

WILDERNESS SEARCH FLAGGING PROCEDURES

UTILIZED BY THE HOWARD COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE SPECIAL OPERATIONS TEAM

DEVELOPED BY ROBERT WISEMAN (CROCKETT SAR)

I. FLAGGING A TRAIL OR PATH OF TRAVEL

Tape Color: *ORANGE*

Placement: Eye level (between 5 to 6 feet from ground) with tails at least 6" long

Marking: **SINGLE BEARING/AZIMUTH:** Single ribbon - no markings required
CHANGE IN DIRECTION: Double ribbons. One of the ribbons marked as follows:
One tail of the tape will be marked with the bearing that you followed to get to that point
The other tail with the bearing you are moving toward.

Marking System: →[degrees] (arrow pointing toward number denotes bearing that got you to that point)
[degrees]→ (arrow pointing away from number denotes bearing you are moving toward)

Example: → 150° (denotes a bearing of 150° got you to that point)
210° → (denotes that you are moving toward a bearing of 210°)

Record: Make a note of all changes in direction of travel and the distances traveled in those directions.

Night Ops: An *ORANGE* or *RED* light stick will be placed in addition to the tape and visible from 360° (at a minimum visible from the for and aft directions)

II. FLAGGING CLUES/EVIDENCE

Tape Color: *PINK*

Placement: Eye level (between 5 and 6 feet from ground) with tails at least 6" long
Placed at a minimum of three points around object to assure visibility

Marking: Tape will be marked with an identifying number

Marking System: One of the tape markers will be marked with the team's number and the appropriate clue number. Contact the Incident Commander (IC) for clue number. (*Only* if attempts to contact IC are unsuccessful, number clues for your team starting with the number 1 and increasing consecutively.)

Example: **T4 #3** (denotes Team 4, Clue #3)
MAD8 #6 (denotes Mid Atlantic Dogs team 8, Clue #6)

Record: Make a note of the clue/evidence number, location, and description

Notification: IC to be notified of the specifics of clue and location found. Do not leave location of clue until authorized to do so by IC.

Night Ops: A *BLUE* light stick will be placed in addition to flagging tape and visible from 360° (at a minimum visible from the for and aft directions)

NOTE: All tape markings are to be made with a blue or black permanent marker