
- Portable fish shelters may not be left overnight.

The public is made aware of the restrictions listed on the previous page through signs, leaflets, periodic news releases and personal contacts.

V. Refuge Capability and Resources

Currently, no Big Stone Refuge personnel have had formal training in search and rescue operations. Therefore, the refuge will rely on the expertise and contact sources of the lead agencies (the County Sheriffs' Departments). The refuge manager and the assistant refuge manager both have law enforcement authority in the event the search and rescue operation involves a criminal act. Refuge personnel are also knowledgeable in first aid and are certified in cardio pulmonary resuscitation.

Big Stone National wildlife Refuge has at its disposal the following equipment which could be utilized in search and rescue operations if needed:

1. Three four-wheel drive and two two-wheel drive vehicles, each equipped with a 100-watt two-way radio on refuge frequency 34.82 MHz.
2. One 100-watt base station two-way radio at refuge headquarters, with base-remote unit and 180' repeating tower at the maintenance site. Station call sign KAC 624; refuge frequency 34.83 MHz.
3. Two Ford tractors equipped with 55-watt Maxar 80 two-way radios.
4. One snowmobile.
5. Two boats, one flat-bottomed work boat and one 16' canoe, with boat trailer and two outboard motors (9.9 HP, 2.5 HP).

6. One pickup-mounted 200 gallon water pumping unit.
7. Three portable five-watt two-way radios on refuge frequency 34.83 MHz.
8. One portable two-way radio on state frequency 154.815, capable of signaling County Sheriffs, County Conservation Officers and Ortonville City Police Department. Refuge call sign K 735.
9. A mobile two-way radio on state frequency as described above, mounted in 1986 S10 Dodge 4 x 4 pickup.
10. Miscellaneous rescue aids: binoculars, telescopes, 35 mm cameras, Polaroid camera, chain saws, ropes.

VI. Search and Rescue Procedures

1. Upon discovery, or strong suspicion, that an employee or refuge visitor is lost, ill or injured and requires assistance, the employee will immediately notify the refuge manager. If the refuge manager is unavailable, notify the assistant manager or acting refuge manager.
2. If the subject requiring assistance is ill or injured, and his or her location is known and the location is accessible by ordinary means, request an ambulance by calling the Ortonville Police Department. Be certain that you give the location clearly and accurately.
3. If the subject's location is inaccessible or unknown and a reasonable amount of time for his/her return has lapsed, notify the Big Stone or Lac qui Parle County Sheriff. Be certain you give a clear and accurate location and the facts leading you to believe the subject needs emergency assistance.



Be prepared to provide positive direction and assistance when help arrives.

4. Notify the Division Refuge Supervisor of the incident and action taken.
5. Refuge maintenance worker should be notified of the incident and be prepared to service any vehicle or equipment needed in the search and rescue operation.
6. The refuge manager, or his designee, will handle any media coverage of the operation.
7. Following the search and rescue operation, a Mission Report Form will be completed. One copy will be sent to the National Association for Search and Rescue (NASAR), one sent to the Regional Safety Manager (through RF1) and one retained for refuge files.
8. Also complete a DI-134, Report of Accident/Incident, and send to the Regional Safety Manager through RF1 when necessary.

VII. Cooperative Agreements

The Big Stone County and Lac qui Parle County Sheriffs have the capability and responsibility for search and rescue operations in their respective counties. This authority extends to Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge under concurrent jurisdiction; assistance is always available by verbal agreement. Fire protection for the refuge is offered by the Odessa Fire Department under cooperative agreement.

