

Texas EquuSearch Quarterly Newsletter

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Texas EquuSearch will be putting out a quarterly newsletter to keep our members more informed of what is happening in the organization. Each newsletter will contain a Search Tip, case summary of a few of our recent cases, special announcements, training schedules and a statement from our Director, Tim Miller. This may be the first newsletter for Texas EquuSearch, but we feel it will progress and keep each member better informed. Whether your resource is searching on foot, ATV, horse, boat or "Special Operations" ... you are a very important part of this organization. And we thank you for you for what you do.

Mean Gene's Southern Fried 4th Picnic and Music Festival

Benefiting Texas Equusearch

July 4th 2009 at the Hawg Stop Amphitheater

11355 Sheldon Rd. Houston, Texas 77044

Gates open @ Noon ... July 4th 2009

(Featuring: Mean Gene Kelton)

Tickets: \$15 at the Gate - \$10 in Advance

AND

Lance's Turtle Club on Clear Lake in Seabrook, Texas will be hosting a three day fundraiser for Texas EquuSearch so that we might continue to find missing persons and return them to their families. Though some details are still being finalized, the following is already planned.

Friday – July 24th (Golf Tournament during the day, and a "Black Tie Event" that night)

Saturday – July 25th (Motorcycle Poker-Run, Live Music, Special Guest Appearances, Car & Boat Show and fabulous tasting Bar-B-Q by the "Chillin-n-Grillin Bar-B-Q Team")

Sunday – July 26th (Live & Silent Auction, Special Guest Appearances, Bar-B-Q and more including ... the raffling of a 2009 Harley-Davidson Motorcycle from Stubbs Harley-Davidson)

So be sure to mark these dates on your calendar and make plans to come and have some fun at **Lance's Turtle Club on Clear Lake**. www.lancesturtleclub.net



Newsletter Search Tip: When you are actively searching for a missing person, be sure to keep a close watch for tire tracks leading into weeds, shorelines, fields, wooded areas, etc. Follow the tracks, but do not step on them. Try to stay several feet to the side of the tracks. Use caution not to disturb or step on anything, because it could possibly be potential evidence.

We have included a brief summary of some of our recent cases in the newsletter. Many details can not be revealed because some of the cases are still under investigation and we do not want to damage any part of the investigation. But we will attempt to keep you informed on what we can.

Brandon Rosales: Brandon disappeared about 3:00 a.m. on November 15th after he got into an altercation with several unknown males at a party in Bryan, Texas. His vehicle was found burning a couple of hours later, and about nineteen miles away. Texas EquuSearch began it's search early on the morning of November 18th 2008. About an hour and a half later, Tim Miller

& Lisa Hoffman located Brandon's remains about five miles away from where his vehicle was found burned, and about fifteen miles from where he was last seen. Tim & Lisa had actually seen tire tracks leading into a weeded and un-traveled area. They followed the tracks, while cautiously walking so not to disturb potential evidence. They found Brandon's body after walking a short distance inside the weeds. Brandon's case has been ruled a Homicide and it remains open.

Luetellie Pinesette: 82 year-old Luetellie Pinesette vanished about 8:30 p.m. on November 16th 2008 as he walked across LaMarque High School field with his grandson. When the grandson returned home without Luetellie, the grandson reportedly told his family members that he didn't know where his grandfather was - or what happen to him. Some reports said that Luetellie was ninety three years old. He was a retired school teacher and preacher. After several days of searching by Texas EquuSearch and several Law Enforcement agencies, Luetellie's remains were found about 2.9 miles South of where he reportedly disappeared. Luetellie's body was found after it surfaced near a bridge of a water-filled bayou, in the 6100 block of Fairwood Rd. in Hitchcock, Texas.

