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## Man Found Alive After Six Days Lost in Northern Territory Bush

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– Categories: Breaking News



A 26-year-old man has been rescued after surviving nearly a week in the remote Northern Territory bush, relying on discarded water bottles for hydration. Gach Top, who failed to appear for work on July 28, was found by local residents near Jay Creek outstation on August 4, roughly 45 kilometres from where he was first reported missing.

Top had last spoken with his family the day before his disappearance. After he failed to attend a scheduled night shift, concerns were raised, and a missing persons report was

filed. His red Mazda was later located on Larapinta Drive, approximately 21 kilometres west of Alice Springs.

Emergency services launched a large-scale ground search, covering over 500 kilometres of rugged terrain. The effort was challenged by sub-zero overnight temperatures, with lows recorded at  $-0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  and hovering between  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $2^{\circ}\text{C}$  for several days.

Despite an extensive operation, no trace of Top was found in the initial days. On August 2, the police decided to suspend the active search and referred the case to the Northern Territory (NT) Police's Southern Crime Division.

Acting Sergeant Chris Grotherr thanked those involved in the operation. "The teams have done an excellent job covering a huge area over the past five days, but, unfortunately, it hasn't produced the result we hoped for," he said at the time. Top's family was informed of the decision.

His discovery on August 4 came after members of the local community observed him walking near the Jay Creek outstation in a disoriented state. According to St John NT Ambulance Services Director Andrew Thomas, Top told paramedics he had survived by drinking water from bottles discarded along the roadside.

"He was confused and dehydrated, but coherent enough to explain how he had stayed alive," Thomas said. Top was treated at the scene and transported to Alice Springs Hospital for further observation.

Authorities confirmed there were no signs of injury beyond dehydration. Police have not indicated that any criminal activity is suspected in connection with his disappearance.

The case has drawn attention to the risks associated with travelling in remote areas of central Australia. Search officials and local authorities have reiterated the importance of proper preparation when entering isolated regions, including carrying sufficient water, communication equipment, and notifying others of travel plans.

Top's recovery was aided significantly by the vigilance of local residents who had continued monitoring the area even after the formal search was called off. Their actions were credited by emergency services as instrumental in bringing the incident to a safe resolution.

Officials from the NT Police Service and St John Ambulance have used the case to highlight the importance of preparedness in rural travel. While Top's case ended without tragedy, police say similar disappearances in the past have not always had positive outcomes.

The NT remains one of the most geographically challenging parts of Australia, with vast distances, limited infrastructure, and extreme temperatures making even short journeys potentially hazardous for those who are not properly equipped.