Emergency Telephone Numbers

|     |  |                |          |
|-----|--|----------------|----------|
| 1.  | Refuge Manager - James Heinecke. . . . .     | .Office        | 839-3700 |
|     |  | Home           | 839-2674 |
| 2.  | Assistant Refuge Manager - Richard Papasso . | .Office        | 839-3700 |
|     |  | Home           | 839-2751 |
| 3.  | Maintenace Worker - Norman Christensen . .   | .Shop          | 273-2130 |
|     |  | Home           | 273-2313 |
| 4.  | Administrative Clerk - Carole Gerber . . .   | .Office        | 839-3700 |
|     |  | Home           | 839-3450 |
| 5.  | Big Stone County Sheriff . . . . .           |                | 839-3558 |
| 6.  | Lac qui Parle County (all emergencies) . . . |                | 911      |
| 7.  | Ortonville Ambulance Service (Police Dept.). |                | 839-6161 |
| 8.  | Ortonville Municipal Hospital. . . . .       |                | 839-2502 |
| 9.  | Odessa Fire Department . . . . .             |                | 273-2200 |
| 10. | Milbank Rescue Team (Police Dept.) . . . . . | 1-605-432-5525 |          |
| 11. | Regional Refuge Supervisor, RFl. . . . .     | 1-725-3701     |          |

## REFUGE MANUAL

PUBLIC USE MANAGEMENT

8 RM 15 Exhibit 1

## Mission Report Form

Page 2

## RESULTS

SUBJECT WAS  
FOUND/RESCUED Month \_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_ <sup>24 Hr.</sup><sub>clock</sub> ☐ By SAR effort ☐ By him/herself ☐ Not found/rescued  
☐ By bystanders ☐ Never needed help ☐LOCATION  
FOUND/RESCUED Lat. \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ 'N. Long. \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ 'W. OTHER NAME/ DESCRIPTION

AS A RESULT OF SAR EFFORT, TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS FOUND \_\_\_\_ RESCUED \_\_\_\_ LIVES REALLY SAVED \_\_\_\_

| REASON MISSION<br>TERMINATED                | (If lost)<br>FOUND IN                             | (If found by SAR effort)<br>CLUES : SUBJECT<br>FOUND BY | DESCRIPTION<br>(optional)<br>OF FIND/RESCUE |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Successful         | <input type="checkbox"/> Primary search area      | <input type="checkbox"/> Interrogation                  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack manpower      | <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary search area    | <input type="checkbox"/> Confinement                    |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack equipment     | <input type="checkbox"/> Area previously searched | <input type="checkbox"/> Attraction                     |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack support       | <input type="checkbox"/> Out of search area       | <input type="checkbox"/> Hasty search                   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack clues         | <input type="checkbox"/> Home, bar, motel, etc.   | <input type="checkbox"/> Visual tracking                |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous terrain  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Search dogs                    |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Severe weather     |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Line search                    |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Too large an area  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Helicopter                     |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Authority decision |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Fixed wing                     |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family decision    |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Subject's signal               |   |

(Additional comments attached)

## MEDICAL INFORMATION

| EXTENT OF<br>INJURIES                          | MEDICAL/<br>ENVIRONMENTAL                 | TRAUMATIC<br>INJURIES                      | DESCRIPTION OF<br>MEDICAL CARE (optional) |
|--|---|--|---|
| A B C  | A B C                                     | A B C                                      |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> None/Uninjured        | <input type="checkbox"/> Internal illness | <input type="checkbox"/> Soft tissue wound |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Slight/First aid      | <input type="checkbox"/> Heart attack     | <input type="checkbox"/> Internal organs   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate/Doctors care | <input type="checkbox"/> Breathing prob.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Skeletal system   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Severe/Hospitalized   | <input type="checkbox"/> Altitude sick    | <input type="checkbox"/> Respiratory       |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fatal                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Cold exposure    | <input type="checkbox"/> Circulatory       |   |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Heat exposure    | <input type="checkbox"/> Nervous system    |   |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Poisons/Drugs    | <input type="checkbox"/> Burns             |   |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Shock            | <input type="checkbox"/> Drowning          |   |

(Additional comments attached)