Sandy Brookins: People are always asking if Texas EquuSearch has any really happy endings. Well, the answer is YES, and here a little information about one of the happiest. On December 01st 2008 @ about 2:30 p.m., Texas EquuSearch was contacted and asked for immediate help in locating 54 year-old Sandy Brookins. We were informed that Sandy is a severely mentally challenged male with the mental capacity of a two - three year-old child. He had wandered away from a Southwest Houston care facility about 8:00 that morning wearing lightweight clothing. It was already cold, and expected to freeze later that night. We also learned Sandy suffered from Epilepsy and had very high blood pressure. The facility employees said Sandy was frail and in poor health. They also said that ... if he wasn't found soon, Sandy would probably start experiencing very bad seizures. Law enforcement and facility employees had already been searching the area with helicopters and automobiles for several hours, but they couldn't find Sandy anywhere. An "**Urgent Search Call-Out**" was activated because of Sandy's mental state, his physical condition and severe weather conditions. Soon, a surge of TES volunteers started arriving and fanning out throughout surrounding areas trying to find Sandy. After TES searchers were deployed into different areas, one of our TES members talked to a police officer from another nearby department. The officer immediately recognized Sandy's picture. He recalled seeing Sandy in "Protective Custody" at his police station earlier in the day. The officer started checking further into the incident and learned that Sandy had been taken to the police station because an officer realized Sandy was mentally challenged, and felt Sandy was probably a missing person that had wandered away from home. The officer said he took Sandy to the police station for his protection. He was later transferred to a care home until he could be identified. The police officer even arranged for a pair of pajamas for Sandy. Sandy was returned to his care facility a short time later, and was met there by many happy TES members, facility employees and family members. Yes, we do have a lot of happy endings.

Mary Ash: Ninety three year-old Mary Ash was the last search that Texas EquuSearch

conducted for 2008. Mary had disappeared on December 30th 2008. After they were unable to contact her, Mary's family members entered her home on Houston's North side and found several things were not normal at her home. Mary also had several hundred dollars in the home, and it was missing also. Mary was known to display large amounts of money to strangers. Mary showed signs of Alzheimer's disease and she had some medical issues. Early on the morning of December 31st 2008, Mary's family called Texas EquuSearch to help find her. The areas surrounding Mary's home were searched by several Texas EquuSearch members on foot, ATVs and horses, but Mary wasn't immediately found. Family members informed TES that a strange-acting man had been hanging around Mary's home for several days before she disappeared. He couldn't be found anywhere after Mary disappeared. Then late on the afternoon of December 31st 2008, an observant police officer noticed Mary wandering around near a shopping mall about 20 miles from where she lived, and disappeared from. Though she had no identification, she was able to tell police her name. Her medical condition was unstable, so she was transported to a nearby hospital. Unfortunately, all of Mary's money was gone ... and so was the person that took and left Mary across town.

Todd Smith: Thirty Five year-old Todd Smith disappeared on September 09th 2009 after walking out of his Pasadena, Texas home. Todd had recently been experiencing some problems and had started to hallucinate just before he disappeared. Texas EquuSearch was contacted about two weeks later by Todd's family, and they asked for our help to find him. Nearby wooded areas, streams, fields and reservoirs were searched for three weeks by TES members on foot and ATVs. Ted Miller brought in his own helicopter to search several miles of the surrounding areas around Todd's home. But unfortunately, Todd was not found. Pasadena Police Detectives pretty much eliminated any possibility that Todd was alive somewhere else. The Pasadena Police Department contacted Texas EquuSearch again and asked us to join them on one more search for Todd on January 10th 2009. We deployed team members into the field at 8:20 a.m. At 9:20 a.m., the Command Post was informed by one of our Search Coordinators / Team Leader (Alvin Tips) that he had located Todd's remains, and that his team had secured the scene. They said clothing at the scene matched what Todd was last known to be wearing. Detectives were immediately informed of the find. Searchers met detectives at a nearby park, and our Texas EquuSearch ATV Team transported the detectives and equipment back to the scene of the remains. It would have been about a one mile walk for detectives going through thick brush, weeds and thorn trees. Todd's identification was nearby the remains. Todd's remains were found about 1.5 miles from where he disappeared ... and the recovery scene was not physically accessible to foot searchers or ATVs the first few times we searched in that area. Only after construction equipment cleared some of the area leading to the scene, were searchers able to get access. Several TES searchers attended Todd's funeral. Texas EquuSearch was recognized during the service for its efforts to find Todd. His case is still being investigated by law enforcement.

