

Tracking sticks



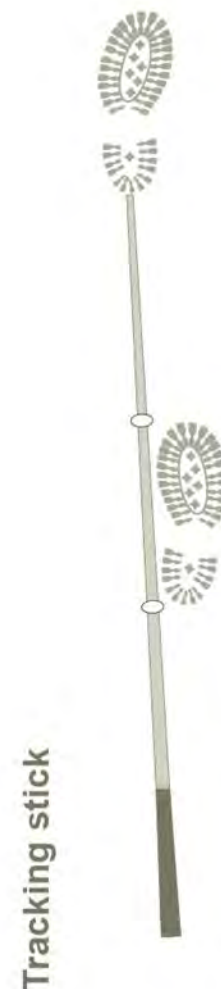
People-tracking skills

In Search and Rescue, we want to track people rather than animals, so we concentrate on sign from people.

In this unit we learn to use a tracking stick to help track an individual.

Calibrate and use a tracking stick

- A tracking stick can be any device used to measure length of stride and foot length.
- In SAR the most common form of tracking stick is a fibre glass rod with 2 rubber rings.



Calibrate and use a tracking stick

- The value of a tracking stick is not only in stride and foot measurements, but also how it is used to predict an area in which a footfall will be – prime sign area.



Some types of tracking sticks

Calibrating a tracking stick



Setting stride length



Setting foot length

Getting D.O.T and following a track

Discussion:

- Why a heel print is important
- Other types of sign that give D.O.T.

Using a tracking stick to predict and find sign

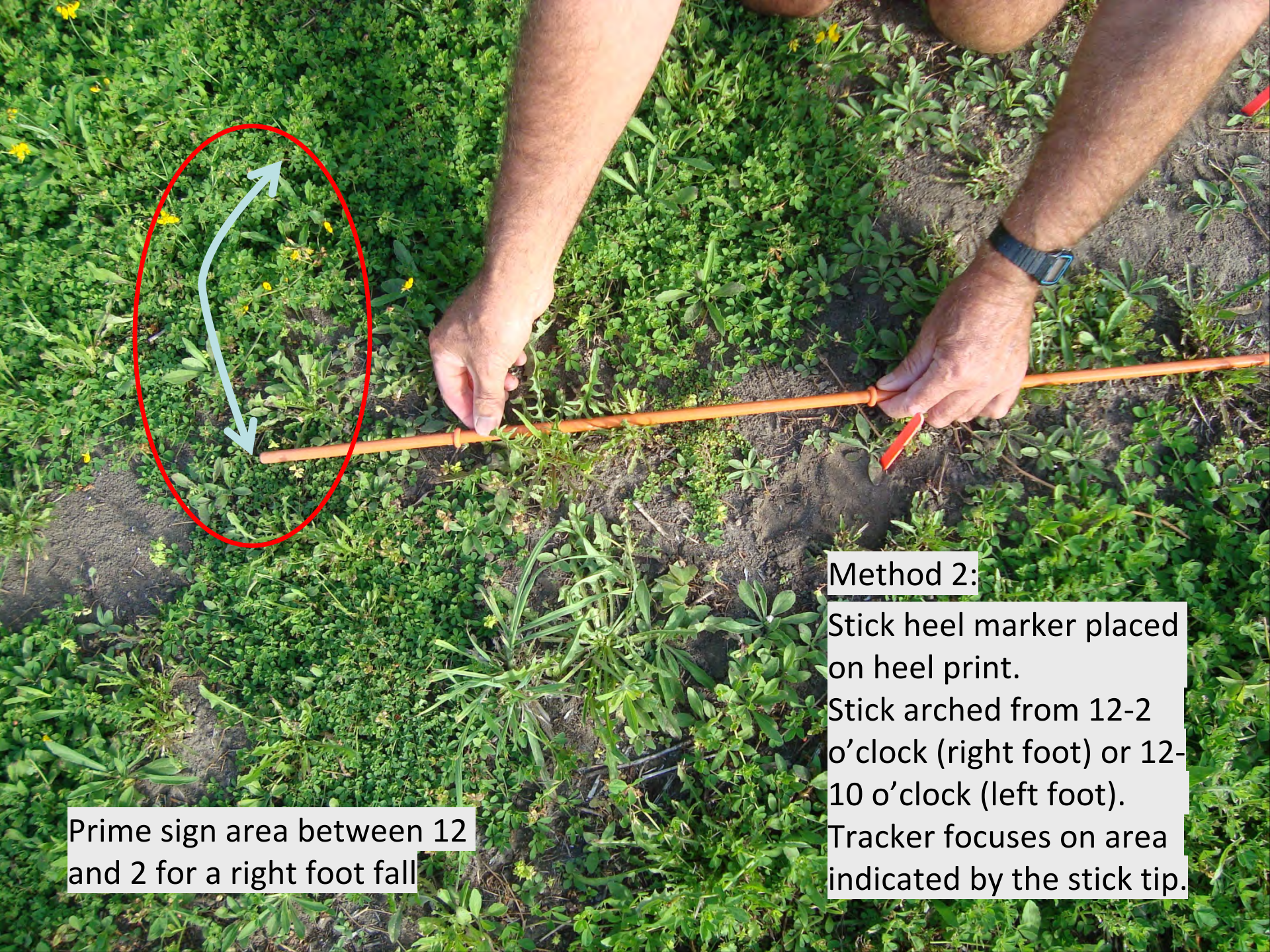
- It is important to know what foot you are working from - left or right.
- Imagine the centre line of a person being 12 o'clock . Project this forward 1 stride length.
- A left will fall between 10- 12 o'clock.
- A right will fall between 12- 2 o'clock.

