Standard Practice for
Symbols and Markings for Use With Land Search Maps[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F1846; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This practice covers the symbols and markings to be used with land search maps to show resources, search coverage, status, and results.

1.2 Operational usage of these symbols and markings, the resources they represent, and maps are not included in this practice.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *Incident Command System Publications:* Field Operations Guide ICS-420[2]

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.1.1 *base map, n*—the master map or chart of the search area, normally maintained at the incident base or command post.

3.2 *base overlay, n*—the map overlay on which are placed the symbols and markings shown in Fig. 1 when it is desired to not mark on the base map.

3.3 *map overlay, n*—a transparent sheet placed over the base map on which markings and symbols are made. Overlays are used for symbols subject to change, to prevent marking the base map, or to avoid cluttering the base map.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The base map and overlays are used in managing a search by graphically tracking progress, resource allocation, and results. Standard symbols and markings allow a person to visually scan the map to obtain the status of the search without the need for a briefing or reading search documents.

4.2 Overlays are used for symbols which are likely to change during the search, that will cover other symbols or base map features, to prevent marking the base map, and to avoid too many markings at one time.

4.3 The symbols and colors have been chosen to be compatible with the symbols defined in Incident Command System Field Operations Guide ICS-420. This compatibility is either exact (for example, incident command post) or functional (for example, search area boundaries).

5. Procedure

5.1 Symbols and markings for use on the base map or base overlay shall be made in accordance with Fig. 1 and Table 1.

5.2 Symbols and markings for use on overlays shall be made in accordance with Fig. 2 and Table 1.

5.3 Where words or letters are associated with a symbol, they shall be legible and as close to the symbol as possible. Size and placement may vary depending on map scale, the need for adjacent map features to remain visible and the writing instrument being used.

5.4 Locating marks shall be made on overlays so that they can be removed from the base map and reinstalled later with the proper alignment.

5.4.1 The base overlay shall have locating marks but should remain fixed with the base map throughout the search.

6. Keywords

6.1 management; maps; markings; search; symbols