Mid America Rescue Company

DISASTER WIDE AREA SEARCH

NATIONAL TORNADO SYMPOSIUM
2017

www.midamericarescue.com

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Learning Objectives:

• Natural disaster pre-planning.
• Immediate response objectives.
• Big Picture of overall disaster area.
  – Divisions
  – Groups
• PPE
• Crew, Department, City Readiness.

Disaster Wide Area Search Defined:

• Large area affected.
• Unknown number of victims.
• Requires large number of resources.
DISASTER WIDE AREA SEARCH

READINESS

• Preparation
• Planning
• Practice
• Execute

GRID ZONE
(60 WORLD WIDE)
100K METER
SQUARE
EAST
(RIGHT)
NORTH
(UP)
DISTANCE RANGE
14R NO 82100 09500
PRE DESIGNATED

DISASTER WIDE AREA SEARCH

U.S. NATIONAL GRID

Can be used to:
• Assign areas of responsibility without defined boundaries.
• Identify:
  Survivor Locations  Base of Operations
  Significant Address  Landing Zone(s)
  Collection Point(s)  Hazards

WHEN YOU ARE OVERWHELMED WITH THE TASK THINK OF AN EASTER EGG HUNT

It’s so easy.... A child can do it

ON TO THE HUNT
SO MANY EGGS
SUCH A LARGE AREA.
HAVE YOU
DEVELOPED AN IAPT YOUR KID HAS...
DISASTER WIDE AREA SEARCH
SEARCHES DEFINED

- Recon
- Hasty
- Primary
- Secondary

RECON
(360 ON A FIRE)

- Windshield Survey.
- Preliminary check of an area.
- Immediate and continuous.
- Incident driven and flexible.
- Timely reporting of information.

SEARCH TEAM DOING RECON AND WINDSHIELD SURVEY

How would you RECON Search This?

DISASTER WIDE AREA SEARCH
HASTY SEARCH
(INITIAL FIRE SEARCH)

- Rapid search.
- Fast pace.
- Remove lightly trapped victims.
- Move victims to collection points.

SEARCH TEAM DOING HASTY SEARCH
LEAVING NO EASY EGG BEHIND
CALL OUT AND COLLECT, MOVE ON
IT'S A TRIAGE MENTALITY
Casualty Collection Point
Have a plan where you are going to send the walking

Disaster Wide Area Search

How would you Hasty Search This?

Disaster Wide Area Search

Primary Search
- Look in, don’t go in.
- Utilize canines.
- Do not attempt to free trapped victims.
  - Call for additional resources.
- May perform quick immediate life threatening care.
- Victim markings.

Disaster Wide Area Search

No Ducks!!!
How would you **PRIMARY** Search This?

**SECONDARY SEARCH**

(FINAL SEARCH BEFORE OVERHAUL)

- Systematic search of entire area.
  - Enter Structures, If SAFE to do so.
  - Final Search before selected debris removal.

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How would you **SECONDARY** Search This?

**SECONDARY SEARCH EGG**

LAST SEARCH BEFORE DEBRIS REMOVAL

SLOW, METHODICAL, LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED

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**SEARCH SUMMARY**

- **RECON** – Intelligence Gathering
- **HASTY** – Surface Survivors, Removed and Evacuated
- **PRIMARY** – Search accessible Voids
- **SECONDARY** – Selected Debris Removal

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Searching is dynamic Phases can occur Separate, together, or all at once
DISASTER WIDE AREA SEARCH

If occupants states Everyone is out during your hasty search... Document on your ICS map and mark search complete.

DISASTER WIDE AREA SEARCH
STRUCTURE MARKINGS

- Structure relatively safe
- Structure is significantly damaged
- Structure is not safe
- Arrow indicates direction of safest entry
- Hazardous materials in or near the structure

5/20/13 HM NATURAL GAS OK-TF 1

DISASTER WIDE AREA SEARCH
SEARCH MARKINGS

- Date & Time
- Search Team Left the Structure
- Search Team Identifier
- Date of Entry
- Time of Entry
- Hazards Found in the Structure
- Total Number of Victims Still Inside the Structure

DISASTER WIDE AREA SEARCH
COMPLETED SEARCH MARKINGS

- OK-TF1
- 5/20/2013
- 1720
- Natural Gas
- 3 L 2 D

DISASTER WIDE AREA SEARCH
INCOMPLETE SEARCH MARKINGS

Required Information
Date and Time
Search Team
People Inside

What it Looks Like
5/20 1740hrs
OK-TF1 2/24/08
135 homes
Natural Gas
3 L 2 D
Floor 1–5
Gas on F6

DISASTER WIDE AREA SEARCH
INTERIOR SEARCH MARKINGS

When you ENTER
Identify any hazards.

When you EXIT
Identify any victims.
DISASTER WIDE AREA SEARCH

SURVIVOR MARKINGS

- Potential survivor and team identifier:
  - OK
- Confirmed and deceased; If more than one confirmed human remains, place number below 'V'.
  - OK
- Confirmed and alive; If more than one survivor, place number below ‘V’.
  - OK
- Person has been removed.

Point toward victim with distance on arrow.

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DISASTER WIDE AREA SEARCH

PROBLEM:

- Unable to mark searched structures due to weather conditions and total destruction of properties.

SOLUTION:

- Use paint and/or crayons.
- Use peel and stick search markings.
- Utilize easily identifiable search banner guard.
  - Bright colors.

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DISASTER WIDE AREA SEARCH

THE PROBLEMS STARTED NOW

DISASTER WIDE AREA SEARCH

PROBLEM:

- Unable to identify streets.
**PROBLEM:**
- No maps to search crews.

**SOLUTION:**
- Have city area pre-divided into divisions.
- Have extra maps on-hand.
  - Disaster kits.
  - District Chief vehicles.

**PROBLEM:**
- Keep paper work dry.
  - ICS 214
  - Maps
  - Accountability forms

**SOLUTION:**
- Stand up downed street signs.
- Write street names on street.
- Spray paint.
- Sidewalk chalk.
PROBLEM:
• Unable to identify each address, due to destruction.

SOLUTION:
• Update maps annually.
• Addresses on curbs.
• If unable to determine:
  – Start at hundred block and number in succession.
  – Even on one side, odd on other.

PROBLEM:
• Wearing bunker gear during initial search, caused early fatigue.

SOLUTION:
• Document protectors.
**DISASTER WIDE AREA SEARCH**

**SOLUTION:**
- Have US&R gear readily available.
- Wear wildland gear and helmet.

**DISASTER WIDE AREA SEARCH**

**PROBLEM:**
- Identifying storm shelter locations.

**DISASTER WIDE AREA SEARCH**

**SOLUTION:**
- Updated maps
  - USE of Mobile Data Computer.
- Reflective curb markings;
  - BLUE = OUTSIDE shelter.
  - ORANGE = INSIDE shelter.

**DISASTER WIDE AREA SEARCH**
DISASTER WIDE AREA SEARCH

PROBLEM:
• Duplication of search efforts.

SOLUTION:
• Proper search markings.
  – Search marking “cheat sheet”.
• Documentation

DISASTER WIDE AREA SEARCH

PROBLEM:
• Medical equipment.
  – Too much or none.

SOLUTION:
• Provide each search team with a fanny pack or small backpack with standard trauma supplies.
  TOURNIQUET  4x4’S  ABD PADS
  DUCT TAPE  KERLEX
• Only provide quick life-saving aid, rapid triage and continue search.
DISASTER WIDE AREA SEARCH

PROBLEM:
• Over-worked search dogs.

SOLUTION:
• Prioritize K-9 search areas;
  – High priority targets.
  – Areas unable to be searched by people due to massive amounts of debris.
  – Utilize vehicle or ATV to transport dogs between search areas.

PROBLEM:
• Initial responders focus on small picture.
**DISASTER WIDE AREA SEARCH**

**SOLUTION:**
- Effective windshield survey to establish the size and complexity of event.
- Do not get “tunnel vision” and only focus on small area.

**DISASTER WIDE AREA SEARCH**

**PROBLEM:**
- Command and Control
  - Radio traffic
  - Lack of communication on assignments.
  - Given and completed.

**DISASTER WIDE AREA SEARCH**

**SOLUTION:**
- Communication
  - Separate tactical channel by divisions.
- Proper and rapid windshield survey to see totality of devastation.
**DISASTER WIDE AREA SEARCH**

**PROBLEM:**
- Rehab
  - No defined work cycles for fire department (First Responders).
  - Not marshalled.

**SOLUTION:**
- Set up rehab rotation.
- Identify time food arrives and throw out when spoils.
- Feed later arriving units prior to arrival on scene.

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**QUESTIONS?**

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