

BCSO Search and Rescue Equipment Guidelines

SAR Pack

The initial call-out may be for any situation and may last from two to 24 hours or even longer. Most of the items below can fit in an 1800 cubic inch backpack or typical nylon carry-bag, and can be stored in your personal vehicle. Once on-scene, items necessary for a particular search type can quickly be moved into a small pack.

When a call is received, every BCSO-SAR team member must be ready to respond immediately. This means members often do not have time to drive home for their SAR Pack. Therefore the best place for your SAR Pack/gear is in your vehicle.

Footwear - IMPORTANT

Just about all callouts involve a lot of standing around and walking. You should have the appropriate, comfortable footwear for the environment. Snake boots are recommended for ground callouts, and sneakers or non-skid boat shoes are recommended for Water callouts. Rubberboots may be desired for very wet areas. On some cases, a ground search can lead to a water search or the other way around. It's a good idea to have your footwear with/near your SAR pack so you can change it as the conditions change. Sandals, flip-flops and open toed shoes should not be worn.

RECOMMENDED GEAR LIST FOR EVERY CALLOUT. Bold items/marked with an * should be considered "mandatory"

1. Uniform: **official BCSO-SAR shirt/long pants and ID Card***. Long sleeves are highly recommended for protection from sun, insects and scratches from branches/thorns.
2. Personal items: **watch***, cell phone, **personal ID***, money for incidentals, sunglasses, reading glasses, toilet paper, moist towelettes, **sunscreen***, **insect repellent***, **personal medications***, notepad and pencil, hand sanitizer
3. Clothing: **foot gear appropriate for callout*** (see above), rain gear, change of clothing in a zip-loc bag, including underwear and 2 pair spare socks, clothes appropriate for season (during colder weather: layered clothes and jacket, warm gloves, warm hat)
4. Gloves: leather work gloves, protective mechanics type gloves
5. Flashlights: headlight and/or **handheld flashlight***, and spare batteries
6. Tools: **hiking stick***, multi-tool (eg, Leatherman), machete and/or hand clippers, 18-inch measuring device, baseplate-style compass
7. **First Aid Kit***: Ace bandage, band-aids, gauze roll, gauze pads, cotton swabs, antiseptic ointment, tweezers, scissors, razor blades, safety pins, moleskin, acetaminophen or aspirin, antacid tablets, zip-loc bag for kit. Note: most small camping First Aid kits will work
8. Food and Water: non-perishable food and snacks for one day, **at least 2 qt water***.
9. Misc safety gear: safety goggles, **whistle***, lighter, duct tape (10 ft), large black leaf bags (2 for protecting your gear from rain/water)
10. Evidence and Marking:., assorted zip-loc bags, pink surveyor's tape (1 roll), latex exam gloves, waterproof marking pen

For Water Callouts, Every Member Should Also Have: **life jacket***, pliers, non-skid boat shoes, towel

Optional Personal Gear: (depending on weather and other circumstances): GPS, mosquito netting, binoculars, ear plugs, sewing kit, sleeping bag and pad, ground sheet, hand warmer, rain cover for your gear, rope (100 ft), D-rings, GPS (2), orange marking flags, small shovel, aerial flares, FRS radio with spare batteries, space blanket, chemlights, water purification tablets, signal mirror, fire starter