Owen Castle: Another amazing survival case we worked is that of two year-old Owen Castle, who disappeared from his Llano, Texas home during the early evening hours of February 2nd 2009. An intense search for Owen began immediately after he disappeared. Texas EquuSearch

was contacted and asked to come help find Owen. Several TES members traveled throughout the night to go search for Owen, arriving in the early morning hours of February 3rd 2009. Several agencies including the Llano County Sheriff's Department, Texas DPS, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and others from the community came together to search for the toddler. The Texas DPS brought in their helicopter to search for Owen. Then, on February 4th 2009 at about 8:30 a.m., the pilot of the helicopter from the Texas Department of Public Safety spotted Owen lying on the ground ... about two miles from where he had disappeared from. Owen had somehow walked almost two miles in cold weather conditions, over treacherous terrain and steep inclines to get to where he was found. He had even crawled through a game preservation fence. Searchers frantically rushed to the location. They found Owen to be very cold and un-conscious. But, he still had a very slight pulse and heartbeat. Searchers including Tim Miller and Lisa Hoffman removed much of their own clothing and covered Owen in attempts to warm his body. Owen was quickly transported to the hospital and found to have a body temperature of 74 degrees when he arrived in the Emergency Room. He was comatose. Miraculously, after several days of intense medical treatments, Owen emerged from the coma. Slowly, his medical condition is now improving ... and we pray that he continues to improve.

Susana DeJesus: On February 2nd of 2009, witnesses observed Susana DeJesus being abducted at gunpoint as she was leaving the women's clothing store she managed in Pearland, Texas. Her ATM card was used at a closed bank a short time after her abduction. The bank is over 11 miles north of where Susana was abducted from. Her vehicle was soon found abandoned another 11.5 miles west of the bank where her ATM was used. Susana's family and friends contacted TES and asked for our help in finding her. We contacted law enforcement and let them know the family had asked for our help. Tim Miller and Search Coordinators Carol Moyers & Frank Black began four days of driving through and mapping-out several areas of concern that we felt needed searching. Several areas considered "High Priority / High Probability Areas" were immediately mapped and placed at the top of the list for searching. But, TES decided not to start an all-out search until we gained approval from law enforcement. There were multiple law enforcement agencies already following leads in different directions. We did not want to bull-head our way into an intense criminal investigation and take the chance of damaging or slowing their examination of evidence or possible suspects. Law enforcement investigators usually want some time to analyze evidence, look into possible suspects and evaluate all the circumstances and pieces of a case like this. Conducting a full-blown search during this period of an investigation could greatly damage any potential leads in a criminal investigation. Meanwhile, Susana's family grew impatient and contacted another area search team. That team searched for several weeks, but found nothing that would lead to Susana's location. On March 10th 2009, law enforcement located Susana's remains after a suspect led them to her body. Law enforcement connected the suspect to Susana's disappearance after he was arrested in connection with another violent crime in Pearland, Texas. Police soon arrested another suspect and charged both men with the abduction and murder of Susana. They both remain in jail.

FYI: *The exact location where Susana was eventually found - had already been marked by the TES recon team in the "High Priority / High Probability Areas". Our plans were to search it on our*

very first day.

Dominick Arceneaux: On February 13th 2009, Texas EquuSearch was contacted by law enforcement in Camden, Arkansas ... asking for our help to find a missing child, three year-old Dominick Arceneaux. Dominick had disappeared on February 9th 2009 about 2:00 p.m. while playing in his yard. Investigators feared that Dominick had been kidnapped, and quickly issued an Amber Alert for him. Members of TES, specializing in water searches, arrived and immediately started using side-scan sonar in a nearby lake. White Oak Lake is a very short distance from Dominick's home. On February 18th 2009, Dominick's little body was recovered from the frigid waters of the White Oak Lake. Apparently, he had wandered away from his home and somehow fell into the lake.

