



FIELD OPERATIONS GUIDE

URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE

SAFETY CONCERNS

While Responding

- Request Tower/Truck Company, if not on initial dispatch.
- Request law enforcement.
- Request utility companies and/or utilities locator company.

Basic Rules and Safety

- All non-essential personnel are to be kept a minimum of 50 feet from the edge.
- Isolate area and establish Hot and Warm zones with scene/barricade tape.
- A structural collapse may be considered a confined space and the potential of a contaminated atmosphere exists, so air monitoring and ventilation should be considered.
- Insure the **safety** of **yourself** first, the **team** second, and then that of the **victim**.

PRIORITY ACTIONS

Initial Rescue Actions

- **TAKE COMMAND**
 - Establish Incident Command
 - Announce location of Command
 - Assign responding units and request additional alarms if necessary
- Announce location of Staging.
- Request Technicians Rescue Team Technicians (TRTT) and Operations personnel - page out as needed.
- SWITCH TO AN OPERATIONS FREQUENCY.
- All personnel involved wear proper PPE.
- **SIZE-UP**
 - Announce what you have
 - Type of structure?
 - Cause of collapse?
 - Number of victims?
 - Assess structural stability and possibility of secondary collapse.
 - Establish collapse area and secondary collapse zones (utilize barricade tape).



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- Triage -
 - Identify triage and treatment locations
 - Declare MCI as needed
 - Remove to safe area
 - Treat surface victims
 - Request additional ambulances as needed
 - Secure utilities (power, gas, water).
 - Utilize search markings.
 - Number of bystanders and workers needed to be controlled?

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Risk Assessment

- **Evaluate Risk vs. Benefit and Rescue vs. Recovery**
 - Can victim(s) be seen?
 - Is victim(s) in a stable situation?
 - Is victim(s) exposed to further injury?
 - Is victim(s) buried?
 - If so, how long?
 - Can a safe rescue be performed?
 - Do on-scene resources have the training and equipment necessary?
 - If no, how long before they can be on scene?
 - Are actions being driven by emotion or education?

On Scene Actions

- Expand ICS as needed.
- Recon entire area.
 - Draw diagram of area surveyed
- Obtain blue prints, occupant drawings, etc. of building, if possible.
- Interview occupants for information on people trapped in structure.
 - ID potential locations and Point Last Scene (PLS).
- Establish and triage likely survival areas.
 - Consider building construction and cause of collapse
 - Ascertain the most like location of void spaces
- Search likely survival areas.

DO NOT ENTER CONFINED OR ENCLOSED SPACES WITHOUT PROPER OPERATIONS AND AIR MONITORING

- Utilize thermal imaging to aid in surface search.
 - Victims may be covered with dust and debris
- Stabilize all areas of entry, especially areas of victims with cribbing and shoring.



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- Command or Rescue Group Supervisor (RGS), if assigned.
 - Command should assign a RGS as soon as possible
 - The RGS should be a TRTT
 - Control Utilities
 - Monitor atmosphere in confined collapse area when personnel perform entry
 - Supervise rescue and recovery operation
- Assign SAFETY OFFICER as soon as possible.
 - Should be a TRTT
- Assign RIT.
- Assign a Public Works Group Supervisor.
- Assign Medical Group supervisor.
 - Monitor patient condition
 - Coordinate ground and/or air ambulance
 - Liaison with hospital
 - Monitor medical equipment and supply needs
- Assign Staging Officer.
- Assign PIO.

If Reported / Suspected Explosion

- Suspect a bombing if
 - **At a target structure**
 - Police and law enforcement buildings, post office, IRS, local government offices, schools, planned parenthood clinic
 - Bomb threat(s) received at location or area
 - Windows broken out blocks away
 - Extensive damage noted before reaching scene
 - And/or vehicle debris in roadway
 - Extensive damage to a vehicle in front of structure
 - Anti-personnel shrapnel with multiple victims
 - Nails, bits of metal and wire, etc.
- **If bombing is suspected**
 - Utilize risk vs. benefit for decision making
 - Rescue known surface victims and
 - Stage in area until cleared by law enforcement
 - **BE AWARE OF SECONDARY DEVICES**