CERT Search and Rescue Size up Checklist

Step 1: Gather Facts

Time

- Does the time of day or week affect search and rescue efforts?
  - How?

Type Of Construction

- What type(s) of structure(s) is(are) involved?
  - What type(s) of construction is (are) involved?

Occupancy

- Are the structures occupied?
  - If yes, how many people are likely to be affected?
  - Are there special considerations (e.g. children, elderly)?
    - If yes, what are the special considerations?

Weather

- Will weather conditions affect your safety?
  - If yes, how will your safety be affected?

Hazards

- Are hazardous materials involved?
  - If yes, what hazardous materials?

- Are any other types of hazards likely to be involved?
  - If yes, what other hazards?

Step 2: Assess and Communicate the Damage

- Take a lap around the building. Is the damage beyond the CERT team’s capability?
  - If yes, what special requirements or qualifications are required?

- Are normal communication channels functioning?

Step 3: Consider Probabilities

Life Hazards

- Are there potentially life-threatening hazards?
  - If yes, what are the hazards?
Additional Damage

- Is there great risk or potential for more disaster activity that will impact personal safety?

  If yes, what are the known risks?

Step 4: Assess Your Own Situation

- What resources are available with which you can attempt the search and rescue?

  What equipment is available?

Step 5: Establish Priorities

- Can a search and rescue be safely attempted by CERT members?

  If no, do not attempt a search and rescue.

- Are there other, more pressing needs at the moment?

  If yes, list.

Step 6: Make Decisions

- Where will deployment of available resources do the most good while maintaining an adequate margin of safety?

Step 7: Develop Plan of Action

- Determine how personnel and other resources should be deployed.

Step 8: Take Action

- Put the plans into effect.

Step 9: Evaluate Progress

- Continually size up the situation to identify changes in the:
  - Scope of the problem.
  - Safety risks.
  - Resource availability.

- Adjust strategies as required.