

Search Definitions

Recon is the preliminary survey of the affected area and/or assigned area of operations for the purpose of determining the scope and magnitude of the incident and identifying the resources needed to manage the incident.

Recon Considerations:

Recon is an initial and fast visual check of the damaged area and/or assigned area of operation. For single structure collapse incidents, the primary goal is structural assessment and hazardous materials assessment. Recon can be accomplished by air, watercraft, vehicles, or walking. Know locations of live or deceased victims will be recorded and appropriate evacuation/rescue resources will be called up. The size and makeup of recon teams are incident driven and flexible. Recon teams should not engage in extrication/rescue operations. Timely reporting of information is critical to the health and safety of responders, survivability of victims and effective management of the incident.



Rapid Search (Hasty Search) is a fast paced and methodical search of the assigned area of operation in an attempt to locate victims that are in immediate need of evacuation from harm.

Rapid Search considerations:

Size and make up of Rapid Search teams are incident driven and flexible. If live victims are located and can be easily evacuated, they will be immediately moved to the identified casualty collection point (CCP). If live victims are located, and cannot be easily evacuated, additional resources will be requested to conduct extrication and/or evacuation. Documentation of areas searched must be recorded and reported. Rapid searches can be accomplished by aircraft, watercraft, or ground vehicles.



Primary Search is a quick search of the structures likely to contain victims. These searches are ground or waterborne operations looking for victims. This is accomplished by looking into every window or opening, knocking on doors and hailing for live victims. If there are signs of victims (dead or alive), appropriate action will be taken based on the rules of engagement (ROE) identified by the local Incident Commander.

Primary Search considerations:

Primary Search is a well-established fire ground incident benchmark and, as such, is the stated objective until accomplished. Primary Search is a fast paced, quick scan of surface debris in and around structures and selected voids. Size and makeup of the search team is incident driven and flexible. Detection resources may include physical, canine and technical. If live victims are located, additional resources are called to extricate the victim while the search team continues to complete the Primary Search in the assigned area. Actions necessary to immediately correct life threatening injuries may be performed by Primary Search Team. Victim locations will be marked with the standard victim identification marking system unless the ROE established by the local Incident Commander indicate otherwise.

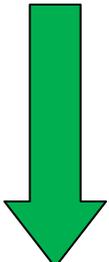
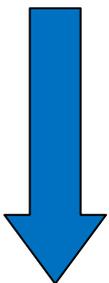
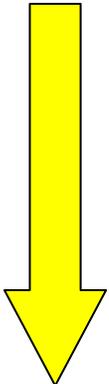
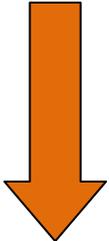
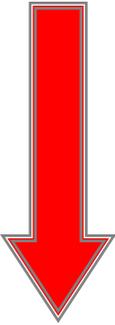
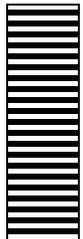
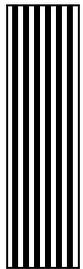


Secondary Search is the systematic search of every room of every structure in the assigned area of operation. Forced entry of structures may need to occur in order to accomplish this objective but will only occur at the direction of the local Incident Commander. This may involve extensive debris removal of building materials depending on the desired level of coverage and thoroughness. Secondary Search can be divided into two levels of coverage:

Low Coverage Secondary Search: Systematic search of every room and void space in every structure in the assigned area of operation. Size and makeup of search teams is incident driven and flexible.

Location/detection resources may include physical, canine, and technical. If live victims are located, additional resources may be called up to extricate the victim while the search team continues to complete the assigned search objective. Victim locations will be marked with the standard victim identification marking system unless the ROE established by the local Incident Commander indicate otherwise.

High Coverage Secondary Search: Exhaustive search of every room and void space in every structure in the assigned area of operation. This will include complete de-layering and removal of collapsed debris to ensure thoroughness. This may include the use of heavy equipment. The size and makeup of the search and extrication teams is incident driven and flexible. Location/detection resources may include physical, canine, and technical. If live victims are located, additional resources may be called up to extricate the victim while the search team continues to complete the assigned search objective. Victim locations will be marked with the standard victim identification marking system unless the ROE established by the local Incident Commander indicate otherwise.



Targeted

Targeted Searches are searches of specific locations. Targeted Search is employed when the IC/AHJ has identified specific sites or conditions that may take priority over others within an assigned region or segment. Subsequent to an event such as a hurricane, emergency managers should be able to identify and prioritize facilities. These locations may be based on critical needs of the jurisdiction (e.g. unanswered 911 requests for help), high occupancy loads (e.g. schools, malls) or due to specific evacuation requirements necessary to limit loss of life for individuals with special needs. These facilities will likely have a significant number of survivors who may not be capable of providing for themselves if the event causes a complete disruption of services. Targeted Searches may be performed to any level of detail (Hasty, Primary, Secondary Low, and Secondary High) per the rules of engagement. Targeted searches can include but are not limited to searches based on:

- Unanswered 911 calls
- Health & Wellness Concerns received via third parties
- Shelter locations
- High Occupancy locations:
 1. Schools
 2. Malls
 3. Office Buildings
- Critical Infrastructure Facilities
- Areas of last refuge:
 1. Fire Stations
 2. Police Precincts
 3. Etc.
- Locations of Special Needs Individuals or At Risk Persons
 1. Hospitals
 2. Nursing Homes
 3. Location Lists Maintained by the AHJ

