




Welcome to the April 2026 Monthly Meeting

Community Emergency Response Team

- 🧑‍🚒 Personal safety is ALWAYS the number one priority
- 🧑‍🚒 Show up prepared
 - Wear appropriate clothing and footwear, have WATER
 - Wear PPE – your personal protective equipment ...gloves, helmet, goggles, mask, boots, etc.
 - Have at least one communications device: cell, radio, etc.
- 🧑‍🚒 Work as a team
- 🧑‍🚒 Size-up - maintain situational awareness
- 🧑‍🚒 The CERT goal is to do the
Greatest Good for the Greatest Number
- 🧑‍🚒 *Hope for the best but plan for the worst!*




Visual SAR.1 **Lamorinda CERT** 42

You see this at every module but we just want to make sure you remember every point!

Unit Objectives

- 🧑‍🚒 Identify size-up requirements for potential search and rescue situations
- 🧑‍🚒 Describe who can determine a building marking
- 🧑‍🚒 Describe the marking techniques for searching a structure
- 🧑‍🚒 Describe the marking techniques for dealing with a victim



Visual SAR.2 **Lamorinda CERT** 42

This is what we'll cover this evening.

CERT Search and Rescue Size-up

1. Gather Facts
2. Assess Damage and Communicate
3. Consider Probabilities
4. Assess Your Situation
5. Establish Priorities
6. Make Decisions
7. Develop Plan of Action
8. Take Action
9. Evaluate Progress

REMEMBER:
ALL CERT
SIZE-UP IS A
CONTINUAL
PROCESS

Visual SAR.3 Lamorinda CERT 42

Size-Up is ALWAYS the first thing before taking any action.

Topics of Discussion

- 🌐 Building Markings
- 🌐 Search Markings
- 🌐 Victim Markings


This presentation is based on the Search Markings of CA OES and CA-TF4. These have been updated from newer FEMA documents.

Visual SAR.4 **Lamorinda CERT** 42

This presentation is based on a presentation written by California Tact Force-4 (CA-TF4) based in Oakland, published by California's OES. That presentation is now old and the protocols have been updated by FEMA several times. This presentation includes updates up through 2025.

Building Markings

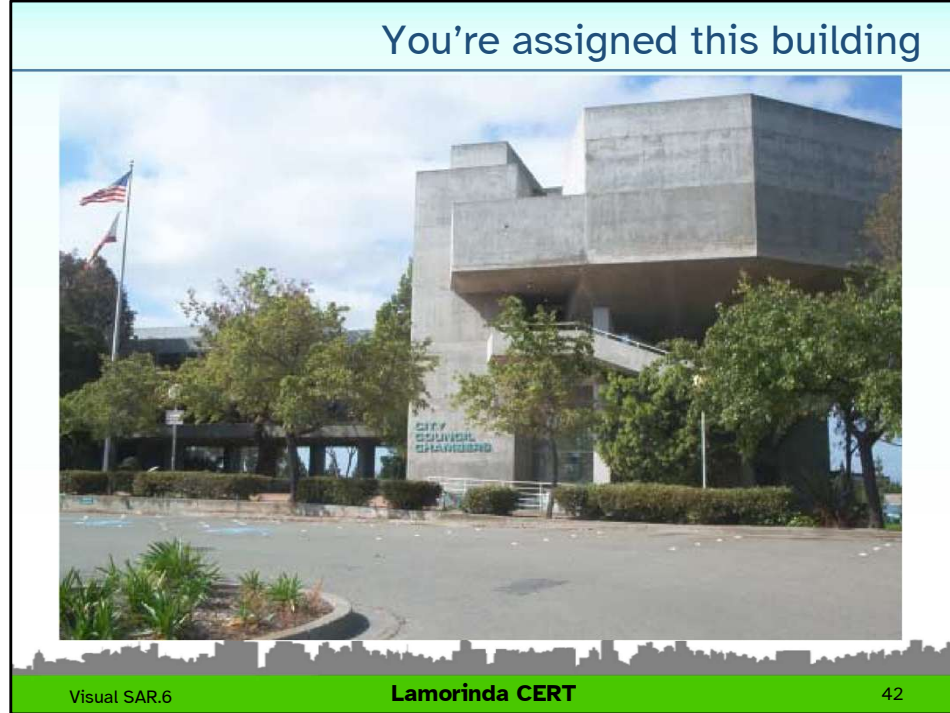
- 👤 Done by *Structural Engineers*
- 👤 Easily seen from the front of the building
- 👤 Not necessarily at the front entrance
- 👤 Arrows will direct to entrance or safe haven



