

SAFELY SEARCHING A LIGHTLY DAMAGED BUILDING/ ROOM

FIRST:

1. Assess: I'm OK; my family's OK. I have protective gear on. Does my buddy?
2. Discuss goals (to identify dangers, # of victims), and the roles for each team member.
3. Size-up: conduct 360° walk around of only a *lightly* damaged building.
Don't go in a more heavily damaged space -report it.
4. Do we have the people & supply resources to perform our task?
5. Set a time limit, and an evacuation strategy (e.g., 3 whistles).

GOING IN:

- ▶ Knock on door and announce yourself; be respectful of others' property.
- ▶ If there's reason to enter, mark the wall (one angled line + time and # people entering).
- ▶ Feel the door for heat (back of hand, bottom to top). Check for smoke.
- ▶ As you open an outward-opening door, brace it with your foot.
- ▶ Prop door open, to be your probable exit. Leave a light there.
- ▶ Call out: "If you can hear me, come to my voice". Ask these folks for facts.
- ▶ Enlist those 'walking wounded' who could help; have others evacuated to safe area.
- ▶ Follow along walls in a consistent box pattern, to ensure all areas are checked.
- ▶ Maintain eye or hand contact (if dark) with buddy at all times.
- ▶ Continuously look Down, Up, Sideways, & Under.
- ▶ Continue to call out "Is anyone there...?" Then Listen!
- ▶ Keep a continuous eye on exit strategies.
- ▶ Assure injured that you will be sending for help; complete your search.
- ▶ Account for your people. Write down observations.
- ▶ Complete the "X" by outside door, to document findings (time exited, # of victims, dangers)
- ▶ Brief the Triage and Medical teams who will follow you.
- ▶ Report findings back to command post.