## SUBJECT BEHAVIOR

| CAUSE OF<br>INCIDENT                         | (If injury)<br>REASON(s)                   | (If lost)<br>REASON(s)                          | (If lost)<br>FOLLOWED                        | (If lost)<br>DETECTABILITY                | ACTION(s)<br>TAKEN                         |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown             | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown           | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown                | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown             | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown          | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Human error         | <input type="checkbox"/> Hast              | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor supervision       | <input type="checkbox"/> Path/trail/road     | <input type="checkbox"/> Conscious        | <input type="checkbox"/> Sought shelter    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caused by Victim    | <input type="checkbox"/> Exceed ability    | <input type="checkbox"/> Accidental separation  | <input type="checkbox"/> Natural drainage    | <input type="checkbox"/> Cooperative      | <input type="checkbox"/> Conserved energy  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other person caused | <input type="checkbox"/> Fatigue           | <input type="checkbox"/> Intentional separation | <input type="checkbox"/> Natural clearings   | <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal response  | <input type="checkbox"/> Built fire        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caused by Nature    | <input type="checkbox"/> Fall or slip      | <input type="checkbox"/> Took short cut         | <input type="checkbox"/> Toward landmark     | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile           | <input type="checkbox"/> Found food        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weather             | <input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate equip. | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor map/no map        | <input type="checkbox"/> Toward civilization | <input type="checkbox"/> Visual sighting  | <input type="checkbox"/> Signaled for help |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Darkness            | <input type="checkbox"/> Misuse of equip.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Disoriented            | <input type="checkbox"/> Over major obstacle | <input type="checkbox"/> Prone position   | <input type="checkbox"/> No self help      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Falling object      | <input type="checkbox"/> Anchor failure    | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor trail/markings    | <input type="checkbox"/> Wandered about      | <input type="checkbox"/> Dark clothing    | <input type="checkbox"/> Discard equipment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment failure   | <input type="checkbox"/> Belay failure     | <input type="checkbox"/> Miscalc time/distance  | <input type="checkbox"/> Went cross country  | <input type="checkbox"/> Hidden from view | <input type="checkbox"/> Panicked          |

(If lost) WHAT WAS THE "AIR" DISTANCE FROM THE LAST KNOWN POSITION TO WHERE THE SUBJECT WAS FOUND? \_\_\_\_ Mi.

FROM THE LAST KNOWN POSITION, WAS THE SUBJECT FOUND GENERALLY ☐ Upwards ☐ Downwards ☐ Same elevation HOW FAR? \_\_\_\_ Ft. elevationHOW LONG WAS THE SUBJECT ACTUALLY MOBILE AND WALKING? \_\_\_\_ Hours ☐ Unknown ☐ Day travel only ☐ Night travel only ☐ Both day and night travel

## RESOURCES USED

MISSION WAS  
CLOSED ON Month \_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_ <sup>24 Hr.</sup><sub>clock</sub> NOTE: Manhours and Equipment used should include time for MOBILIZATION, ENROUTE, MISSION & RETURN HOME

| No.  | EQUIPMENT INVOLVED | Total<br>for all<br>Ft.<br>Hrs. | Name | OTHER UNITS INVOLVED | No. of<br>Persons | TOTAL PERSONNEL/MANHOURS INVOLVED        |
|------|--------------------|---------------------------------|------|----------------------|-------------------|--|
| ____ | Helicopters        | Ft.<br>Hrs.                     |      |                      |                   | Total number of YOUR personnel involved  |
| ____ | Fixed Wing         | Ft.<br>Hrs.                     |      |                      |                   | Total manhours expended by YOUR unit     |
| ____ | Ambulances         | Mi.                             |      |                      |                   | Total number of ALL personnel involved   |
| ____ | 2WD Vehicle        | Mi.                             |      |                      |                   | Total manhours expended by ALL personnel |
| ____ | 4WD Vehicle        | Mi.                             |      |                      |                   | COMMENTS/ (optional)                     |
| ____ | Power Boat         | Hrs.                            |      |                      |                   | PROBLEMS                                 |
| ____ | Horses             | Hrs.                            |      |                      |                   |  |
| ____ | Dogs               | Hrs.                            |      |                      |                   |  |

REPORT PREPARED BY \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Please send this form with the B-543 (yellow) to the Washington office

Release:

003 March 12, 1982

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM