



Central County Fire Department (CCFD) Community Emergency Response Team Online CERT Course – Study Guide UNIT 7

Light Search and Rescue Operations - Unit 7.1

- Should I help?
 - Risks involved
 - Will this do greatest good for the greatest number
 - Resources and manpower available
- Size-up
 - Gather Facts: time, weather, construction, terrain, hazards, occupancy
 - Assess and communicate damage: Light, Moderate, Heavy
- **Knowledge check:**
 - Light – interior infrastructure damage, cosmetic cracks, structure intact.
 - Moderate – decorative damage, but building still on foundation
 - Heavy – building slid or fell off foundation
- ABCD sides of the building
- **Knowledge check:**
 - Light damage – locate, assess, treat, continue
 - Moderate damage – locate, treat major bleeding and shock, evacuate, warn, continue, minimize number of rescuers and amount of time
 - Heavy damage – secure perimeter, warn, DO NOT ENTER (verbal triage and treat any survivors OUTSIDE of this home/building)
- Consider Probabilities
 - How stable is the situation?
 - What else could go wrong?
 - What does it mean for the search and rescue?

- Assess Your Situation
 - Is it safe to continue?
 - What risks will rescuers face?
 - What resources are needed?
 - What resources are available?
 - Personnel – CERT volunteers, firefighters, police, medical personnel, contractors
 - Equipment – what is available, how can it be accessed
 - Tools – crowbars, auto jacks, chainsaws
- Establish Priorities
 - CERT safety
 - What should be done
 - In what order
 - Rescue the greatest number in the shortest amount of time, SAFELY
- Make Decisions
 - Safety of CERT
 - Safety of survivors
 - Protection of environment
 - Protection of property
 - CERT mission
- Develop plan of action
 - Focus on priorities and decisions
 - Documentation for responding agencies
 - Keep documentation for CERT records
- Take Action
- Evaluate
- Specific Safety Conditions
- Locating survivors
 - Voids
 - Talk to bystanders

Test:

1. Size-up steps – assess your situation, gather facts, take action, consider probabilities
2. Attempting a rescue consider: risk, resources, greatest good
3. True - Rescuer safety is #1
4. False - If you see collapsed floors, do not look around

Light Search and Rescue Operations - Unit 7.2

- Door markings: X: top – time, clock; right: what did you find, environment; left: who went in, team; bottom: victims
 - CERT: (top) clock, (right) environment, (bottom) rescued and remaining, (left) time
- Search methodology
 - Call out to potential survivors (use your “outside voice”)
 - Locate survivors and ask about others who may be trapped
 - Bottom-up or top-down search; right wall or left wall search
 - Stop and listen for tapping, voices, movement
 - Knowledge check: bottom of search marking: survivors
 - Triangulation: - this is not an initial search method
 - Document
- Exterior searches
- Rescue operations
 - Moving objects safely
 - Assess survivors
 - Remove survivors safely
- Create a safe environment
 - Rescuer safety
 - Assess patients in moderately and lightly damaged buildings
 - Evacuate patients quickly but safely
- Precautions to minimize risk
 - Know your limitations
 - Follow safety procedures
 - Remove debris (leveraging and cribbing)
 - Keep your back straight, push with your legs
 - Keep load close to body
- Leveraging and cribbing – “lift an inch; crib an inch”
 - Do not leverage on opposite ends at the same time
 - Fulcrum (pry tool) must be perpendicular to the edge of the object being lifted
 - Box crib
 - Conduct a size-up
 - Have one person in charge, formulate a plan of action
 - Gather necessary materials
 - Use cribbing materials to stabilize
 - Distribute cribbing materials
 - Prepare to lift
 - Assign person to monitor
 - Initiate the lift
 - As object is lifted, add cribbing

- Once object is supported, remove lever and fulcrum; remove survivor
- Re-initiate lift
- Progressively lower
- Collect supplies
- Removal (evacuating a survivor)
 - Self removal
 - Lifts / drags
 - One person arm carry
 - Pack strap carry
 - Two person carry
 - Chair carry
 - Blanket carry
 - Log rolling
 - Blanket drag

Test

- To minimize risk for rescue, follow safety procedures, know your limitations, remove debris by lifting / cribbing
- True - Triangulation allows rescuer to view the location from several perspectives
- Proper lifting – keep load close to body, keep back straight, push down with legs
- While searching a building, stop and listen for tapping, voices, movement
- When searching for survivors, call out and ask them to come to you, expect them to be shocked / confused, and ask victims to respond for more information



This study guide provided by the San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department CERT Program.