Visual SAR.5Lamorinda CERT42




Markings should be placed on normal address side of the structure.

Safe Havens are designated spaces for harboring rescuers and victims. Safe havens are needed for those civilians who can't be evacuated, including the disabled and critically ill. Safe havens are also important in the aftermath of a disaster. Critical work continues for days or weeks at disaster zones, at places where buildings and infrastructure are severely damaged, and where hazards persist. Protected spaces are needed for ongoing humanitarian and medical care for survivors. Rescuers, law enforcement, and medical personnel also need safe interior spaces to eat and rehab. US&R teams and other first responders also seek out safe havens inside the "red zone", the areas of intense damage and hazards where first responders must operate during rescue, fire-fighting, or HazMat mitigation.



It is important that an effort is made to mark all normal entry points to a building under evaluation to ensure that Task Force personnel approaching the building can identify that it has been evaluated and discern its condition.

Structural Marks

	Good – structurally sound
	Has Problems – may become structurally unsound rapidly
	Bad – structurally unsound

These marks should be big! 2ft. Sq. minimum




Visual SAR.7**Lamorinda CERT**42

A Structural Mark box is ALWAYS a complete, 4 sided box. This differentiates it from a Search Marking that NEVER has a box around it.

Normally the square box marking would be made immediately adjacent to the entry point identified as safe. An arrow will be placed next to the box indicating the direction of the safe entrance if the Structure and Hazards Evaluation marking must be made somewhat remote from the safe entrance.

Structural Marks


Good – structurally sound

-  Cosmetic damage
-  Debris without structural damage
-  Utilities probably not an issue






Visual SAR.8**Lamorinda CERT**42

GOOD - Structure is accessible and safe for search and rescue operations. Damage is minor with little danger of further collapse.

Structural Marks




Has Problems – Ok, but ... may become structurally unsound rapidly




-  Has evidence of early structural damage
-  Examples are cracks around door frames, window frames, building / foundation areas
-  Risk versus benefit – enter, complete your work and exit
-  Some areas may need bracing / shoring
-  May fail in an aftershock

Visual SAR.9**Lamorinda CERT**42

HAS PROBLEMS - NO-GO for CERT. Structure is significantly damaged. Some areas are relatively safe, but other areas may need shoring, bracing, or removal of falling and collapse hazards. The structure may be completely pancaked.

