

PERSONAL SAR "OUT THE DOOR" LIST

NOTE: Are you ill? Are you nursing an injury? Are you too tired? Are you "buzzed" from a beer or wine with dinner? Stay home. Know your limitations

- **Notification**
 - Take good notes; Who, What, When, Where, Why & How; directions to the CP; get a phone number to call back in case search called off. Store the number in your cell phone
 - Ask for an estimate of the time duration of the incident. If the person calling doesn't know, assume you'll be gone for 48 hrs. If they give you an estimate, assume you'll be gone twice that length of time. Prepare accordingly
- Drink at least a liter of water enroute to the incident– people are chronically dehydrated; don't start the search behind the 8-ball
- Grab fresh batteries
- Load the appropriate map software to your GPS if time permits
- Fill water bottles/bladders. After you arrive you may be sent straight to the field without a chance to fill them
- Grab a snack that can be eaten while you drive, especially if it has been several hours since you had a meal
- Make a copy of your notification notes for spouse, family, friend, etc. – let someone else know where you're going and when you expect to return
- Employer – if necessary, put a call in that you might be late or absent from work. Assume that you may need to stop for at least a nap before you return to work
- Radios and cell phones – immediately plug them into your automobile chargers unless you confirmed that they were fully charged when you walked out the door
- Get a weather forecast for the search area – be certain that your clothing and equipment are appropriate to the weather
- Go to the bathroom before you leave – there may not be a facility available on the route to the search
- Check the fuel level in your vehicle – again, there may not be a filling station on your route. In a disaster there may be no fuel anywhere near the incident. "Stop & top off" if you are anywhere close to empty
- Map – do you need a map to the incident?
- **STOP! Stop-Think-Observe-Plan; don't let the stress of the moment distract you from safe driving practices.**