Five Stages of Rescue

STAGE 1
RECON - Information/Observation

Information:
- Numbers trapped
- Locations
- Type & extent of damage
- What rescue being done now (if any)
- Hazards - locations

Observation:
- Think about time of day/day of week
- Where large numbers of people should have been prior to the disaster
- Looking over damage, finding available equipment and helpers
- Team can now deal with walking wounded and Stage 2.

STAGE 2

- All walking wounded sent to triage areas
- All casualties found in non-difficult situations are removed
- Casualties requiring extraction - located, mapped, advised crews will be with them ASAP
- Rough sketches and maps essential to organize equipment and personnel efficiently
- All available equipment and supplies to be mapped, if not gathered and brought back to base

The KEY is improvisation! The search in Stage 2 is also to assess, and do it fast - so a rescue plan can be put together. It is important to identify all likely spots (survival points) as these voids will be searched in Stage 3

STAGE 3

- Search areas of high survivability - blocked by light debris
- Complete search of the likely survival points
- Rescue of survivors found
- Reporting to base with numbers and briefing planners is important

Incredible amounts of dust created - which suffocate victims

STAGE 4

- Selected debris removal and further searching where any chance exists for survivors
- Carried out if people still unaccounted for
- No heavy equipment used, but human debris chains are effective

STAGE 5

- Systematic debris removal
- Start in voids
- Use of heavy equipment supervised by safety officer
- Shoring and risk assessment should take place
• Pile it neat, avoid rehandling - do it right the first time
• Mark all areas searched to avoid wasting time re-searching