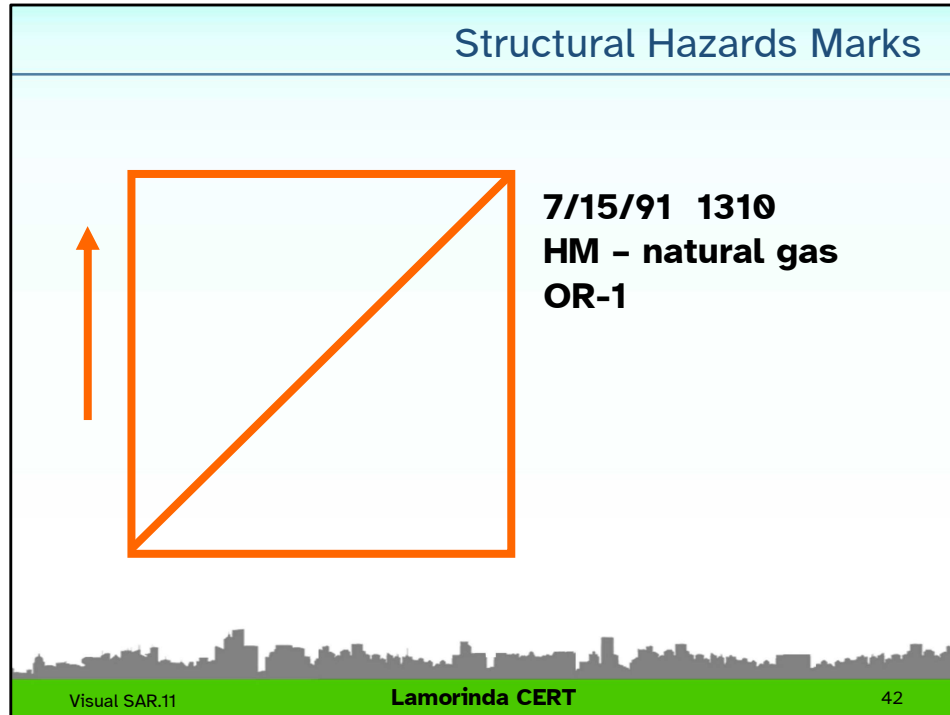
Structural Marks

Bad

-  Has structural failure and is subject to collapse
-  Structural Engineer needs to identify safe haven
-  Shoring will be required

Visual SAR.10**Lamorinda CERT**42

BAD - NO-GO for CERT. Structure is not safe for search and rescue operations and may be subject to sudden additional collapse. Remote search operations may proceed at significant risk. If rescue operations are undertaken, safe haven areas and rapid evacuation routes should be created.



HM - Indicates that a Hazardous Material (HazMat) condition exists in or adjacent to the structure. Personnel may be in jeopardy. Consideration for operations should be made in conjunction with the Hazardous Materials Specialist. Type of hazard may also be noted.

The TIME, DATE, and TF ID, are noted outside the box at the upper right-hand side. This info is made with carpenter's chalk or lumber crayon. An optional method is to apply duct tape on the exterior of the structure and write the info with a grease pencil or black marker.

The Hazard Marking is nice but is not always there. This is what was there at time of structural evaluation and may not be present later. Because it is NOT REQUIRED, there may well be no hazard marking.

Additional Building Information

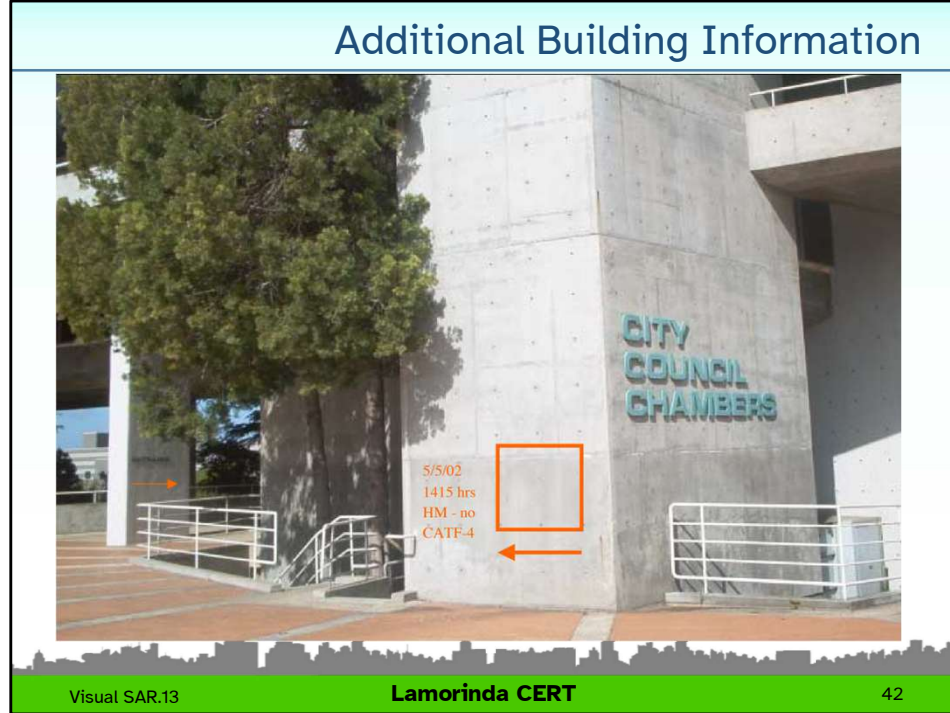
- 👤 When was it checked?
- 👤 What was found?
- 👤 Who checked it?
- 👤 Arrows to entrance / safe haven

