

# Light Search and Rescue

## Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)

### Pre-plan Search

#### 1. Organize a team

- \_\_\_\_\_ Teams should be of at least 6 people each (4 out and 2 in). Give each team an identity.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Have proper safety equipment and tools (helmet, gloves, goggles, N95 mask, boots, extinguisher, shut off tool, pry tool, clipboard, marking pens)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Decide on duties (leader, safety, communications, medical, etc)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Decide on the time limit for search and signals (radios, whistles, horns, or lights)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Have a plan and set priorities for the search (greatest good for the greatest number)

#### 2. Gathering Information

- \_\_\_\_\_ Determine how many occupants are in the structure and/or missing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Signs of exterior/interior structural damage?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Circle the structure to identify/eliminate potential hazards and all points of safe entry and/or exit? (odors, gas leaks, electrical, chimney, glass, unstable objects, dust/smoke)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Unique characteristics of the structure? (brick, steel, wood; shape, usage)

#### 3. Classify the building

- \_\_\_\_\_ Light damage: (Superficial or cosmetic damage, broken windows, fallen plaster; jumbled contents) OK to enter
- \_\_\_\_\_ Medium damage: (Questionable structural stability; fractures, tilting, foundation movement) Enter for brief time
- \_\_\_\_\_ Heavy damage: (Obvious structural instability; partial or total wall collapse, ceiling failures) Do not enter
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mark an "X" with a box around it and write "NOT SEARCHED"

### Search

#### 1. Enter building

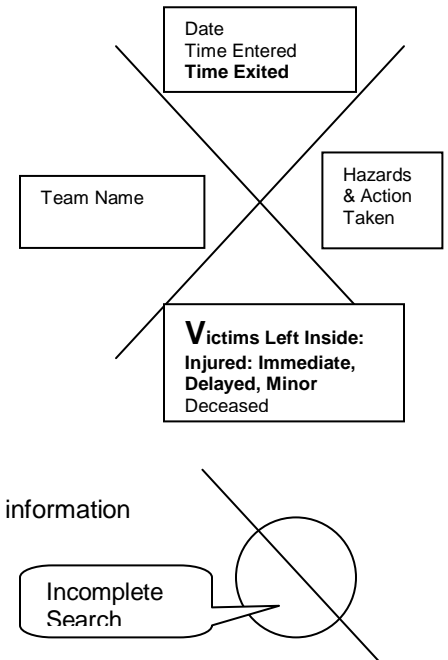
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mark half of "X" near the point of entry
- \_\_\_\_\_ Use forcible entry if necessary
- \_\_\_\_\_ Call out "Is anyone there?" and listen for a response
- \_\_\_\_\_ Set an illumination source in the entrance as a reference point
- \_\_\_\_\_ Prop the door open

#### 2. Start search pattern

- \_\_\_\_\_ Right handed or left-handed search pattern
- \_\_\_\_\_ Stay together and along walls searching from top to bottom
- \_\_\_\_\_ Moving slowly while testing the floor with each step
- \_\_\_\_\_ Continually calling out and listening for responses or movement
- \_\_\_\_\_ Looking over, under, around, and through the entire room
- \_\_\_\_\_ Complete "X" immediately upon leaving the building, documenting information

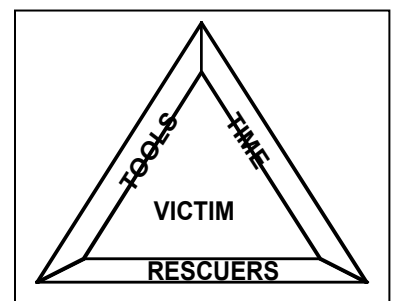
#### 3. Things to consider while searching

- \_\_\_\_\_ Expect aftershocks, fire, or other hazards
- \_\_\_\_\_ Always look for the closest way out
- \_\_\_\_\_ Your safety is number one, don't become a victim
- \_\_\_\_\_ Check elevators, closets, garages, stairways and restrooms



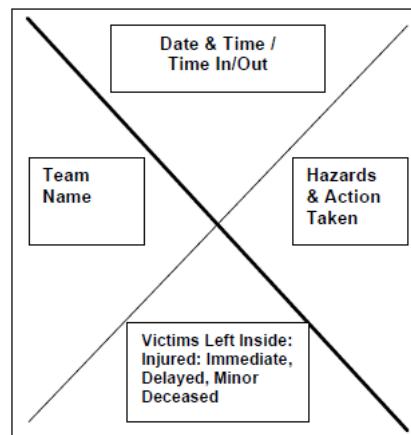
### Rescue/Cribbing (after all non-trapped people have been removed)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Assemble cribbing team (Leader, Safety, Medical, Suppliers, Lifters)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Assemble supplies (cribbing materials, pry bars, first aid kit)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Stabilize object (constant communication with team and patient)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Lift object (constant communication with team and patient)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Remove patient
- \_\_\_\_\_ Remove cribbing materials



## Conducting a Search of a Building

- Discuss duties and communication (3 whistles for emergency)
- Conduct a 360 degree walk around of the building and report findings
- Knock on door and announce yourself
- Feel the door (back of hand, bottom to top)
- Mark the wall (slash and time entering)
- Brace outward opening door with foot while opening
- Prop open door
- Leave a light in the opening
- Call out to victims
- Receive walking wounded at the door
- Proper search technique – against the wall
- Triage victims
- Document & report findings outside on the door
- Develop plan to remove victims – blanket carry
- Mark the wall when finished



**Question:** When should you move a patient? (Only if the situation is unsafe or you don't have enough people to have someone stay with them)

*The search should be systematic. Make a decision. Right turns or left turns only.*

