



Standard Practice for Marking Buildings During Disaster Search Operations¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This practice covers the methodology for marking buildings that have been searched during disaster responses.

1.2 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Terminology

2.1 There are no terms in this practice that require new or other than dictionary definitions.

3. Significance and Use

3.1 Searching vacant or collapsed structures, or both, is an important part of emergency disaster response. A uniform marking system easily identifies, from the outside of structures, the number and status of any subjects found, hazards, and the time of the search. The use of this methodology will reduce duplicate searches and wasted rescue efforts.

3.2 This methodology is also used at each interior space or room searched.

4. Procedure

4.1 Use contrasting color spray paint, crayon, or other indelible, easily applied media on the exterior of the structure and each interior space to be searched. The size of the marking

should be as large as is practical given the media used, the area available, and the viewing distance. For example, the “X” on the interior would be 2 by 2 ft in size.

4.2 If the main access to the structure or interior space is not usable due to damage, this system shall be used as close as possible to the best available access. Directional markings shall be applied to the building as shown to indicate the best available access route.

4.3 Use symbols shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

4.4 Single slash drawn upon entry to a structure or area indicates search operations are currently in progress and by which unit. See following:



4.5 Crossing slash drawn upon exit of search personnel from the structure or area. After exiting the structure also add the appropriate subject, time and hazard information. See following:



5. Keywords

5.1 collapsed structure; disaster; marking; search

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F32 on Search and Rescue and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F32.02 on Management and Operations.

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Distinct markings will be made inside the four quadrants of the X to clearly denote the search status and findings at the time of this search. The following illustrations define the search marks:

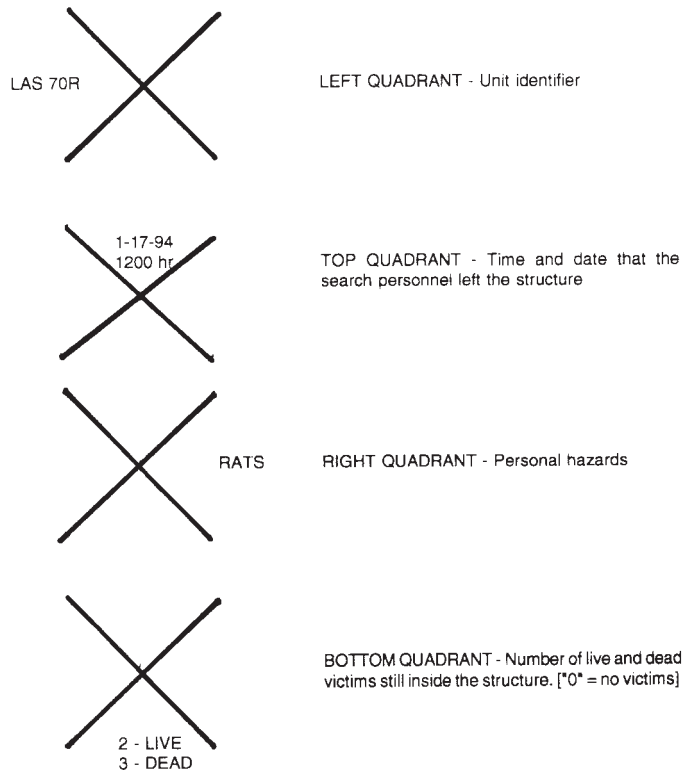


FIG. 1 Search Markings

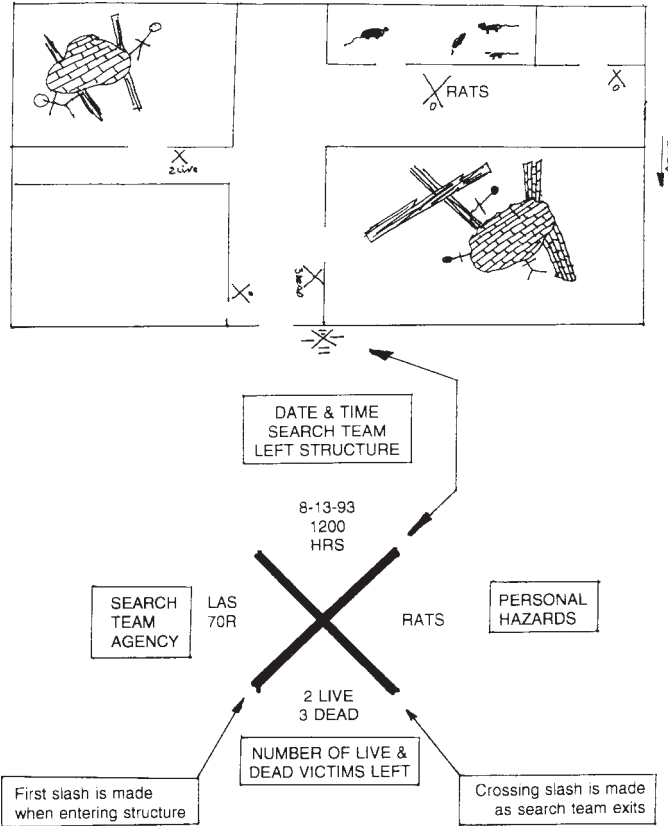


FIG. 2 Search Markings in Use

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