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## Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Romania-Serbia

# SEARCH & RESCUE RESPONSE OPERATIONS STRUCTURE

7 Septembrie 2023

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## National Incident Management System (NIMS)

- NIMS is designed to:
    - provide a framework for incident management
    - "One mission, one team..."
- Used for ALL types of incidents (mass casualty, planned events).
- First standardized approach to incident management and response.
- Establishes uniform set of procedures to be used by emergency responders at all levels of government to conduct response operations.

## Core Elements of NIMS

• Incident Command System (ICS)

• Preparedness (planning, <u>training</u>, exercises, <u>qualifications</u> and <u>certifications</u> of all personnel involved in incidents)

• Communications and Information Management

• Joint Information System

• NIMS Integration Center

## Incident Command System (ICS)

• The incident command system will be used to effectively manage emergency situations such as wildfires.

• ICS uses:

   • Unity of command (one person in charge)

   • Span of control to manage personnel (3 - 7 people under one supervisor)

   • Common terms so everyone understands what is being communicated

   • A modular system to manage resources (a system that can expand and contract with the emergency event)

COMMAND STAFF

Incident Commander

Safety — Information

Liaison

Operations | Planning | Logistics | Finance and Administration

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## Search and Rescue

- Consists of three separate operations
  - **Sizeup**: Using 5-step, continual model
  - **Search**: Locating victims and documenting
  - **Rescue**: Extricating victims

## Deciding to Attempt Rescue

- Decision based on three factors
  - The risks involved for the rescuer
  - Greatest good for the greatest number
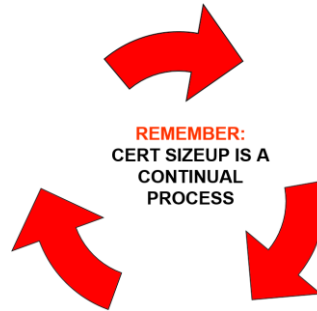  - Resources and manpower available

## Goals of Search and Rescue

- Rescue greatest number in shortest amount of time
- Get walking wounded out first
- Rescue lightly trapped victims next
- Keep the rescuer safe

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## Sizeup (Long Version)

1. Gather Facts
2. Assess Damage
3. Consider Probabilities
4. Assess Your Situation
5. Establish Priorities
6. Make Decisions
7. Develop Plan of Action
8. Take Action
9. Evaluate Progress

REMEMBER:
CERT SIZEUP IS A
CONTINUAL
PROCESS

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## Sizeup (simplified)

1. **F**acts (Gather facts)
2. **A**nticipate (Consider facts, guess future)
3. **P**lan ("Direction before velocity")
4. **A**ct (Less talking, more doing)
5. **R**eview (Continuously re-evaluate)

**F**acts
**A**nticipate
**P**lan
**A**ct
**R**eview

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# Sizeup: Step 1

<u>Gather Facts</u>

• What has happened and is currently happening?

• Time of event and day of the week

• Construction type/terrain

• Occupancy

• Weather

• Hazards

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# Sizeup: Step 1, cont.
## Assess and Communicate Damage

(Part of "Gathering facts")

The SAR mission changes if:

• Damage is light

• Damage is moderate

• Damage is heavy

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## Light Damage

• Superficial

• Broken windows

• Superficial cracks or

  breaks in wall surface

• Minor damage to the

  interior contents

• Safe to enter and remain



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## Moderate Damage

• Visible signs of damage

• Decorative work damaged or fallen

• Many visible cracks

  or breaks in wall

• Major damage to interior contents

• Building still on foundation

• Enter only to save lives

## Heavy Damage

- Partial or total collapse
- Tilting
- Obvious structural instability
- Building off foundation



Do not enter a building with heavy damage under any circumstances

## Sizeup: Step 2
### Consider Probabilities

(Anticipate)

- What is going to happen?
- How stable is the situation?
- What else could go wrong?
  (Murphy's Law)
- What does it mean for the search and rescue?

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## Sizeup: Step 2 cont.

## Anticipate

- Is the situation safe enough to continue?

- What risks will rescuers face?

- What resources are needed?

- What resources are available?

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## Sizeup: Step 3

### Establish Priorities

(part of planning)

- What should be done?

- In what order?

- How to rescue the greatest number in the shortest amount of time?

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## Sizeup: Step 3 cont.
# Make Decisions

• Keep in mind:

  • Safety of search and rescue team members

  • Life safety for victims and others

  • Protection of the environment

  • Protection of property

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## Sizeup: Step 3 cont.
# Develop Plan of Action

• Focus operation on established priorities and decisions

• Provide for documentation to give to responding agencies

• Provide for documentation to become part of search and rescue team records

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## Sizeup: Step 4

Take Action

• Based on plan
  developed during
  Step 3

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## Sizeup:  Step 5

Review

• Most critical step
• Monitor plan's
  effectiveness and safety



**REMEMBER:**
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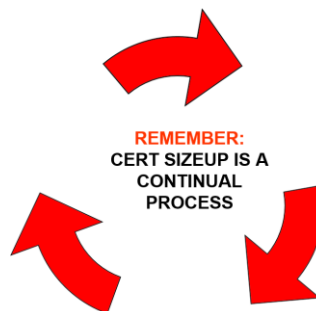
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## SEARCH & RESCUE

- To be continued in next lectures…

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Thank you!