

Cultural Heritage Sub-WG Summary Report

for the 2022 INSARAG TLM

At the request of the international community, besides life rescue response and collapse structure rescue, INSARAG would like to provide specialized assistance across all areas of expertise, for which INSARAG-FRWG was established.

INSARAG Sub-FRWG of Preservation of Cultural Heritage will assist the USAR TEAM giving full play to the USAR's professional ability in the process of urban search and rescue. Our Sub-WGs will continue to develop professional solutions to cultural heritage preservation.

In accordance with the ToR of INSARAG, In the past several months of 2021, The Co-Chairs of the Sub-work group, along with the members, defined and reviewed the tasks of the Sub-WG and our role :

First of all, promoting the involvement of INSARAG in cultural heritage preservation during the search and rescue process would be one of our main goal and achievement, which would be a long-term and sustainable process. We will integrate the relevant information of World Heritage to supplement a basic overview, thus help providing the fundamental operation scope for USAR Team's rescue after the disaster at heritage site.

Secondly, Sub-FRWG of Preservation of Cultural Heritage had reviewed the Draft UNESCO Guidelines on USAR at Heritage Site with UNESCO experts and identify the contents which are useful and compatible with the INSARAG Guidelines and methodology.

The Co-Chairs of the Sub-WG had sum up the feedback of the existing Guidelines from the the members of the Sub-WG. The Sub-WG recap of feedback and the integrated recommendations to the existing Guidelines are as follow:

1. The Working Group endorses the direct and important social benefits that come from protecting cultural heritage during USAR operations.
2. The Working Group agrees that an understanding of activities required to protect these sites should be part of general considerations when being deployed.
3. The Working Group recommends that USAR team members should have a basic understanding of identifying and protecting cultural assets and their importance to the community. (Protect in place or protect by removal).
4. The identification of high value heritage sites should be considered, recorded, and

reported using existing USAR assessment process'. (Structural Triage, Survey 123 etc)

5. USAR Teams should consider providing additional specialist training to team engineers. (Based on likelihood of need)
6. Team management should proactively seek information on cultural heritage sites and priorities from LEMA that forms part of team briefings.
7. When working in the post-rescue phase (Beyond the Rubble), work on heritage sites must be done with approval and guidance of the LEMA and/or heritage authorities.
8. The development of a field guide for USAR operations at heritage sites will be developed and once approved form part of the INSARAG Technical Reference Library.

Thirdly, The Sub-WG highlighted the possible cooperation of the Sub-WG with UNESCO and other relevant partners. Our group underlined the importance of strengthening the cooperation and coordination with UNESCO and other international heritage preservation institutions and establishing regional expert database on specific aspects of professional heritage search and rescue.

Next, our group will ask for the feedback in a broader scope including the other INSARAG Work Groups concerning the next steps towards a more generic guidance note for USAR teams on cultural heritage response in different scenario.