

## CERT Guidelines for Structure Searches

All homes in your zone should have a 360-degree exterior visual and voice search done to determine if there are injured or trapped persons inside.

Do not enter a home unless you have reason to believe there are injured or trapped persons inside needing assistance. That decision may be based on the results of your 360-degree exterior search of the structure, information from neighbors, or damage to the structure that may indicate the presence of injured or trapped persons inside.

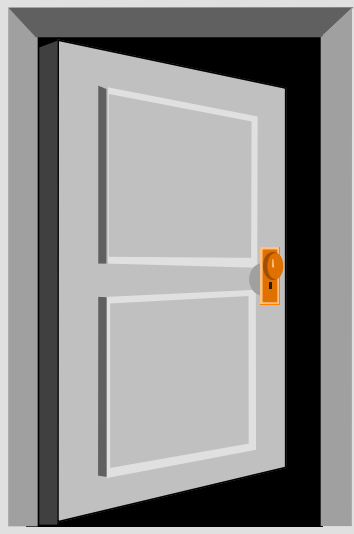
Do not assume a structure is vacant. There are many reasons why there may be unexpected occupants in an otherwise vacant structure.

If your team makes the decision to enter a structure to conduct an interior search for injured or trapped persons, radio your Incident Command and follow the guidelines for marking a structure before and after a search to alert others that a search is in progress or has been completed.

Your safety and that of other rescuers should always be considered before attempting a search and rescue operation.

### Search Markings

- Upon entering search area:
  - Make a slash
  - Enter info
- Upon leaving search area:
  - Complete 'X'
  - Enter info



The diagram shows a grey door with a gold handle. To the right of the door, there is a red 'X' mark. The text 'Date Time In Time Out' is written above the 'X', 'CERT I.D.' is written to the left of the 'X', 'Areas Searched' is written to the right of the 'X', and 'Victims' is written below the 'X'.