



Section F. Search Preparations

Introduction Before beginning a search, all available facts about a case must be collected. The SMC should provide most of this information as the search action plan. The checklist below will help determine whether everything needed to begin a mission is available. Once all available facts are collected and the required search planning is performed, the mission is ready to get underway.

NOTE *GW* In an emergency, this information can be passed to the boat crew while en route to a search area.

F.1. Questions Answers to the following questions will help determine if everything has been accomplished before getting underway:

- What is the object of this search?
- How many people are involved?
- What are the circumstances of their distress?
- What is the assigned search area?
- What search pattern will be used?
- What is the desired search speed?
- What special equipment is required?
- What radio frequencies will be used?
- Are all required charts aboard?
- What are the weather and sea conditions?
- Who is the OSC?
- What unusual circumstances may be encountered? How will they be corrected for?
- What does the vessel in distress have for survival equipment?
- What radio frequencies will they use?
- Are other units assigned? If so:
 - What kind?
 - What are their search areas?
 - What are their search speeds?
 - What search patterns will they employ?

F.2. Briefing Crew Crewmembers will be briefed before getting underway. Make sure all crewmembers:

- Understand the mission.
 - Know what they are looking for.
 - Know where the search will be conducted.
 - Understand how the search will be conducted.
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