

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 Standard procedure to search for and triage victims in a 1 or 2 story building.

2 SCOPE

- 2.1 Searching a one or two story building with no damage or light damage using one or more five-member team(s). This document is not a substitute for training. It is only to provide a standard method of implementing proper training. Every situation is unique and may require a deviation or modification of this procedure.

3 DEFINITIONS & REFERENCES

- 3.1 Victim Markers – Light stick or some other marker to help others locate victims found by the search and triage team. This could be placed by the victim or on the door to the room.
- 3.2 Triage Pins or Tags – Used to mark a victim as Delayed, Immediate, or Dead. Delayed tags are yellow, Immediate tags are red, and Dead tags are blue or black. Tags should be placed on the victim above the elbows.
- 3.3 Trauma Kit – First Aid kit designed to treat severe bleeding. Contains several large dressings and several roller bandages.

4 SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT

- 4.1 Do no harm. Do not engage in any activity if you are unsure of your ability to perform the activity safely. Your safety is your number one concern.
- 4.2 The following equipment is Required for CERT members to perform Search and Triage: Helmet, Gloves, Goggles, Mask, Medical Gloves, Work Gloves, Boots or sturdy shoes.

5 MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT

- 5.1 Flashlight
FRS/ GMRS two-way radio.
Victim Markers
Triage Pins or Tags
Trauma Kit

6 METHOD

6.1 360 and Size-up

Before beginning search and triage, you must do a 360 on the building and size it up for hazards and potential problems. If there is structural damage, you should turn off the utilities.

6.2 Permission to enter

You must have permission to enter private property. This can be from several sources.

6.2.1 Consent of the occupant - If no one answers the door, call into the building, "This is the Emergency Response Team, is anyone here?" If you are given permission, you may enter. If you are told to leave or go away, or it appears no one is inside, you may not enter. Document your findings.

6.2.2 Implied Consent - If no one answers your call into the building, but you can see a victim through a window, you have their implied consent to enter the building.

6.2.3 Government authority - In very rare cases, a government authority, such as a mayor could declare an emergency, and authorize CERT (preferably in writing) to enter private property. Be absolutely sure you have been given proper authority before entering private property.

6.3 Team composition

The Search and Triage team will be comprised of 5 members, 4 searchers in teams of 2, plus a fifth person who will be the Safety / Medic. Any member of the team may be the Team Leader.

6.4 Search method

Working in pairs, the four searchers will use an appropriate search pattern to locate victims. When a victim is found, one pair of searchers will triage the victim, while the other pair of searchers continue on to locate additional victims. Continue until the entire floor has been searched and triaged. If the building has two floors proceed to the second floor once the first floor is finished.

6.5 Performing triage

Victims should be triaged in 30 seconds or less, based on three primary observations:

Respiration, Perfusion, and Mental Status (RPM). **The only treatment that should be given during triage is for a blocked airway, or severe bleeding.** Once the victim is breathing, treat severe bleeding with direct pressure, elevation, and pressure points.

- 6.5.1 Respiration – If the patient is breathing, you then need to estimate the breathing rate. If the victim has a breathing rate greater than 30 per minute tag as **IMMEDIATE**, and move on to the next victim.

If you do not see obvious signs of breathing, Look, Listen, and Feel. If the patient is not breathing, quickly clear the mouth of foreign matter. Use a head-tilt maneuver to open the airway. If the patient is still not breathing repeat the head-tilt maneuver to open the airway. Again, Look, Listen, and Feel. If the patient is still not breathing tag as **DEAD**. If the victim begins breathing, maintain an open airway. It may be necessary to place something under the victims shoulders to maintain an open airway. If possible, have a spontaneous volunteer stay with the victim. Tag as **IMMEDIATE**, move on to the next victim.

- 6.5.2 Perfusion - The second step of the RPM series of triage tests is circulation of the patient. This can be done by capillary refill (blanch test). If capillary refill takes longer than two seconds tag as **IMMEDIATE**, and move on to the next victim.

- 6.5.3 Mental Status - The last part of the RPM series of triage tests is the mental status of the patient. This observation is only necessary for victims who have adequate breathing and adequate circulation. Test the victim's mental status by having them follow a simple command such as "Open your eyes." "Close your eyes," "Squeeze my hand." If a victim is unresponsive or cannot follow this type of simple command tag as **IMMEDIATE**, and move on to the next victim.

- 6.5.4 Other Injuries - Victims with other injuries who have not been tagged as immediate, should be tagged as **DELAYED**. Move on to the next victim.

6.6 Dialog with Victim

It's important to communicate with a victim, it can calm both the rescuer and the victim. Even if the victim is unconscious, you should continue to talk to the victim.

Below is a sample dialog that you can practice. (Replace the name Amy with your name.)

Rescuer: Hi, I'm with the Emergency Response Team; my name is Amy, What's your name?

< Check Respiration while talking to victim >

Victim: *My name is Bob. I think my leg is broken.*

Rescuer: Ok, Bob, someone will be along shortly to provide medical treatment, in the meantime, I need to assess you so that we can get you the right medical help. Can I check you over?

Victim: *Yes*

Rescuer: I'm going to squeeze your finger, OK?

Victim: *OK.*

Rescuer: Now I want you to squeeze my hand. Good. I'm going to put a yellow clip on you, to identify that you are injured. Someone will be along shortly to provide medical help. Please lie down and try to remain calm.

6.7 Safety / Medic

The Safety / Medic should maintain radio contact with search and triage team, as well as CERT command. He or she should also prepare the treatment area (if necessary) and manage any spontaneous volunteers.

6.8 Multiple Search and Triage Teams

If multiple 5 person teams are available, split the searching up and use the procedure listed above.

7 TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

7.1 Basic CERT course

8 RECORDS

8.1 Damage Assessment – Use Damage Assessment form for each building.

8.2 Track the number of Delayed, Immediate and Dead, and their locations.