HOW INSARAG RESPONDS TO EMERGENCIES

In 2005, the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) network supported the establishment of independently verifiable standards for international Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams. The **INSARAG External Classification (IEC)** system provides a strategic framework to ensure that professional teams, including NGO teams, are ready to respond at a moment's notice and operate under globally accepted operational standards.

5 COMPONENTS OF AN **EFFECTIVE** URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM

1. MANAGEMENT
2. SEARCH
3. RESCUE
4. LOGISTICS
5. MEDICAL

3 CLASSES IN THE INSARAG EXTERNAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

LIGHT
These teams usually assist with surface search-and-rescue activities. They have basic or first-response operational capabilities and are classified as national capacity.
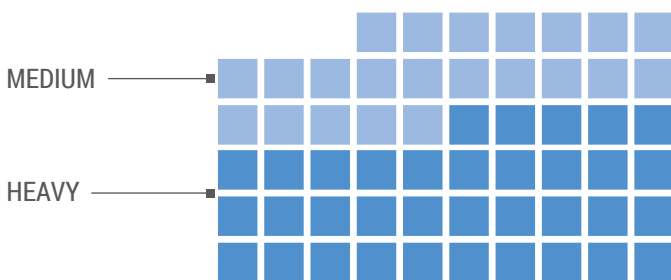
MEDIUM
Medium teams provide the five key components. They can conduct complex technical search and rescue operations in collapsed heavy wood and masonry structures, including those that are reinforced and/or built with structural steel. These teams must be able to conduct rigging and lifting operations.
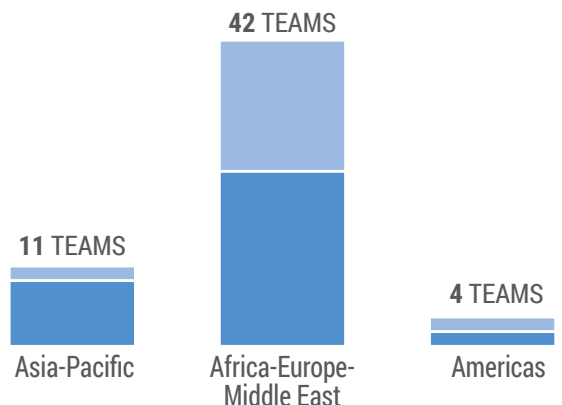
HEAVY
Heavy teams provide the same five components as the medium teams, but are also expected to have the equipment and workforce to work at two separate worksites simultaneously, and to provide separate logistics support.
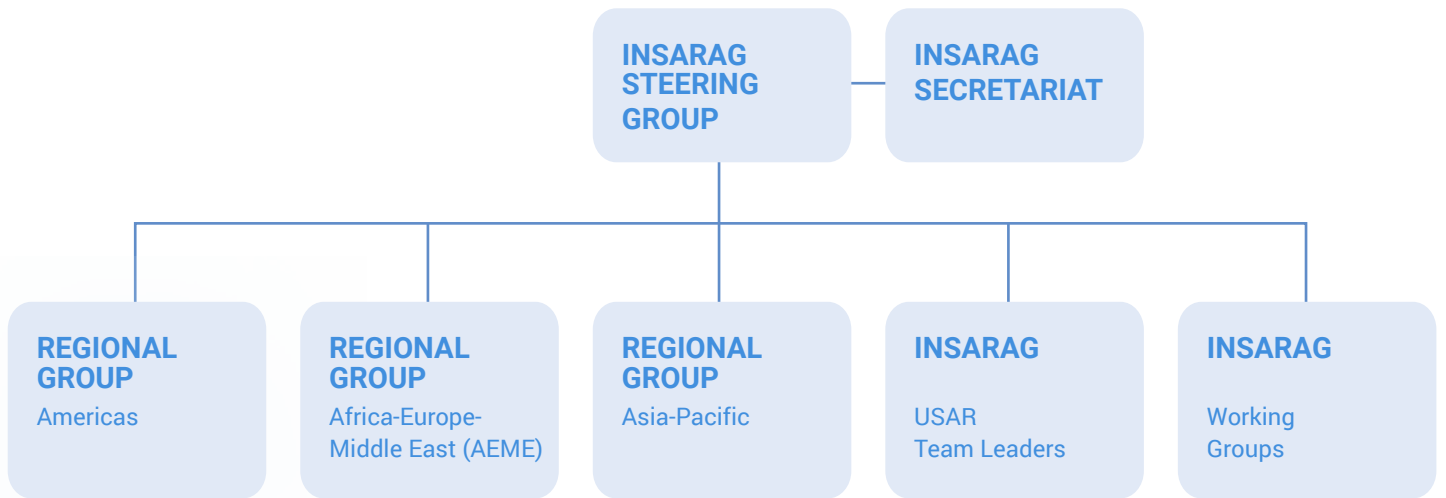
57 USAR TEAMS ARE ACTIVE IN

