

GREAT LAKES PARANORMAL RESEARCH TEAM

Location Safety

There are times teams are called to investigate in tough environments. Sometimes a team will sign up to go to a complicated area to investigate. Hats off especially to those who are specialized in investigating in the outdoors.

Where entry is prohibited, it truly means **KEEP OUT! STAY OUT! PRIVATE PROPERTY! NO TRESPASSING! STAFF ONLY!** That means you are not invited! Just because you are a paranormal investigator, it does not mean you are immune to the warnings. You must follow all rules, regulations and laws at all times, anywhere and for any reason.

In this article we will talk about the dangers and safety recommendations for these tough areas. Safety, enjoying the work and avoid incidents is paramount in the field.

It is no secret that we have lost investigators due to tragic accidents. If any information in this article helps to save a life or more, then we have contributed well to the cause.

We have written before about the far and short reach of the paranormal. There is no exception here. If paranormal energy exists, it could play against you and your team. Extra caution is always required.

Abandoned buildings:

- Some teams have special skills in working in abandoned / empty buildings. These areas are quite precarious for many reasons. We will provide an important list of things to do if going into one of these situations.
- Unfortunately, this is one area in which investigators have been seriously injured or have lost their lives. So, be extra careful.
- Always get proper permission from the owners. There is nothing worse than having to deal with police or an agitated/angry neighbor. Stay within the law, avoid trespassing.
- Get permission in writing and keep that document with you.
- Check the building well during the day. Mark areas of concern that could pose an unnecessary risk. Avoid areas that are unstable. Check for unstable floors, loose/exposed wires, holes, unstable walls, debris or other loose materials on the floor you could/might trip over.
- Have a team meeting and work together on a good plan for safety sake.

GREAT LAKES PARANORMAL RESEARCH TEAM

Location Safety

- Walkie Talkies are helpful. Sometimes there is little to no signal for cell phones. It is important to keep in contact and be able to dial 911 if necessary. Know where you need to go to get a cell phone signal.
- If the owner has pointed out areas that you must not enter, respect those warnings at all times. There is a good reason why the owner does not want people in that part of the building.
- Always carry a first aid kit appropriate for the situation, two if necessary.
- If conditions of the building change, take the necessary precautions. Always have a plan “B” or even plan “C”.
- Work in pairs, never alone.
- Have a quitting time. Careful with driving home exhausted. Stay over night to rest if needed.
- Never take any souvenirs from the building home. If paranormal issues exists, it is possible you just took the problem home with you. Avoid the temptation. Stay safe.
- Careful with bat / pigeon and other critter droppings. They can cause respiratory illnesses and can be very hard to get over, not to mention the medical bills. Use masks to protect yourself.
- Man made contaminants. Asbestos, radon gas, contaminated water, falling debris and other elements can become very hazardous to your health. Use all precautions necessary or avoid it completely.

Out in nature:

There are teams whom are specialized in doing the complete outdoor type investigation. Usually this falls under Cryptic and UFO teams.

- All of the above applies of course.
- Scout out where and what area you will cover.
- Check the environment out during the day.
- Place flags in more precarious areas.
- Have a team meeting to discuss what and where you will be investigation.
- Bring healthy munchies that can help regain focus and energy during the investigation.

GREAT LAKES PARANORMAL RESEARCH TEAM

Location Safety

- Have a first aid kit appropriate for the area and situation.
- Let a key, outside-of-your team person know where you will be.
- Have a central station where you will meet and gather.
- Plan breaks. Form teams of two or more. But do gather and check in to make sure everyone is doing O.K.
- Make sure you know where to pick up a signal for your cell phone in case it is necessary to call 911.
- Use cool / warm/ water resistant / weather appropriate clothing for the situation.
- Have a plan “A”, “B” or “C” if weather or circumstances change.
- Know what animals, plants, critters you might have to deal with before hand.
- If you find your Cryptic or your Cryptic finds you, keep your distance and be respectful. Fear will exist on both sides.

Cemeteries:

Some teams do enjoy investigating in cemeteries, the older and more historic the better. However, again, all the above applies.

Absolutely get permission and get it in writing. Carry the permission with you. Most cemeteries have closing times for a reason. It is property administered by an organization or city and if you don't get permission to investigate, absolutely KEEP OUT! Better to be safe than sorry.

Be very respectful. This is after all, the resting place of those who have gone before us. Many people see cemeteries as holy ground, do like-wise.

- ▶ Scout out the area during the day.
- ▶ Avoid leaning, sitting, stepping in any area or tomb that appear fragile.
- ▶ Use appropriate clothing.
- ▶ Have a meeting area
- ▶ Plan a start and finish time. Take breaks. Avoid driving home exhausted.