Using a tracking stick to predict and find sign

Method 1:

Orange set on heel print, down subject's centre line. Blue stick (calibrated) at 2 (right foot) or 10 o'clock (left). Prime area between stick tips.





Method 2:

Stick heel marker placed on heel print.
Stick arched from 12-2 o'clock (right foot) or 12-10 o'clock (left foot).
Tracker focuses on area indicated by the stick tip.

Prime sign area between 12 and 2 for a right foot fall

Control of contamination

- Stay behind the prime sign area- that means all parts of everybody including hands
- If need to change angle, re-position to least likely area and mark your deviation
- Ways of marking tracker contamination

Control of contamination

In you groups identify 4 - 6 critical points regarding:

- What happens if tracker contamination is not controlled.
- Whose responsibility is it to ensure contamination is controlled.

Pace tracking

- Another method of predicting and finding sign.
- Only to be used when tracker is familiar with sign and contamination control.
- Useful when terrain is uneven.

Marking prints

Why mark prints?

- On this course - as an aide for learning.
- Helps determine whether you should be looking for a left or a right footfall.
- Helps establish any stride pattern changes.

Marking prints

- Identifies prints so contamination is avoided.
- Necessary when tracking conditions get complex and difficult.



Fluorescent craft sticks



Using vegetation (e.g. fern)

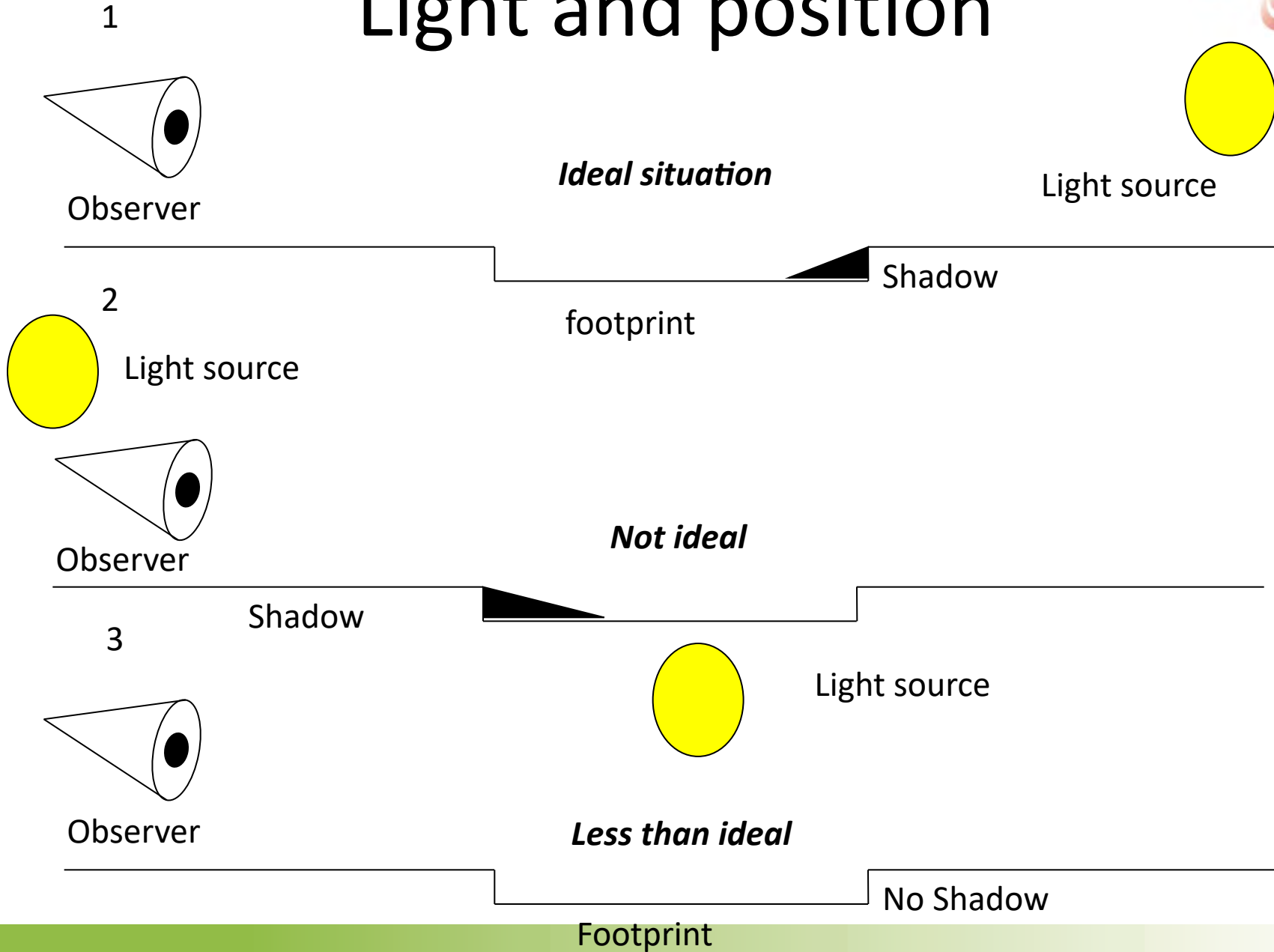


Stones (with encircled print)



International convention: -
semi-circles behind print -
marks to indicate left/right.