MEDIUM

HEAVY

43 COUNTRIES AS OF 2021

42 TEAMS
11 TEAMS
4 TEAMS

Asia-Pacific
Africa-Europe-Middle East
Americas

THE INSARAG NETWORK STRUCTURE

INSARAG STEERING GROUP

INSARAG SECRETARIAT

REGIONAL GROUP
Americas

REGIONAL GROUP
Africa-Europe-Middle East (AEME)

REGIONAL GROUP
Asia-Pacific

INSARAG
USAR Team Leaders

INSARAG
Working Groups

The INSARAG network is divided into three regions that report to the Steering Group, which comprises the Global, Regional and Working Group (WG) Chairs. Every year, a country from the network takes on the role of Regional Chair in their region. The Regional Chairs oversee INSARAG activities in the regions and ensure that INSARAG's aims continue to be pursued at a regional level. This structure ensures that teams are aligned with good practices, as defined and agreed on by the global network.

INSARAG Secretariat
Geneva, Switzerland

Indonesia

Peru

South Africa

2021
REGIONAL CHAIRS

HOW INTERNATIONAL USAR TEAMS RESPOND TO AN EMERGENCY

People buried following an earthquake or trapped in a collapsed-structure emergency need to be rescued fast. International USAR teams can mobilize and deploy quickly with the help of virtual alert and coordination systems, such as the Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS) and the Virtual On-Site Operations Coordination Center (VOSOCC). When racing against the clock, INSARAG Externally Classified teams follow the process below to deliver assistance quickly and effectively.

SUDDEN-ONSET EMERGENCY/COLLAPSED-STRUCTURE EMERGENCY

MINUTES

ALERT AND INFORMATION

15 — GDACS alerts the humanitarian community.

20 — The INSARAG Secretariat contacts the affected country's authorities to collect and verify information to send to USAR teams.

60 — More information is posted under the dedicated tab on the Virtual OSOCC to determine whether international assistance is required.

> GDACS alerts its subscribers following a sudden-onset emergency, such as a flood, earthquake or tsunami.

HOURS

MOBILIZATION

3 — Using the Virtual OSOCC, USAR teams signal whether they are ready to deploy.

8 — The affected government provides the UN with a list of needs. The first USAR teams prepare and mobilize.

> VOSOCC is a website that provides updates and alerts to help coordinate disaster response.

ARRIVAL

TWELVE HOURS AFTER THE EVENT, THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL USAR TEAMS ARRIVE

15 — A Reception Centre is established, teams continue to arrive and logistics are arranged.

DAYS

SEARCH AND RESCUE

1 — Teams receive information and task assignments from the Virtual OSOCC before beginning operations.

2 — All teams have arrived and rescue operations are under way.

5 — Rescue operations continue.

RECOVERY AND DEMOBILIZATION

SEVEN DAYS AFTER THE EVENT, THE PROACTIVE RESCUE PHASE USUALLY CONCLUDES FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE AFFECTED GOVERNMENT. EMPHASIS SWITCHES TO RECOVERY, DEMOBILIZATION AND, WHEN RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE, BEYOND-THE-RUBBLE SUPPORT TO THE AFFECTED COMMUNITY. THIS SUPPORT INCLUDES MEDICAL CARE AND SECURING DAMAGED STRUCTURES.

MONTHS

REVIEW

1-2 — The INSARAG community reviews lessons learned, makes tactical improvements to the operational standards, and plans trainings based on the lessons learned which will also be incorporated into the guidelines.