

# How Does USAR Work?

There are usually three phases to an USAR operation.

The first phase involves sizing up the situation, gathering facts and making decisions.

The next phase involves searching. USAR staff work in teams so that the rescuers can help look after each other and work more efficiently. They search systematically through the devastated area. From time to time, they call out for silence. The machines are turned off, everyone stops talking and the rescuers listen hard for any sound from trapped victims.

## Phase 1: Organisation



A Japanese USAR team is briefed at the airport before flying to Christchurch, New Zealand, to help in the February 2011 earthquake.

## Phase 2: Team Search



A Japanese Coast Guard team works at sea after the earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan in March 2011.

If the sound of tapping or a voice calling out is heard, the USAR team has to find out where the victims are located and how to get them out safely. This is the third rescue phase.

## Phase 3: Rescue



A French search and rescue team helps a woman in a collapsed building after an earthquake in Haiti in January 2010.