5/5/02
1415 hrs
HM - no
CATF-4

←

Visual SAR.12Lamorinda CERT42

Note: CA-4 can be used instead of CATF-4 to save time. Also 1415 can be used to abbreviate 1415 hrs. Time is ALWAYS in 24 hour format.



Follow arrows to entrance. Notice that some illustrations have the wording on the left. Some are in orange instead of black. It all works but the "proper" way is the text box on the right of the box and type in black. When first responders are in a hurry, they will do what is quickest.




Arrow to entrance



Entrance

Search Markings

- 👤 Often confused for building markings
- 👤 Lets others know that you entered and safely exited
- 👤 Documents the events and finds



Visual SAR.16**Lamorinda CERT**42

Search markings have no outside box. Boxes are ONLY for Structural Markings.

Team ID is always required so future teams can identify and ask questions of previous search team.

Main Entrance Markings

- 👤 Reports the whole building
- 👤 Starts with a single slash, ID, date, and time building entered
- 👤 The remainder of the information is written when the search team has **left** the building
- 👤 Total of victims are the ones *still inside* the building. Delete them as they are removed.
- 👤 Do not place on door, or where door swings to cover!

Visual SAR.17
Lamorinda CERT
42

Date can go on top or above the team name in the left quadrant.

Right quadrant shows personal hazards. Rats, mean dog, HazMat, broken stairs, etc.

If victims are triaged and left, the triage color can be indicated, 1-R 3-Y 1-K

If animals are found and left inside, they can be indicated, 1-dog L, 1-cat D

Update when victims are removed.

“0” = no victims found

Search Markings should be made at each area within a structure, such as rooms, voids, etc., but only information related to the results of the search will be marked upon exiting each space. Remember that K9 are adversely effected by paint vapors within an enclosed space.

Main Entrance Markings - 2nd Team



1-Victim
REMOVED

- If a 2nd team enters for additional search, victim recovery, etc., add new information
- If space allows, add below 1st team
- Date, ID, Time
- Upon exiting, add Exit Date, ID, Time
- If no space in X, add new marking beside

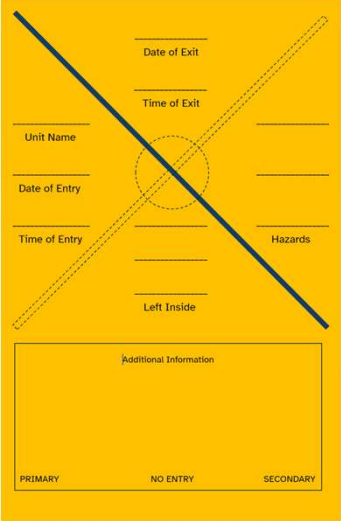
Visual SAR.18
Lamorinda CERT
42

If a 2nd team enters, add that team info (ID, date/time) in the “IN” quadrant and then in the “OUT” quadrant upon exit. If not enough room in the X, place another X beside original and fill in for 2nd entrance/search.

Marking Placard

-  Placards are printed on fluorescent orange label paper
-  Use a bold black felt tip pen, if available

FEMA US&R Directive 2013-014 (which superseded all earlier marking guidelines).