Dr. Stephen Zella: Dr. Zella was kayaking alone in Clear Lake (Houston, Texas) about 11:30 a.m. on February 20th 2009. Witnesses said he wasn't wearing a life jacket, and both witnesses said Stephen appeared to be struggling against the wind and strong cross-currents. His kayak was found capsized a couple of minutes later and witnesses never saw Stephen again, so they called 911 for help. The Nassau Bay Fire & Rescue Team was in the water within seven minutes of receiving the alarm. Deputies from the Harris County Pct. 8 Constables Department arrived within ten minutes and started organizing search teams and equipment. Texas EquuSearch was called in a short time later to assist in the search for Stephen. TES used side-scan sonar over several days in attempts to locate Stephen. The John Silvetti Group and Louis Schaffer's Legacy Offshore Divers came in to Clear Lake to assist us in the search for Stephen. They brought in a vast amount of high-tech underwater equipment and skills. But high winds continually rocked the search / sonar boat from side-to-side, making clarity of the sonar images very poor. Another problem searchers came to face was that the lake's floor is littered with debris, including a tractor, from Hurricane Ike. These debris items distorted images and made it difficult to distinguish real items of concern. Weather conditions and hurricane debris kept professional divers and sonar image analysts very busy for several days. Volunteers continually searched the shorelines, bulkheads, piers, jetties, coves, tributaries and any other place that the multiple cross currents might have taken Stephen. Weather became a safety concern for TES volunteers on February 25th, which prompted a search cancelation for the rest of the day. But, sonar specialist and divers continued to search through the bad weather. That night, divers located Stephen under some of the debris that was littering the lake, but they could not retrieve him because of strong currents and the weight of the debris on top of him. Early on February 26th, the divers started planning out their strategy to recover Stephen. As the divers were putting the plans in motion and preparing to dive, Stephen had actually surfaced and was spotted by Lisa Hoffman and Stephen's father-in-law. He had re-surfaced in almost the same location that he had disappeared from. Fire departments, law enforcement agencies, private organizations and state & federal government departments from about 15 different agencies participated in the search for Stephen. Besides our TES volunteers, many of Stephen's friends, colleagues, neighbors and other concerned citizens searched him.

Sabrina Pena: On February 22nd 2009, Texas EquuSearch was requested to help find twenty-

seven year-old Sabrina Pena in far North Harris County, Texas (Houston). Family members said Sabrina went missing on February 21st 2009 after she left to go run errands. She had to buy a few things before she was to attend a planned family gathering that evening. But Sabrina never showed up at the gathering and didn't answer her phone. Her vehicle was later found abandoned in a department store parking lot, where she had told friends and family she had planned to shop. A full soft drink was found inside her vehicle that she had purchased at a near by drive-in restaurant. She had just purchased it before going to the nearby department store - where her vehicle was found. But, the search hadn't been going on very long, before credible information come in to Texas EquuSearch ... that Sabrina's body might have been found. The search was temporarily suspended until confirmation could be made. Then the Search Coordinator (Carol Moyers) received credible information that it was Sabrina's body that had been found. She was found in a ditch, about eighteen miles away from where she disappeared. She had been bound and duct taped on some parts of her body. Harris County Sheriff's Department investigators quickly made an arrest after finding a man's fingerprint on parts of the duct tape. The arrested suspect had gone to school with Sabrina. He has been charged with her murder. In honor or Sabrina, and for the protection of other females in the area, a self-defense class was formed to let women know how to protect themselves from predators.

Daryl Lindsey: On March 4th 2009, Daryl Lindsey walked away from his Spring, Texas care facility about 4:30 a.m. The care facility called Texas EquuSearch the next afternoon. They needed help to find Daryl. An immediate search began because had Daryl has multiple health ailments. The weather was fairly cold and Daryl was apparently bare-footed. The care facility informed TES that Daryl was Autistic and had the mental equivalency of a five year-old child. Daryl also had Diabetes, high blood pressure and suffered from seizures. A "**Critical Search Alert**" was activated and the search intensified. Searchers combed through woods, fields, streams, neighborhoods, lakes, vacant homes and every other imaginable place that Daryl could be, but he wasn't located anywhere. All tips were followed-up on, but none provided any credible information leading to Daryl's whereabouts. Daryl is still missing at this time, but we pray he is O.K. and somewhere safe.

Mohammed Marfani: Texas EquuSearch was contacted on the early evening of March 9th 2009 regarding a college student that disappeared after going to a nightclub with some friends. The caller said his brother, Mohammed Marfani, had gone to Rich's club in downtown Houston on March 6th 2009. Mohammed allegedly went outside to smoke a cigarette about Midnight, but never came back inside the club. His vehicle was still remained un-moved two days later. Mohammed's brother obtained a security surveillance video from the night Mohammed went to the club. The video apparently indicated that Mohammed was apparently intoxicated – and an unknown male was observed taking items from his pockets. There were no other sightings or tips to Mohammed's location. The search was suspended a couple days later due to poor weather conditions and a lack of credible information that could put the search teams into a specific area. Then, on March 17th 2009, information was received that Mohammed's body was found inside a burnt-out vehicle a few blocks from where he had disappeared from. But, the burnt vehicle had only been parked in that spot only a couple days because it had recently

broken down. The case is still under investigation by law enforcement.

