



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST
SANTA CATALINA RANGER DISTRICT
VOLUNTEER PATROL**

VOLUNTEER PATROL

April 14, 2014

SCVP-2014-01

**Subject: Santa Catalina Volunteer Patrol Guidance for Patrolling in
Wilderness/Remote Areas**

Many of us are not experienced high adventure wilderness hikers. Without experience and training, we need to be aware of our limitations and risk factors when entering the wilderness or remote areas. For the Santa Catalina Volunteer Patrol (SCVP), wilderness includes Mt. Lemmon, the Bighorn Sheep Management Area, and all other areas outside the Sabino Canyon Recreation Area boundary.

It is impossible to list all safety or survival items needed when entering the wilderness for every ability, age, situation, location, temperature and season. However, the following guidance at a minimum shall be reviewed and considered before hiking in the wilderness or in remote areas for an in-and-out day hike.

Wilderness/Remote Area Hiking Guidance For In-and-Out Day Hike:

1. Go with a 'buddy'; not alone
2. Do your patrol plan 'sign-in' online before your hike with your trail information and estimated time of return. (note: this information is not monitored on a daily basis. It is used after it is known you have not returned.)
3. Track your location as you are hiking with a map so you know quickly your location in case of an emergency.
4. Do not enter the wilderness if taking medicine that might impact your stamina, heart rate, hydration, health, etc.
5. Do not enter the wilderness when temperatures in the area will reach 90 degrees or above while you are there.
6. Take a CPR/first aid certification class when one becomes available.
7. Ensure someone knows your route, destination and expected time of return. Call them when you return.
8. Allow plenty of time to return during daylight.
9. Review and understand uses of a cell phone in the wilderness listed separately.

Using a Cell Phone in the Wilderness:

1. Start your patrol with a fully charged cell phone battery.
2. Before your trip, make sure your "location services" automatic location setting is enabled, allowing E911 to calculate your position. Newer phones should already have this setting on and do not allow users to disable.
3. Conserve battery power! Turn your cell phone off when in the wilderness to conserve the battery for emergency use. An alternative is to turn it on for a short time to check messages/texts and a signal. Make note of locations where signals are available. A big use of cell phone battery is the screen display light. Consider, dimming the light and stop all unnecessary apps, blue tooth, vibrating ringer, GPS, etc., to conserve power. Cell phones use

a lot of power for the display screen; texting uses a lot of power because the screen is on. To conserve power, do not use your phone for navigation in the wilderness; turn off the GPS! It uses lots of power. Use a separate GPS or map and compass.

4. Before calling for help take a few deep breaths, calm yourself, and think about your location and what you will say in the first few seconds. Realize that you need to be concise in the first sentence of your problem, location and needs, as the cell phone could stop working before you can finish what you need to say. Be aware that if you get through once, it does not mean a connection can be made a second time, even from the very same location.
5. When you call 911 the call is being recorded. You should not have to repeat the information unless it is a bad signal.
6. When a 911 operator answers state your location, cell phone number, identify yourself, and briefly state the emergency. The best information for giving a location is your coordinates, if you don't have them describing land features, miles from trail head, elevation, and prominent points will help. Also mention the types of signal devices you have, tent color, and what group members are wearing. Answer the operator's questions quickly and concisely.
7. If the operator doesn't prompt you, schedule times for future contacts, like 5 minutes before and after the top of every hour, especially if the rescue might take some time. This allows you to shut off the phone to conserve your battery.
8. When you call 911, they can get your GPS coordinates which they will pass to search and rescue.
9. Most devices work from line-of-sight meaning land features such as hills or heavy tree cover can block the signal. To make an emergency call, higher locations provide the best signal, hold your phone at arm's length and rotate around to find the best reception. Once you find the best spot, return to that spot for future calls. Once you have contact with 911 don't move around.
10. When the voice signal is weak or non-existent, text messages to a friend for help may be possible. Think before you text. Texting takes lots of power since the display light is on. Search and rescue would much rather have voice calls.
11. Search and rescue/911 cannot locate you with the phone when it is out of range or out of power.
12. Before you place the call be sure of how desperate your situation is and be certain you can't handle it yourself. Stop and think rather than allowing your emotions to take control. Perform a complete, careful assessment following all the steps in that first aid class you took.

Packing Items for Wilderness/Remote Area For In-and-Out Day Hikes:

1. Water; take plenty; if possible, take twice as much as you think you will need
2. Whistle
3. Signal mirror
4. First Aid Kit
5. Cell Phone, fully charged and turned off for conserving battery
6. Map
7. Compass
8. Extra food/freeze dried/snacks/energy bars
9. LED Maglight
10. Water purification pump/filter/tablets
11. Multi-Tool/Leatherman/pocket knife
12. Space blanket
13. Light jacket/nylon windbreaker
14. Fire starter/Spark-Lite Firestarter Flint
15. Glow sticks

16. Bright orange marking panels
17. Extra socks
18. Stocking cap
19. Gloves
20. Large garbage bags for shelter/rain protection
21. GPS device
22. Solar Cell phone recharger
23. Survival book

//signed//

SCVP Board of Directors