

In addition to the possibility of war caused emergencies, the diversity in climatic, geologic and topographic features continually subject the country to the full spectrum of natural destructive forces.

A dynamic society presents all the modern day hazards of agriculture, commerce, habitat, industry and transportation. Individually or in combination, these characteristics constitute an omnipresent and often realized threat of disaster. This manual has been developed to assist rescue personnel during major rescue operations. It provides the essentials for both large and small communities to function effectively in the rescue field.

Personnel equipped and trained for this function can increase human resources for recovery of survivors and saving the lives of many who might otherwise perish. Heavy rescue operation, like other emergency services, may be required in the next few minutes, or may not be needed for long periods of time.

Rescue training is most effective when conducted under realistic conditions. Excellent training facilities can be improvised in any community where abandoned or condemned buildings are available. Such buildings can be readily adapted for rescue training, including self extrication from shelter techniques.

Under emergency conditions, rescue squads may be ordered to unfamiliar areas and work with rescue units with which they have had no previous contact. Effective, cooperative operations will depend in large measure on similarity of procedures, techniques, training and equipment.

Use of tools, equipment and materials should not be limited by the scope of application presented in this manual. Consideration must be given for the use of equipment, materials and tools in substitution of those utilized for specific application in this manual.

Materials, tools and other resources found at the incident scene can often be employed to achieve the goal of rescuers.