Joseph Guidry: Seventy year-old Dementia patient, Joseph Guidry, walked away from his caretaker at Deerbrook Mall in Humble, Texas at approximately 5:30 p.m. on March 14th 2009. Humble P.D. and mall security quickly saturated the area, but was unable to find Joseph anywhere. Humble Police officials contacted Texas EquuSearch and asked for our immediate help in finding Joseph. TES set up a command post at the Humble Police Department and started deploying teams in the field to search area creeks, retention ponds and wooded areas that surrounded the mall. Shortly after the teams arrived at their search assignment locations, word came in to Humble P.D. that Joseph had been found safe and un-harmed after an observant Montgomery County Sheriffs Deputy observed Joseph walking through a U.S. 59 highway construction area at 1:00 a.m. The area where Joseph was found is reportedly about 18 miles from where Joseph disappeared.

Joseph Bivens / Deandre Goodson: On March 18th 2009, Texas EquuSearch was contacted by a male stating that his brother (Deandre Goodson) and his cousin (Joseph Bivens) had both been missing for two days after they drove off from the brother's home. The missing men did not say where they were going to, but the brother expected them to be back at his Missouri City, Texas home in 2 -3 hours. However, they never came back. Deandre had left his custom vehicle at the brother's home and Joseph never showed up for work at a well-known engineering firm in Houston. Joseph has a reputation as being punctual and reliable. The brother said that if they ever went anywhere, it was to a paint and body shop in the Acres Homes area of Houston. Family members said they had several reports of the missing men being spotted in Acres Homes about the time they were due back at the brother's home. But they had been missing two days now and our concerns intensified. Plans were made to recon some particular areas the next morning in Acres Homes and other areas. But before any areas could be mapped out, word came that the bodies of Deandre and Joseph had been found murdered in Joseph's vehicle about 20 miles from where they were reportedly last seen three days earlier. The Houston Police Department Homicide Division is actively investigating the case and following up on all leads.

Tony Blocker: On March 24th 2009, the U.S. Coast Guard contacted Texas EquuSearch and asked for our help in finding a Galveston Beach drowning victim. The victim, Tony Blocker had been swimming on Galveston Beach near 52nd St. and Seawall Blvd. in front of the San Luis Hotel. Tony, his girlfriend and several accompanying children were swimming on March 23rd 2009 and Tony was pulled out, and away from the beach by a rip-current. Three Coast Guard boats, a U.S.C.G. helicopter and several beach patrol lifeguards could not locate Tony. When TES searchers arrived, the water was extremely rough and the current was pulling to the East. Officials informed TES that Hurricane Ike changed the terrain of the beach's floor - and it has caused some very un-predictable currents, holes and beach drop-offs. Searchers were deployed on foot, ATV and horse to areas of the beach from Seawall Blvd. @ 61st St. to - Seawall Blvd. @ 25th St. near the closed-down Flagship Hotel. The first day of searching turned up no signs of Tony. But the next day, (March 25th 2009 @ 10:40 a.m.) an observant TES searcher (Mike

“Murph” Murphy) caught a brief glimpse of Tony’s body slightly below the water’s surface about 1 mile East of where he disappeared from. A closer look revealed that Tony was lodged in the rock jetty. Authorities were immediately notified by Search Coordinator Carol Moyers. Tony’s body had been carried east along the beachfront; which is very un-characteristic of currents in that particular area.

John Blattner: On March 30th 2009, the TES office was contacted by a female requesting our help in locating her brother (John Blattner) that had disappeared a few days earlier (March 28th 2009). John’s ex-wife had asked him to go somewhere with her. John’s former wife said that she had later that night, dropped him off at a store near his apartment. John was scheduled to appear in court for a child custody hearing a few days after his disappearance, but he failed to show up. A couple days later, law enforcement investigators approved the family request for TES to start an immediate search. The next morning, Tim Miller and a TES Search Coordinator Frank Black met with several investigators from area agencies including the F.B.I. and a Texas Ranger. Law enforcement and TES members looked over several areas of concern that afternoon. TES members went into several various areas they were concerned John’s remains might be. Law enforcement had already sent special law enforcement search teams in to search some other particular areas of concern without any positive results. That next two days were spent searching “High Priority Areas” and looking for more areas that needed searching, but nothing was found. The next morning before the search had even started; Tim Miller and Mike Fitzpatrick went to look at several areas. They came upon a burnt-out home on a fairly good sized piece of property. They stopped to see what was around the abandoned trashed-out property. Tim started walking one way and Mike walked the other way. Within one minute, Mike had spotted John’s body lying near the driveway, and close to the rear of the home. They immediately backed out of the crime scene by taking the same path they had used to walk into the area. They called and notified investigators and then drove a short distance away from the property to wait for them. Tim and Mike kept a watchful eye on the property until investigators arrived. At least two people have been arrested and charged with “Capital Murder” in connection with John’s death. Their bonds are set at one million dollars each.

