5.8 Worksite Triage

The objective of ASR 2 Worksite Assessment is to assess collapsed structures and identify viable sites for live rescues. The UCC will use this information to list sites in order of priority and decide which teams to assign to which sites. One of the considerations for the prioritisation of worksites is the triage category.

The objective of a triage process is to evaluate triage factors to compare collapsed structures and decide the order of priority. The key to triage is consistency in the comparison of triage factors

5.8.1 First order of priority: Triage Categories with victim information

The level of prioritisation of worksites is based on victim information: number of confirmed alive victims, number of possibilities of live victims, and if there are only dead victims in the structure. All worksites with confirmed live victims are complete before the structures with possible live victims. The worksites with the greatest number of victims are the highest priority. Buildings with dead only may be assigned to USAR Teams as part of ASR5.

In order to assist deciding which team goes to which site, the triage teams are requested to estimate how long the operations will take. The duration can only be estimated if the assessors have an idea of where the victim is located. Duration will depend on the structure, e.g., building material and size, and on equipment and expertise. The estimate should be based on general capability of a team and will always be a rough estimate. Duration estimates will allow the UCC to assign the larger teams to the move difficult or larger sites that take longer to complete. The UCC collects information on all confirmed and possible live victims. It does not collect victims on all deceased, only information that is deemed relevant.

The above triage strategy leads to following four triage categories:

TRIAGE CATEGORIES	EXPECTED DURATION OF OPERATION	EXPECTED DURATION OF OPERATION
A	Confirmed live victims	Less than 12 hours
B	Confirmed live victims	Longer than 12 hours
C	Possible live victims	Not assessed
D	Deceased only	Not assessed

Table 6: Triage categories.

- **Confirmed live victims:** Means that the USAR assessment team knows that there are people alive in the collapsed structure.
- **Possible live victims:** Means that there is a possibility that people are alive in the structure, but the assessment team cannot confirm whether people are alive or even in the structure. Examples of possible live victims is when by-standers report missing people, or a collapse of a school that was in session.
- **Deceased only:** Means that there are not live victims, but the LEMA may want to send teams to the site to recover the bodies.
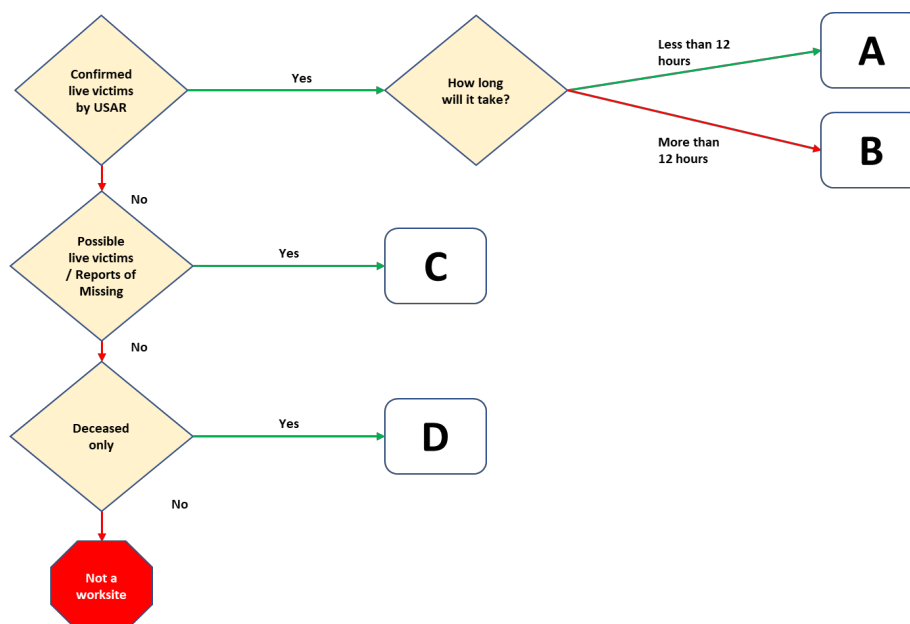
Figure 10: Triaging.