Light and position





Print in early morning light



Print in mid day light

Using a light source to assist tracking

- Light can be manipulated during the night – angle, intensity.
- Light can be manipulated when drawing a print.



Torches

Manipulating light – night time

A circular pool of light is cast onto a dark, textured surface, likely a road or pavement. The light is bright and concentrated in the center, creating a clear contrast with the surrounding dark area. The texture of the surface is visible within the illuminated circle. The overall scene is dark, suggesting a nighttime setting.

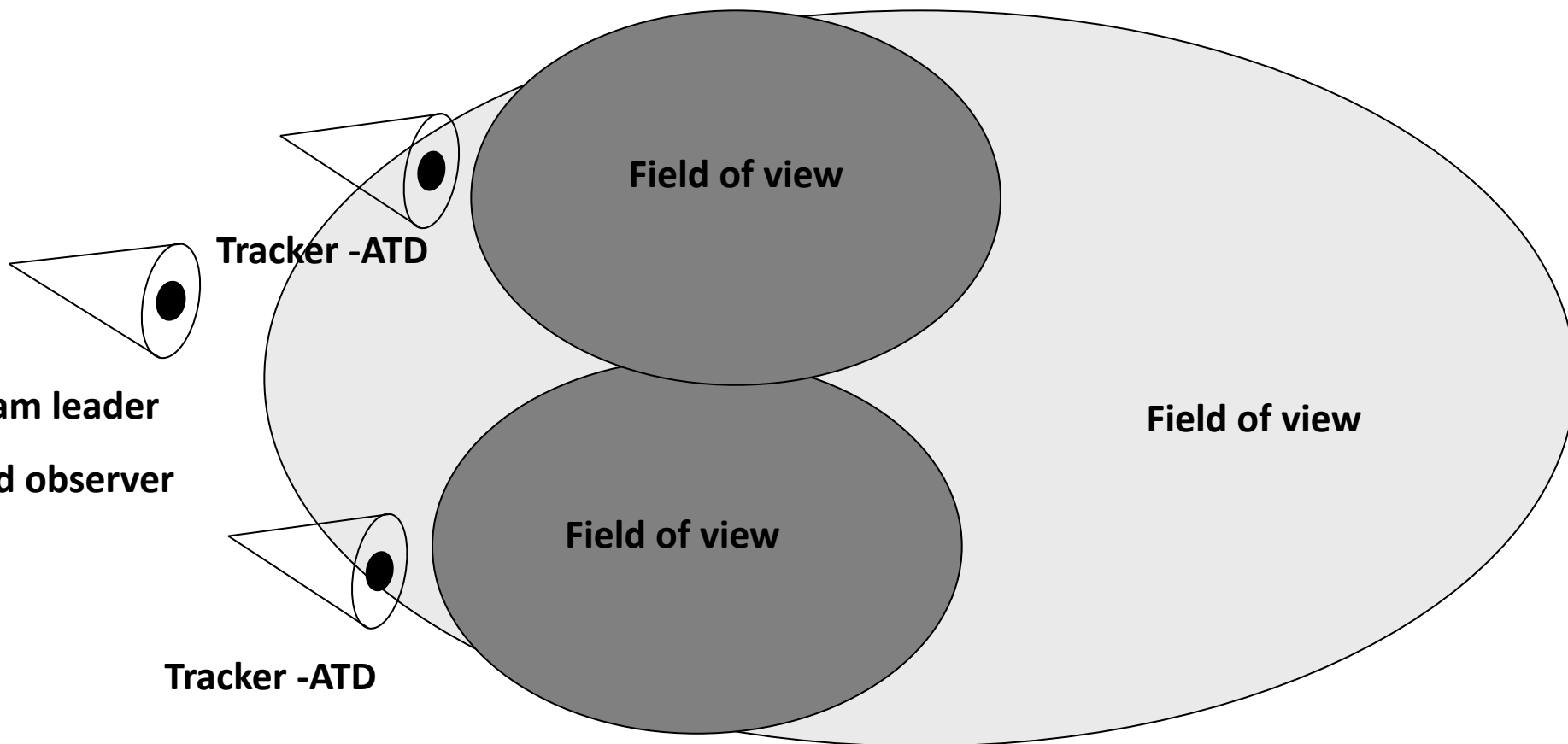
Light source from above

Manipulating light – night time



Light source low angle

Tracking Teams



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