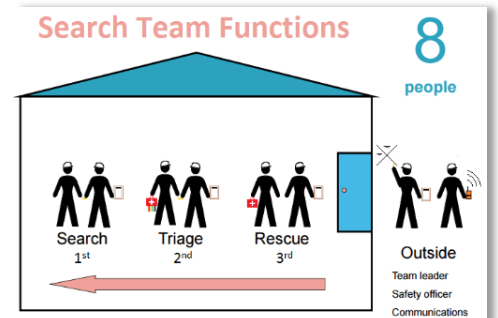# Light Search, Triage, and Rescue

Pre-plan

1. Organize your team

__State goals (safely check for potential hazards; locate, evaluate, & evacuate injured; record, report all)

__Assign ideally 8 roles: 2 Search, 2 Triage, 2 Rescue, 2 Outside (Team Lead (TL) & communications)

__Check PPEs, get anticipated supplies. Continually communicate with team & command center:

__Set radio channels; team ID; reference labels for structures: A, B…

__Decide on team signals (e.g., whistles); agree on timed check-ins

__Have a plan and flexibly stick to it. (Also continually re-evaluate)

Before Entering

1. Determine that it is necessary to enter

2. Outside Size-up, and classify the building:

<u>Light damage</u>- safe to enter

(Superficial or cosmetic damage, broken windows, fallen/ cracked plaster or chimney; minor damage to contents)

<u>Medium damage</u>- only enter to save a life; limit time inside; evacuate injured quickly

(Greater exterior & contents damage, but not leaning and still attached to foundation)

<u>Heavy damage</u>- do NOT enter, cordon off, safely call out to discover survivors, report all to TL

(Extensive general damage, partial or total structural collapse, tilting or off foundation, &/or fire,

flooding, hazards)

Entering

__Knock, call out. Use forcible entry only with strong reason- Hidden key? Open window?

__Feel the door for heat (back of hand, bottom to top), check for smoke, smell

__Mark half of "X" on R side of the point of entry, visible from street: write Team ID,

date, time of entry. (-common entry markings; follow local protocols, if known)

__Brace door with foot, shoulder when opening, against potential leaning objects.

__Prop the door open; leave a light at the entrance as an exit reference point.

__Loudly call out your ID, & "If you can walk, come to my voice!" Listen for a response.

__If people come out: ask for information, utilize them, or secure their safety, tag & document them

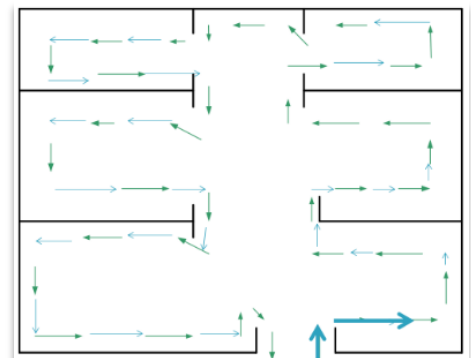__Announce <u>loudly</u> "CERT team is coming in!" Team's scribe records searchers' names & entry time.

Light Search

1. Use a systematic system:

__Right or Left handed "Box" search pattern along walls*; & e.g., upstairs, then down

__Buddies stay within sight of each other (touching, if low visibility).

__Look up, down, under, left, right, over, as you go.

__Search areas of possible entrapment, and child/ pet hiding:

(in closets, tubs, under desks, beds, toppled shelves).

2. While searching:

__Move carefully while testing the floor with each step

__Continuously call out and LISTEN for a response or movement

__Anticipate aftershocks, fire, or other dangers

__Always look for the <u>nearest possible way out</u>

__Continually communicate with your buddy. Use whistle as needed.

*<u>Right-handed</u> <u>Search Pattern</u>

3. When you come across hazards or survivors:

__Write down location & keep count

__Assure survivors- "We know you're here, we will alert help for you"

4. Focus on your task. (Greatest good for greatest number)

__Complete your search and get out

__Share findings with Team, & record Hazards to the Right of the entry "X" lines

Triage

1. Before going in:
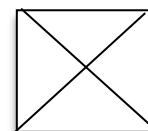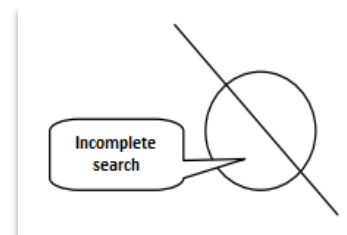
__PPE's, esp. glove supply & documenting tools; check Triage Kit contents

__Buddies divide tasks: evaluator, scribe, handling supplies, comms, etc.

__Take along any survivors who can safely assist

2. Quickly assess & tag survivors:

__Start where you stand, upon arrival

__Identify survivor & tag with status (Minor, Delayed, Immediate, Deceased), using Respirations/Perfusion/Mental state. <u>30-60 seconds per survivor</u>

__Track number in each status category. Note location of new Hazards. (Helpful if it doesn't delay scribe, to note a significant quick descriptor, e.g., 'infant', or 'blond male, blue shirt'; time; location of incapacitated survivors, esp. if hidden).

3. Focus on your task:

__ <u>Only rapid life-saving treatment</u>, as necessary

__Complete Triage and get out

__Share your findings: number survivors in each status. Also any location notes; hazards

__Report numbers, needs, intended next steps to TL, then Operations/command post

Rescue

1. Before going in:

__Have Rescue/ Medical supplies ready; know destination for survivors

__Collect information from the Triage team. Tell TL you're going in.

2. Remove survivors from the scene only if necessary for safety or treatment

__Splint before moving a survivor; stabilize impaled objects

__Leave and do not touch those you find deceased. (may cover face)

3. Treat &/or rescue 'Immediate' survivors first; 'Delayed' next.

__When scene is dangerous, rescue those easiest first ("Greatest good…")

Outside Team

1. Ensure safety of team members

2. Update Operations Chief as necessary, reporting status, completion

3. Update the "X" markings:

__ <u>At top</u>: Team ID. <u>On the left</u>: Date and Time Entered

__ <u>On the right</u>: Hazards and Actions Taken (such as areas searched)

__Complete the "X" when all CERT team members leave:

__ <u>At the top</u>: Date and Time whole team Exited

__ <u>On the bottom</u>: Number of Persons still inside

4. Track 'walking wounded' left outside

Incomplete search

Do Not Enter

2..
Date__ & Time
In:
Out:

1.
Team ID

3.
Hazards
Actions
Taken

4.
People Inside
_Immediate
_Delayed
_Minor, _X

Notes