

Missing Persons Task Force for Mass Casualty Disasters

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&
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Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



FEMA



**American
Red Cross**

History

- November 8, 2018- Camp Fire in Paradise
- 1,000 persons were reported missing as family and friends attempted to make contact
- Over 1,000 structures were destroyed or damaged
- After the fire, a missing persons task force was organized from the various allied agencies and non-government organizations (NGO's) to find and locate the missing persons.
- Mutual aid requested- Search and Rescue was deployed
- 86 persons succumbed to the fire (1 found, 1 died 8/19)
- One still missing

Not Just A Fire

- Fire Response
- USAR Response
- Multi-Agency
- Multi-Discipline



The Incident

- The speed of the fire outpaced emergency notifications
- Out of 30,000 notifications only 15,000 were successful- cell towers went down
- Deputies in the field conducting evacuations were entrapped by the fires- Deputies gathered the residents in open fields and parking lots and let the fire pass around them. The deputies kept evacuees off the road and saved lives.
- Evacuees gathered in safe areas and established make shift shelters outside Red Cross shelters.
- Vehicles leaving the area broke down and blocked the limited roadway out- evacuees on the roadway were consumed by the fire

History- Search Operations

- 10 victims- found in the vehicle
- 12 victims- found outside of residence
- 51 victims- found inside residence

Ad Hoc Missing Persons Task Force

- Law Enforcement - Investigative Services
- Fire/USAR
- Coroner
- Social Services
- NGOs - Red Cross
- Spontaneous Search Boards
- Private Industry
- Other Outside Agencies

Meet ANDE

- Rapid DNA Analysis
- Swab In - Profile Out
- Two Hours
- Up to 5 Samples



Missing Person Task Force Mission

- Develop an infrastructure to manage and process the large volume of missing persons calls of a mass casualty incident
- Develop a team of allied support group to work collectively in utilizing the various expertise and databases
- Organize a workflow to channel all information
- Document and account for all missing persons; no stone will be left unturned
- Provide updated information to the public and local government of progress

Taking Proactive Steps

- Development of a Missing Persons Task Force
 - Deployed As Needed - Collateral Duty
- Lessons Learned From Major Disasters
- Maximizing Available Resources
- Engage With Mutual Aid Agencies

Collaborative Effort

- Sheriff's Department - Comm Center, Detectives
- County OES - WebEOC
- Red Cross - Shelter Management, Safe and Well
- 211 - Information and Messaging
- Medical Community- LEMSIS
- FBI- Victim Assistance Rapid Deployment Team
- Mental Health Community
- Other affiliated state and federal agencies- FEMA, National Emergency Child Locator Center, CAL OES

TASK FORCE WORK AREA

SAR Staff

IT Support

**SAR
Sergeant**

Detectives



**Task Force
Sergeant**

Detectives



**Allied
Agencies**

**Detectives:
Priority/ Analyses Group**

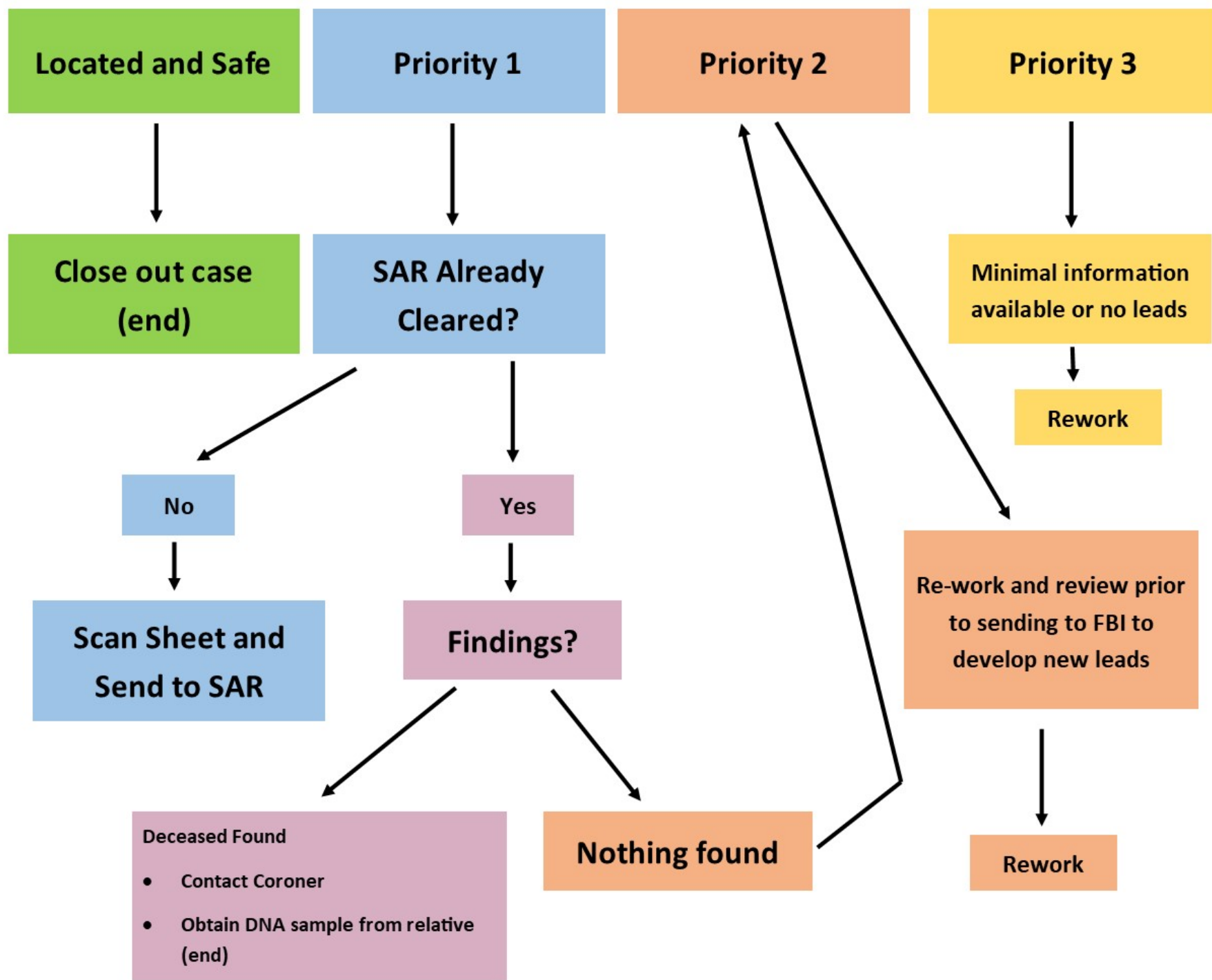


Dispatchers

**Professional
Staff**

**Intelligence
Analyst**





Trigger Points

- The calls to locate persons exceed the resources and capabilities of the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction
- Any incident of size, scope and severity is not understood- unmeasurable
- Public and political demands may trigger an outcry for a response
- Complexity of the event is deemed necessary to activate the task force

Questions?

Thank You For Your Time