Your husband went hiking this morning, and it is now dark. He isn't home yet, and he had planned to be back for lunch. You are worried, and call the police. They call in the Search and Rescue team, who heads out into the wilderness looking for him. During their search they work in teams, define areas of interest, track where they have looked, and track what they have found. Traditionally they worked on paper maps. Now they can use their GIS to find him faster and bring him home safely.

Search and rescue teams are relied on to save the lives of people injured or lost in the wilderness. The Sierra Madre Search and Rescue (SMSR) team needed assistance incorporating a GIS into searches to increase the information available for search decisions and analysis in order to improve their search success rate. This project focused on the home search area of SMSR and created a GIS that integrates into their operations. A custom ArcMap experience was delivered, including custom analysis tools to supplement SMSR's current field procedures, as well as supporting user documentation and training. The system provides information previously not available during searches and also serves to begin familiarizing the team with GIS.