5.8.2 Second order of priority: Building information and operational constraints

In cases where the UCC needs to use additional information to list the worksites in order of priority, building related and operations related information can be used. Examples of useful information is listed below. This are not placed in the triage categories to avoid the triage categories becoming complicated.

Building related information includes:

- **Use:** for example, a home, office, school, hospital, etc. will provide an indication of possible trapped victims.
- **Size of site (footprint and number of floors):** the larger the building, the longer the operation will take.
- **Type of construction:** the heavier the construction material, the longer the operation will take.
- Building Collapse Category:
  - **Inclined:** one, some, or all of the columns and walls have collapsed in a way that floors collapse on an incline.
  - **Overturn:** part or all of the building has fallen to the side.
  - **Pancake:** one, some, or all floors have collapsed completely.
  - **Debris heap:** one, some or all of the floors, columns and walls have collapsed resulting in a heap of debris.
  - **Overhang:** lower parts of the building have collapsed, leaving the higher part of the building to hang over the lower part.
- Void space information may also be an issue, based on information from building collapse categories:
  - **Big void:** is big enough for a person to crawl. The chances of survival for a victim are greater in big voids than small voids. "Big" is a relative term, i.e. a big void for a child will be considerably smaller than a big void for an adult.

o **Small void:** is where a person can hardly move and has to lie more or less still while waiting for help. In small voids, the chances of injury are higher as people trapped inside have less space to avoid falling objects and collapsing structural elements.

Factors relating to the operations include:

- **Resource availability:** the more limited resources, the longer the operation will take.
- **Location of site and teams:** the further from the site the team is, the longer the operation will take.

5.9 Information Management

Large, complex USAR operations result in heavy workloads for national and international teams. The potential for loss of situational awareness is high if the information gathered is not managed properly. To assure a coordinated response of multiple international USAR Teams, information management therefore becomes a critical issue across the whole USAR coordination mechanism and at all stages of the response cycle. A USAR information management system is needed to ensure successful field coordination in USAR operations. Such a system underpins efficient and effective collection, processing, dissemination of information and tasking of large-scale coordination efforts.

Responding teams want to limit the time and effort spent on information management. The requirements set on the teams in managing information have to be restricted to the absolute essential information for USAR coordination. Broader information is often needed for various other purposes, but this manual only covers the essential USAR coordination requirements. All stakeholders of the INSARAG community need to part of a USAR information management system, hence the need for a standardised and systematic approach to collect and report information at all levels.

The INSARAG community has developed a management system through the years, and continues to seek to improve it. Initially, INSARAG and the UN adopted the idea of coordination cell, the OSOCC, which has now developed into an OSOCC with a well-defined UCC as part of the OSOCC. Later, the development of paper forms for collecting and disseminating information and assignments was introduced. The most recent development of the INSARAG management system is a digital data collection and information display tools, which will be operational on 1 January 2020.

The INSARAG information management system is based on the following basic principles:

- **Field oriented:** Ease of use in the field, accounting for the difficulties encountered in such environment.
- **Reliable:** Information collected and stored in the system must be reliable and readily available for the coordination structure, even under adverse conditions and limited resources.
- **Scalable:** The system must adapt to different response scales.
- **Adaptable:** The disaster response needs to adapt to different types of disasters and environments.
- **Traceable:** The accountability of the information managed must be available to allow scrutiny and decision-making process.
- **Integral:** The system must cover as many of the different aspects of the USAR response as possible in pursuit of standardisation.

Management is the allocation of resources towards a goal and objectives. As the UCC does not have command and control over the teams, the UCC coordinates with the teams, under the direction of LEMA. The INSARAG Coordination and Management System (ICMS) therefore refers to a coordinated activity of allocating resources towards saving as many lives as possible from collapsed structures.