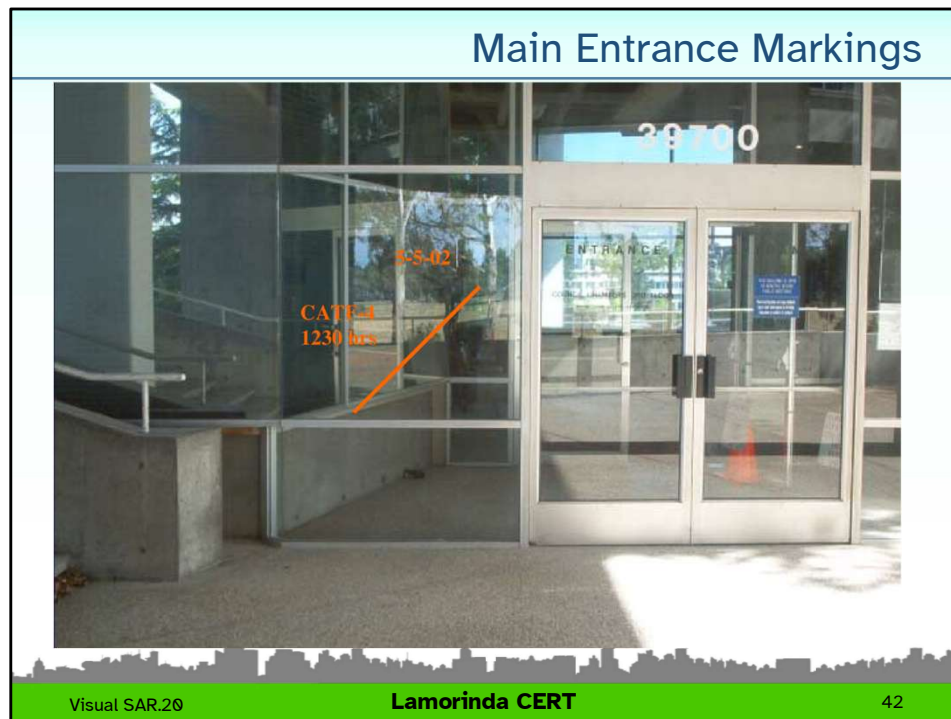


Visual SAR.19 **Lamorinda CERT** 42

Marking Placards are 5.5" x 8.5" printed on Fluorescent Orange Label Paper. They can be used in place of Orange Spray Paint and crayon. Best to use bold black marker.

If using placards, circle "PRIMARY" or "SECONDARY" or "NO SEARCH"

A Placard Kit is available from Lamorinda CERT Foundation containing 10 placards, an orange marking crayon, black marker, and a cheat sheet in a plastic Zip lock carrier.



Slash is backwards

Interior Markings

- 🧑‍🚒 Breaks up to individual floors
- 🧑‍🚒 Starts from where you exit the stairs
- 🧑‍🚒 Slash at start
- 🧑‍🚒 Second slash at completion



Visual SAR.21 **Lamorinda CERT** 42

Multi-story buildings must have each floor clearly identified. If not clearly discernable, the floors should be numbered as referenced from the exterior. The Grade (or Street) Level Floor would be designated Floor 1 and, moving upward the Second Floor would be Floor 2, etc. Conversely, the First Floor below Grade (or Street) level would be B-1, the Second B-2, etc. For buildings where the street slopes, all at the incident must be informed as to which level will be called the First Floor



Entrance has been made onto 2nd floor.

Slash is backwards. Should be top left to bottom right.




What is missing? Not uncommon for multiple teams to work a large building so you must put in ID, Time IN




Search complete on second floor – HazMat chemicals found

If multiple search teams, must include ID and Time Out

Floor Search

-  Usually stairs in the center of the building near the elevator banks
-  Use arrows to indicate direction of travel
-  Mark each room as entered / exited



