

Despondent



Search & Rescue Challenge Badge

% of cases	Distance between place missing and place found
25%	300 metres
50%	800 metres
75%	2.3 kilometres
95%	17.3 kilometres

% of cases	Likely places found
26%	Found in structures
25%	Found in woods
15%	Found by rivers, ponds or lakes
12%	Found on roads
8%	Found by streams or ditches
6%	Found on tracks/paths
6%	Found in fields

Other notes to consider

Depression is the most common mental health problem, with 1-in-4 diagnosed. People often use phrases like "I'm depressed" to describe a temporary low mood or how they are feeling about a particular situation. In most cases, these low spirits lift of their own accord after a short period of time.

However, if feelings of unhappiness worsen and begin to interfere with how someone lives their everyday life, it is possible that they are developing major or clinical depression. This category includes people who are depressed, for whom the possibility of suicide is strong, or who have expressed intent to commit suicide.

People often simply desire time alone, the majority are found in rural or indoor locations. Most seek to get out of sight or to reach a specific location, often scenic or significant in their life.

% of cases	Scenario
82%	Despondent
10%	Lost
3%	Evading

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Investigation
Establish favourite paces
Establish suicide risk
Risk to searchers
Have they taken anything from home they could use to commit suicide?

Place last seen
Search 300 meters
Search local homes and gardens
Search any structures in search areas

Immediate local area
Talk to neighbours
Thorough search of the 25% zone
Consider thorough search up to 50% zone

Investigative Questions

- Have they runaway/left or attempted suicide in the past?
- Any recent breakups, separation, money troubles or job loss?
- Recent deaths or anniversaries of significant others?
- Recent stressful events or discovery of serious/terminal illness?
- Have they told anyone about suicide intentions?
- Have they left notes, said goodbye or taken/left possessions in an obvious place? Is there a history of suicide in the family?
- Any history of alcohol or substance abuse, or have they the means to commit suicide?

Travel routes
Hasty search of roads, tracks, paths and other routes leading away from the place last seen
Hasty search of all scenic and significant areas

Priority tasks
Check historical finds
Previous lost locations and scenic/significant areas
High hazard areas, water, buildings, garages, sheds and overgrown areas