SAFETY ALERT

USARC SAFETY SENDS

Disaster Recovery Operations

Disaster recovery operations are vital to getting people and communities back on their feet. These missions often expose Soldiers to high heat and humidity, standing water, unstable debris, downed power lines, and displaced animals. With proper planning, strong situational awareness, and a focus on Safety, you can prevent becoming a casualty while helping your neighbors.

9 Safety Tips for Disaster Recovery Operations:

1) Heat injuries escalate quickly. Follow unit-directed WBGT work-rest cycles, increase shaded rest periods as temperatures rise, hydrate consistently, and avoid energy drinks, especially during recovery operations.

2) Be alert for downed power lines, especially those lying in water or tangled in debris. Assume they are energized. Keep significant distance, warn others, and report their location immediately.

3) During military vehicle water crossings, verify depth, current, and spacing. Use ground guides and rehearse signals before movement.

4) Treat all local water sources as unsafe unless verified potable.

5) PPE is mandatory. Waterproof boots, gloves, and eye protection help prevent cuts, infections, and exposure to contaminants.

6) Treat all standing water as contaminated. Avoid contact and wash immediately if exposed.

7) Expect hidden underwater hazards such as debris, sinkholes, and unstable terrain. Never enter water until depth and obstacles are confirmed.

8) Watch for mold in damaged structures. Ventilate first and minimize time inside until inspected.

9) Report all cuts, scrapes, or punctures to supervisor and medical personnel immediately, to ensure the injury is properly treated to avoid infection. Follow up with the safety officer for mishap reporting.

Twice the Citizen. Combat Ready!

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