

8. Subject Categories

This chapter presents each subject category in alphabetical order. Several new categories are documented for the first time. The following information is provided for each subject category:

- **Subject profile.** This includes relevant background information on how the category is defined, overall traits, and descriptive information. Much of this information is new. The creation of a profile was derived from search mission statistics, incident comments, and researched background. Many of the original Syrotuck profiles still use Syrotuck's original behavioral descriptions.¹ Hill has pointed out that Syrotuck appears to have derived his profiles more from personal experience than the mission files.² However, those profiles repeated here have withstood the test of time and are well accepted (scientific validity is another matter).
- **Subject statistics**
 - Distance from the IPP
 - Elevation change from IPP
 - Mobility (hours)
 - Dispersion Angle (degrees)
 - Find Location
 - Survivability
 - Track Offset
 - Scenario
- **Suggested initial tactics**
- **Suggested additional investigative questions**



This chapter represents a chief aim of the book: To present lost person behavior by subject category. We introduce several new categories and statistics that will be helpful in a wider variety of search situations. This is the first time results are presented by temperate or dry domain (Chapter 2). If the searcher is in a polar domain it is suggested to use the dry domain result. If in a tropical domain the temperate domain result will be the best fit. In addition, separate results for urban searches are presented. Chapter 7 describes in detail how all the data was obtained and organized. **All data and results are derived from ISRID unless otherwise cited in the specific result table.**

Subject categories are determined by:

- 1st—Subject’s mental status (autistic, dementia, despondent, etc.)
- 2nd—Subject’s age (if age 15 or under)
- 3rd—Subject’s primary activity

The following subject types are covered:

- Abduction
- Aircraft
- Angler
- ATV
- Autistic
- Camper
- Caver
- Child
(in four age bins)
- Climber
- Dementia
- Despondent
- Gatherer
- Hiker
- Horseback Rider
- Hunter
- Mental Illness
- Mental Retardation
(Intellectual Disability)
- Mountain Biker
- Other (BASE Jumper,
Extreme Sports,
Motorcycle)
- Runner
- Skier-Alpine
- Skier-Nordic
- Snowboarder
- Snowmobiler
- Snowshoer
- Substance Abuse
- Urban Entrapment
- Vehicle Related
(Vehicle, 4wd,
Abandoned)
- Water Related
(Powered Boats,
Non-powered Boats,
Person in the Water)
- Worker

This book focuses on how to find the subject with SAR resources when he is somewhere in the search area. However, almost all searches have a second “search” component—the investigative effort. This effort is almost always conducted by law enforcement. It consists of a criminal investigation and an investigation of the subject being in the “rest of the world.” Describing how to conduct such an investigation is outside the scope of this book. Some will only launch a background investigation for obvious red flag cases. It is recommended that law enforcement launch a quiet but thorough **criminal investigation in all cases for all subject types**. The elimination of factors and potential suspects with solid investigation allows the search effort to focus on the actual search area. The sooner the investigation starts the better the information. Too many searches have been suspended because search planners feel, after one or two days of searching, that the subject must have left the area, but have done little investigation to back up that belief.