

## Guidelines for Search and Rescue

1. Never conduct search or rescue operations alone. Work with a partner, plan you're alone. Search; have a plan on how you will search the building, either search to the right or the left.
2. Before you enter each building mark the front on the building before making entry feel the bottom of the front door with the back of your hand. If it is hot, do not enter. If it is cool, cautiously open the door. Repeat this process every time you come to a closed door.
3. Check the doorjamb the wall and the ceiling, for cracks and splinters. If the house/room/office appears unsafe, do not enter.
4. Enter the building low. Be alert. Be aware that there may be aftershocks. Shuffle walk.
5. While still in the entryway, sniff for the odor of natural gas. If you do smell gas, open the front and back doors and as many windows as you can, without going inside, to provide ventilation. Enter the house only when the smell of gas is gone.
6. While still in the entryway, loudly call out: "Is anyone here?" Listen for a response. If someone answers, ask them to tell you where they are, and what type of help they need. If you don't hear anything, call out that anyone trapped should make some kind of noise, Pause occasionally during the entire search to listen for cries, moans, thumping, and/or banging and other indicators of someone needing help.
7. If it is dark, slowly sweep each room with your flashlight before going in. Check the floor and the ceiling of the area you are in for hazards like holes, fallen beams, glass. Leave your large light in the door well when you are searching. Take your small light with you.
8. Systematically search each room using a shuffle step. Stay with your partner and communicate often. Pay careful attention to areas under beds, behind furniture and under it, inside closets, under stairs, and inside bathtubs and showers.
9. If it is dark, keep in contact with the wall. It is easy to become disoriented. Should you become confused make a 180-deg. turn following the wall back to the original door. (Also look for the large light you left in the door well).
10. If you find an injured person, triage them to the best of your ability, and move on. After the search, report the status to the person in charge and then perform the rescue part of search & rescue.
11. Mark the front of each building. When you finish to let others know you have searched it.

If your attempts to rescue others are obviously beyond your physical capacity or skill, you may lose your life, and you may endanger those coming to your aid. Sometimes it takes wisdom and courage to wait for help.