Crash Site Procedures

SAFETY FIRST: Yours, Your Team, the Patient

Find Scene procedure for a lost person search
- Approach/Preserve Scene
- Stabilize the patient
- Treat as a crime scene if subject is dead or there is evidence of other foul play
  - limit the number of people on scene
  - Medic and FTL only are to approach the patient until scene is cleared
  - take the same route out as you took in—flag your route
  - DOCUMENT everything, especially for a Status 3
- Secure the area

Find Scene procedure for a downed aircraft search
- Basically the same as lost person, with some added hazards.
- Approach scene from uphill, upwind.
- Aircraft can be very unstable
  - May slide downhill
  - Aircraft or parts in the trees may fall at any moment.
- Fuel can leak out
  - fumes can be toxic and affect searchers on scene
  - very flammable
- If safe, count victims
  - determine if there are subjects unaccounted for who may have wandered away from the wreckage
- Status 3s make this a Crime Scene, subject to State Police, NTSB and FAA investigations
- Everything on scene is evidence.
  - Keep the number of people in the chain of custody to a minimum and DOCUMENT that chain
  - The more people who handle a scene or a clue, the less viable it becomes.
- Equipment that might come in handy in case you end up at a crash site
  - Old clothing (everything you’ve got on) and shoes that you wouldn’t mind having burned post-incident
  - Vic’s Vapor Rub applied just under the nose does wonders for the odor
  - multiple pairs of good latex gloves
  - inexpensive, thick leather gloves
  - multiple trash bags, heavy grade
  - disposable camera
- Personal Safety Guidelines
  - Decontamination is recommended
  - Be aware of the possibility of infections
  - You can’t be too careful!