GREAT LAKES PARANORMAL RESEARCH TEAM

Location Safety

- ▶ Never take any souvenirs from the cemetery with you. Respect the property and if paranormal issues exist, you just might have taken the problem home with you. Leave everything where you found it!
- ▶ Place a flag in fragile / dangerous areas. Don't forget to pick up the flags when you leave.
- ▶ Work in teams of two or more.
- ▶ Keep in contact by Walkie talkies or cell phones.
- ▶ Bring healthy munchies that will help keep you focused and with good energy.
- ▶ Do your best NOT to drive home exhausted and tired. It is an accident waiting to happen.

Train tracks, bridges and tunnels:

This is another area in which investigators have come out with serious injuries or have lost their lives. **Please heed to the cautions in this section.**

Train tracks, bridges and tunnels are usually owned and administered at the state or federal level. You usually will never get permission to investigate, unless there is a special case/reason in which the state or federal administration contacts you to solve a mystery. Otherwise, no permission is usually granted.

Best to stay away due to the legality and dangers. However, we know that will not stop all investigators. We do encourage investigators to avoid investigating these types of precarious areas, period. It is not worth the risk. Truly not worth it. But if you have to go into this kind of situation and you have proper permission, here is our list.

- ▶ Get to know well the area you will investigate. If around train tracks, find out the train schedule BEFORE investigating.
- ▶ No joking around the tracks, tunnels or bridges. Keep safety rules in place at all times.
- ▶ If it looks fragile, it probably is. Stay safe and stay out of the tunnel or off the bridge, period. Not worth an incident.
- ▶ Research the bridge or tunnel before hand. Check the area well during the day. Take all needed precautions.

GREAT LAKES PARANORMAL RESEARCH TEAM

Location Safety

- ▶ Dress appropriately for the type of terrain.
- ▶ Remember, if paranormal issues exist, it could increase the risk of the investigation. Be extra cautious.
- ▶ Work in teams of two or more.
- ▶ Take breaks and bring healthy snacks to stay alert and aware.
- ▶ If weather becomes a problem, reschedule or terminate the investigation. Slippery areas or falling debris can arise and increase the danger level.
- ▶ Absolutely **stay off and away from** the tracks and train bridges during scheduled train passing.
- ▶ If you can use robots to enter a tunnel, better yet. It will help to keep everyone safe.
- ▶ Always have a first aid kit with you appropriate for the type of investigation.
- ▶ Be very aware of what animals, plants and other critters you might have to deal with.
- ▶ Plan a start and finish time. ALWAYS avoid driving home exhausted.
- ▶ Never take any souvenirs from the area with you. Respect the property and if paranormal issues exist, you just might have taken the problem home with you. Leave everything where you found it!

Caves:

There is a team this author admires and has seen their show, Ghost Mine. There was a lot to learn there. A very specialized type of paranormal investigative work, for sure.

As we know, one thing is a show and another is actually preparing and doing the work. This type of investigation is very similar to doing investigations in the outdoors. However, you really have to have the right equipment to do this in a safe manner. It is almost like having equipment for rock climbing.

- ▶ Scout out where and what area you will cover.
- ▶ Having all the right equipment is a must. No but's or and's..about it. Helmets, rope, good lighting, appropriate foot gear, a cave expert with you, on your team, or at least on the property. Caves are a tricky matter all together, paranormal issues or not.

GREAT LAKES PARANORMAL RESEARCH TEAM

Location Safety

- ▶ Absolutely get permission! Or let the proper authorities know you are going in to X, Y, Z cave. There might be a fee either because it is part of a park or the owner needs to purchase liability insurance for the event. Caves are either privately owned or are located on state or federal parks.
- ▶ Be aware that certain minerals can interfere with your instruments and may give you a false-positive signal.
- ▶ Check the environment out during the day.
- ▶ Place flags or markers in more precarious areas, especially more fragile areas in which there could be falling rocks, gasses, or worse yet potential for a cave-in. Heed to those Tommy-Knockers!
- ▶ Have a team meeting to discuss what and where you will be investigating.
- ▶ Be clear about all safety rules.
- ▶ If you were instructed to stay out of a particular corridor of the cave, DO SO! Not worth risking anyone's life.
- ▶ Bring healthy munchies that can help regain focus and energy during the investigation. Have a first aid kit appropriate for the area and situation.
- ▶ Let a key, outside-of-your team person know where you will be.
- ▶ Have a central station where you will meet and gather.
- ▶ Plan breaks. Form teams of two or more. But do gather and check in to make sure everyone is doing O.K.
- ▶ Make sure you know where to pick up a signal for your cell phone in case it is necessary to call 911.
- ▶ Use cool / warm/ water resistant / weather appropriate clothing for the type of cave.
- ▶ Have a plan "A", "B" or "C" if weather or circumstances change.
- ▶ Know what animals, plants, critters, minerals or gasses you might have to deal with before hand.
- ▶ Use masks if the cave has bats. Their droppings carry bacteria that is harmful to humans. The droppings can cause respiratory problems.

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Location Safety

If there are any other suggestions / important cautionary points, feel free to let us know and we can add to the lists.

Questions and comments are always welcome.

Be safe and love investigating!