

When you need help, who do you call and who will respond?

THERE IS NO INSTANT RESPONSE TO SEARCHES. Search personnel will respond from home or work. They may have to go to home or headquarters to get clothing and gear. There may be extensive travel time to the search area. Then the searchers must gather information and organize the search. Availability will vary from season to season and in different areas.

DO NOT WAIT TO CALL FOR HELP, Time lost increases the search area.

CALLING FOR HELP FOR YOURSELF USING A CELL PHONE.

1. Dial 911 if it is in service in the area that you are in. If there is no 911 service, you will need to know the specific number to call or you will need to call someone you know to call help for you. You need to pre-plan your trip. Your cellular phone may not work in many areas of Pennsylvania!

2. Identify yourself, your situation, the general location, and a call back number. Conserve your battery.

CALLING FOR HELP FOR SOMEONE ELSE.

1. You will need to know if they are lost, or merely overdue.

2. You need to know the area they are in, and an emergency phone number for that area.

3. You will need to provide a description of the lost person, their situation, where they left their vehicle, and other details.

4. Please leave a call back number and keep someone there so that searchers can call for additional formation.

WHO DO YOU CALL?

1. PA State Police, especially if a juvenile is lost or a crime is suspected.

2. The local or county communications or dispatch center for the area the lost person is located in.

3. The local park or forestry office.

WHO WILL RESPOND TO YOUR CALL FOR ASSISTANCE?

1. DCNR, Parks and Forestry are responsible for searches on State owned land. They are often assisted by fire departments and volunteer search and rescue teams.

2. Municipalities are responsible for the safety of citizens in their jurisdiction. This normally means a response by the local fire department and/or emergency management agency. They may be assisted by volunteer teams and in some cases DCNR teams.

3. Volunteer search and rescue teams are located throughout the state and respond when they are called. They often provide both field personnel and overhead management. Most search dogs are provided by volunteer teams.