Hallie Jenkins / Karrington Jenkins: About 4:30 p.m. on April 18th 2009, Chanton Jenkins was driving eastbound in the 2600 block of Greens Rd. in Houston, Texas. The area was being hammered by rains, causing widespread street flooding. Chanton had six children and another adult with him. Somehow, Chanton drove off his vehicle off of the roadway and into a water-filled creek. The creek merges into Greens Bayou about 7/8th of a mile south of the crash site. Chanton, an adult passenger and one child escaped without injury. But five young children didn’t get out of the vehicle. Divers from the Houston Police Department recovered the bodies of three children late that night. But the other two children were either washed out of the vehicle by rushing floodwaters ... or thrown from the vehicle on impact. The next morning, the Houston Police Department authorized Texas EquuSearch to immediately start searching for the two children. The children were identified as 18 month-old Karrington Jenkins and four year-old Hallie Jenkins. Before our search even started on April 19th 2009, 18 month-old Karrington’s body was found by one of her family members - about 250 yards south of where

the vehicle had crashed into the water. Her remains were covered with mud and lying partially in the water. Her body had rested there when the waters started receding. But four year-old Hallie's body was still missing. We continued our search for two more days searching the water and creek banks that were filled with trash and other floodwater debris. Searchers ran across some obstacles during the search. There were poisonous snakes, water-filled sink holes covered-over with tall weeds and portions of the creek's bank started caving-in at some areas. But nobody got hurt, just dirty. On Tuesday morning (April 21st 2009) Tim Miller and Lisa Hoffman were in a small boat about ¾ of a mile south of the crash site when they came upon a large drainage pipe coming out of the east side of the creek's bank. The creek's floor had a large hole filled with trash and debris from the floods that included cable, tires, etc. They pulled a lot of debris out of the hole. At one point, Tim had something on the end of his pole that was consistent with a body being underwater. But he couldn't keep a hold onto it. They moved down the creek a little further searching other areas, but had planned on coming back to the hole area a little later to make another attempt to retrieve whatever was under water. About two hours later, a man spotted Hallie's body after it surfaced, just a few feet south of where Tim and Lisa had struggled to remove debris from the underwater hole. Apparently, Tim and Lisa had dislodged Hallie's body from the piles of debris ... and it slowly surfaced.

Danny Hopper: On April 21st 2009, the U.S. Coast Guard contacted Texas EquuSearch and asked for our help in finding Danny Hopper. Danny's small boat had been hit by a tanker ship in the Houston Ship Channel near Galena Park, Texas. Danny was last seen jumping from his small boat just seconds before being hit by the tanker. Nobody ever saw Danny re-surface after jumping in the water. Several TES searchers and boats responded to the request for help. There weren't any nearby fueling stations available for the boats, so Roy Moffitt Customized Fueling sent a fuel truck out to keep our boats fueled - and members of the Silveti Group assisted John White with sonar analysis. Three days after the search began (April 24th 2009), Danny's body was located in the Houston Ship channel by John White and Mike Fitzpatrick. They secured Danny's body to their boat and notified U.S. Coast Guard officials. The death is currently under investigation.

Reminders:

- Searchers are not permitted to bring children on an “**Active Search**” unless they are at least 18 years-old. That includes being in the Command Post / Staging Area. However, many times, the family of a missing person will bring a child to a Command Post / Staging Area. Because of circumstances, children that are related to a missing person will be allowed in the Command Post / Staging Area only.
- Tim Miller, Lisa Hoffman and the assigned “Search Coordinator” on a case - are the only persons that are permitted to communicate with law enforcement, media or the family members of a missing person.
- All cases are **Strictly Confidential**. Many cases are highly sensitive and are an ongoing and active criminal investigation by law enforcement. Do not discuss these cases during

any search. You never know who is listening in. We are not investigators. A daily briefing will detail any information we have as far as physical descriptions, direction of travel, medical concerns or other need-to-know information. But, we will not discuss any sensitive information regarding the case, so don't ask for the details and circumstances of a case. Do not put out any information or pictures on blogs or websites.