Visual SAR.24**Lamorinda CERT**42

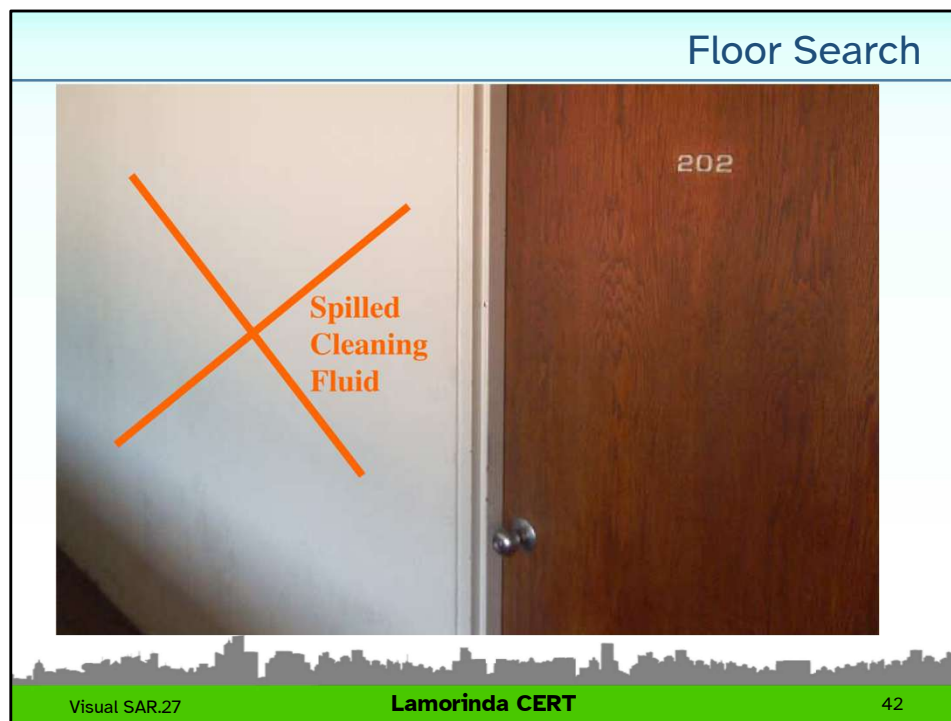
In a multi-story building, go up/down the stairs. Never trust an elevator. The stairs near the center of the building are normally the safest.



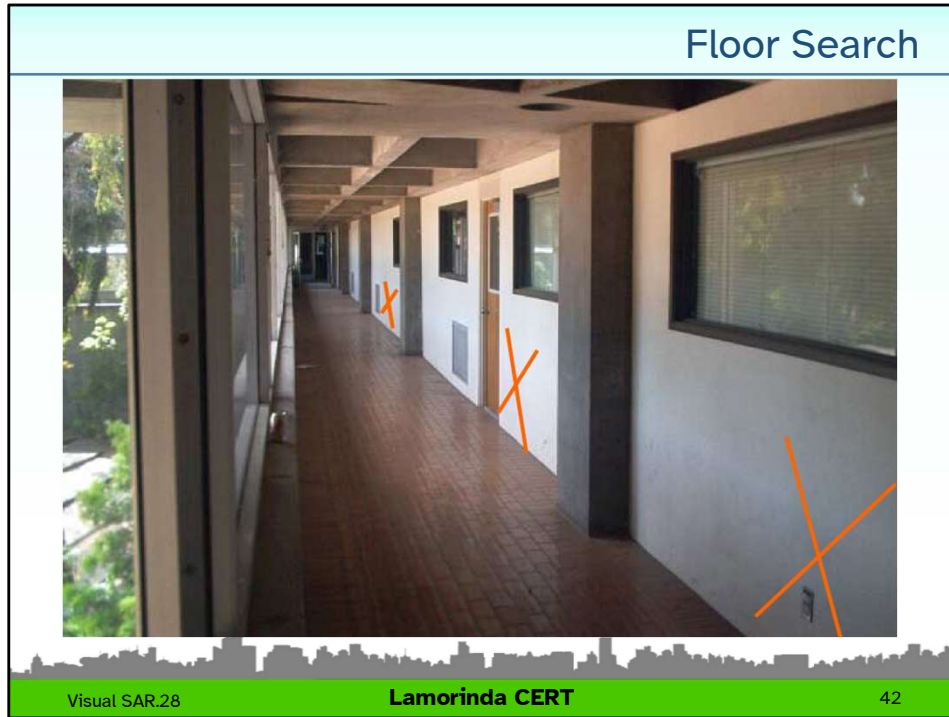
Starting to the left








Left side finished, beginning right side search



Found Spilled Cleaning Fluid in Room 202



First 3 rooms searched

Victim Identification Markings	
	Suspected victim location
	Suspected victim location direction
	Confirmed live victim
	Confirmed dead victim
	Victim removed

Visual SAR.29 **Lamorinda CERT** 42

During the search function it is necessary to identify the location of potential and known victims.

