

# STRUCTURAL TRIAGE

## PURPOSE

To provide a marking and identification system that meets FEMA standards for structures affected by collapse, identifying hazards, victim status, search status and other related information.

## PROCEDURE

1. **All response personnel should possess a basic understanding of how to read, understand and use the basic marking system and take appropriate actions.**
2. **Structural Triage Markings**
  - A. These markings will be conspicuously made with spray paint to permanently identify and mark structures that have been surveyed.
  - B. Personnel trained in structural collapse will outline a 2'x2' square box at any entrance accessible for entry into any compromised structure. If the box is made some distance from the point of entry, an arrow must also be painted denoting the direction to the entry point (see Attachment A).
3. **Search Assessment Markings**
  - A. These findings would be similarly denoted with the same paint as the structural triage markings.
  - B. Search assessment markings are a distinct marking system that denotes information relating to victim location and status in the area searched. This marking system is designed to be used in conjunction with the structural triage markings during active search operations.
  - C. Personnel will draw an "X" that is 2'x2' in size with spray paint. This "X" will be constructed in two operations (see Attachment B):
    - i. One slash drawn upon entry into the structure.
    - ii. Second crossing slash drawn upon exit.

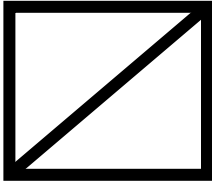
## KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Use a bright or contrasting paint color such as orange.
- Structural triage and corresponding markings may be conducted/performed by non-fire department personnel.

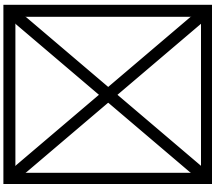
# STRUCTURAL TRIAGE MARKINGS



Structure is accessible and safe for search and rescue operations. Damage is minor or the structure is completely pancaked with little danger of further collapse.



Structure is significantly damaged. Some areas are relatively safe, but other areas may need shoring, bracing, or removal of falling and collapse hazards.



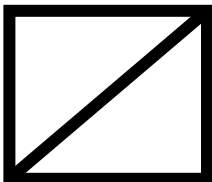
Structure is not safe for search and rescue operations and may be subject to sudden additional collapse.



Arrow located next to marking box; indicates the direction to the safe entrance to the structure should the marking box need to be made remote from the indicated entrance.



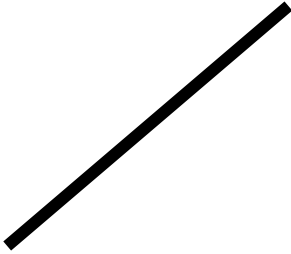
Indicates that a hazardous material condition exists in or adjacent to the structure. Personnel may be in jeopardy. Consideration for operations should be made in conjunction with the HazMat Team. The type of hazard should also be noted.



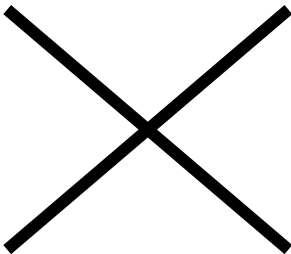
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The following information, TIME, DATE, HAZARD, and SPECIALIST ID, will also be noted outside the box at the upper right-hand side.

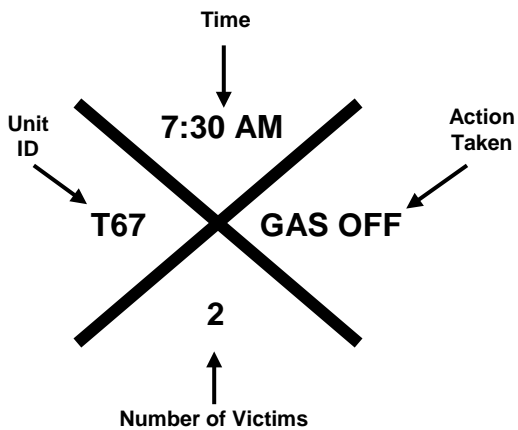
## SEARCH ASSESSMENT MARKINGS



Single slash drawn upon entry to an area indicates search operations are currently in progress.



Crossing slash drawn upon search personnel exit from the structure or area.



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 assessment.