- If Tim Miller, Lisa Hoffman or the assigned "Search Coordinator" on an active search is talking with someone, (including police, media, a missing person's family / friends, informants, etc.) do not walk up and listen in ... or join in on the conversation. The information is most probably confidential.
- For safety reasons, at least four searchers must be assigned to a team before it can be deployed to a search area.
- If remains or evidence is found by a search team - in an area other than where you are assigned, don't leave your own assigned search area to go and see what is over there without the verbal authorization of the assigned Search Coordinator.
- Following a Call-out to your phone, the Search Coordinator is very busy talking with law enforcement, family members, Tim Miller, media, office staff and performing other tasks. Do not call the Search Coordinator just to let them know you are coming to the search – or call just to get details and circumstances of the person's disappearance.

If you should get a call-out on your phone and didn't understand or receive the complete message, you can call 1-877-698-3261 ... and press 1 to hear the latest call-out message. You will be prompted to enter the phone number you currently have listed on our call-out roster. The message will then be played back to you. When a search call-out is activated, the call-out information will also be posted on the website as soon as possible.

Special Announcements:

- Search Coordinator **Lee Robertson** recently underwent extensive back surgery and is now recuperating at home. We hope his recovery goes well and we see him back searching with us again very soon.

Training: Texas EquuSearch is constantly training to ensure our success in the many searches we conduct for missing persons. Training classes include orientation, mapping, compass use, search techniques, safety and many other topics. We encourage all of our members to attend these informative classes. Updates on upcoming training classes can be viewed on our website.

Holly Lake: Eleven members of Texas EquuSearch team attended the Holly Lake Search Training Classes in East Texas on the weekend of March 21st & 22nd 2009. All members successfully passed the training course and received their much earned certificates.



Tim Says ...

Eight plus years ago with only an idea of starting a search and recovery organization, where we are today is almost breath-taking. Never forgetting the very first search for Marion Atlee in Houston in December of 2000, who was unfortunately found deceased on Christmas Eve, to our latest search only yesterday for a 32 year-old girl, which had some signs of possible foul play, but she decided to continue her drug addiction.

How can a small, under-funded organization be involved in over 1050 Missing Person's cases, not only here in Texas, but all over the Country, and many times in other parts of the world? It is only a result of the dedicated members that has made it possible. I know for a fact that I am only a small part of a huge world, and can accomplish very little on my own, but with the dedication all of you given, I feel as we have accomplished nothing short of countless miracles.

Our goals have always been to bring that missing loved one home alive to their family, if any way possible, and together we have succeeded many times over.

Allow me to say thanks to all of you.

The sad reality is many times it is not possible for our missing loved ones to return home safely. Whether it involves foul play, drowning, accident, suicide or countless other reasons, and again our members drop whatever they are doing, cancel their plans, bring their knowledge, hearts, compassion and travel near and far to help another family they have never met. And yes people, to date, we have recovered nearly 100 – (99 to be exact) – victims and brought them home to their families, and at least have some closure. Again, thanks to all, not only from myself, but from many families.

Don't we wish all cases were a success in one way or another? All we have to do is visit our Website, look at our Missing Person page and realize how many families are still suffering the greatest loss they could ever imagine.

I know for myself, and I'm sure for many of you, these cases are still haunting. We wonder – what did we do wrong? What could we have done different? The answer is nothing. Again, we left our egos and attitudes at home, took our dedication and determination and gave it our all, and sadly have to face the fact that no matter what resources, sweat, prayers and tears we shed, many times is not enough, only to realize that many are not findable. Let's again, even with these, know we did our best.

TES made a promise years ago to never leave a family alone if there was any way we could help, and I'm extremely proud of keeping that promise, again, whether here in our back yard or Sri-Lanka, Aruba and countless other areas. Today, the economy has touched many and most business, large and small industry, including TES. Our donations have been fewer than ever, our case load more than ever, and for these reasons, we have had to turn down more cases in the last six months since our existence. Now we can only hope and pray we can continue our mission as long as possible, because we all know our phone will ring, if not today – tomorrow, with a sad, panic-stricken voice on the other end, a new Missing Person's Report will be filled out and again another call-out. God help us and allow us to help the next family.

And again, please allow me to thank all of you, all of our past members, and hopefully future members. Without all of you, none of this would have been possible. See you on the next search.

Your friend,

Tim Miller,
Director