The amount and type of debris in the area may completely cover or obstruct the location of any victim.

The victim location marks are made by the search team or others aiding the search and rescue operations whenever a known or potential victim is located and not immediately removed.

The victim location marking symbols should be made with orange spray paint (using line marking or "downward" spray can) or orange crayon.


Make a large (2' x 2') "V" w/orange paint near the location of the known or **potential** victim.

If more than one confirmed victim, mark total number under the "V".

Use both live and diseased victim marking symbols when a combination of live and diseased victims are determined to be in the same location.

Example Victim Find

- 👤 Canine has alerted at this location
- 👤 Report to Search Team Manager



Visual SAR.30

Lamorinda CERT

42

If you are lucky enough to have a canine team member. Use their nose to find victims. Remember that spray paint will interfere with the dog's ability to smell.

Victim Find Confirmed

- 🧑‍🚒 Find confirmed by camera and listening device
- 🧑‍🚒 Rescue Team Manager called in resources and debris removal begins
- 🧑‍🚒 Victim is exposed

Victim Find Confirmed



Visual SAR.32

Lamorinda CERT

42

Victim Removed

-  **Victim is alive and removed**
-  **Removal marking**

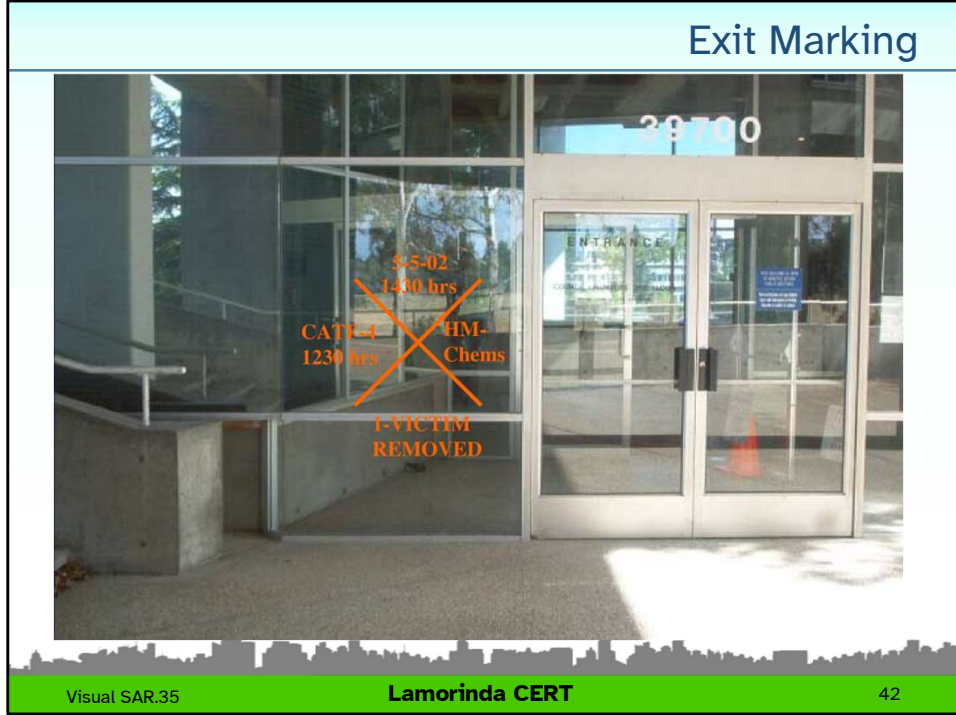


Visual SAR.33 **Lamorinda CERT** 42

Exit Marking

- Completed when all search and rescue activities cease
- Remainder of the information is documented:
 - Second slash made
 - Time team left the building
 - Hazards found, i.e., HM-Chems
 - Victim information

Visual SAR.34
Lamorinda CERT
42



Visual SAR.35

Lamorinda CERT

42

Premature Exit Marking

- Filled in when all activities cease prematurely **WITHOUT** completing the search
- Remainder of the information is documented:
 - Solid circle
 - Time team left the building
 - Hazards found, i.e., HM-Chems
 - Victim information
- Notes in BOX

Visual SAR.36
Lamorinda CERT
42

When the Recon Team leaves a structure **WITHOUT** completing the Search (aftershock, end of shift, etc.), then the second slash **WILL NOT** be made. A **Solid Circle** is drawn at the mid-length of the First Slash, and Date/Time of Exit, Personal Hazards, & Victim Info will be filled in. Also indication of Quadrants or Floors completed should be added in a **BOX** below the X.

No Entry Marking

5-5-02
CATF-4
1230 hrs

👤 Filled in when all activities cease prematurely **WITHOUT** entering the building:
NO ENTRY or **N E**

👤 No Exit line, fill circle

NO ENTRY

Visual SAR.37 Lamorinda CERT 42

If NO ENTRY is made into the building, identify the Date, ID, and Time

Three Different Markings



Building






Search




Victim Finds




Building


	Good – structurally sound
	Has Problems – may become structurally unsound rapidly
	Bad – structurally unsound




Visual SAR.39 **Lamorinda CERT** 42

Search

 When it was checked

 Who checked it


 What was found

~~5-5-02
1430 hrs~~

~~5-5-02
CATF-4
1230 hrs~~

~~HM-
Chems~~

~~1-Victim
REMOVED~~



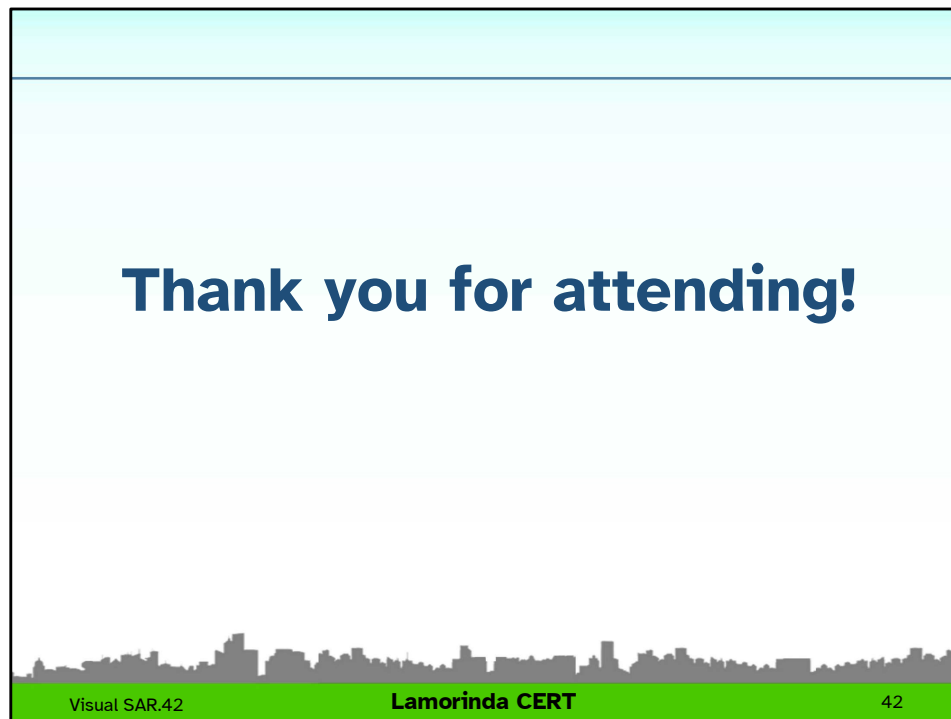
Visual SAR.40 **Lamorinda CERT** 42

Victim

- V Suspected victim location
- ⓪ Confirmed live victim
- ⓪ Confirmed dead victim
- ⓪ Victim removed



Visual SAR.41 Lamorinda CERT 42



Thank you for attending!

Visual SAR.42 **Lamorinda CERT** 42