Annex B1: Ethical Considerations for USAR Teams

1. The conduct of deployed USAR Team members is a primary concern to INSARAG, the assisting and affected countries, and the local officials of the affected country.
2. USAR Teams should always aim to be perceived as representatives of a well organised, highly trained group of specialists who have been assembled to help communities in need of their specialist assistance. At the end of a mission, USAR Teams should have ensured their performance has been positive, and they will be remembered for the outstanding way they conducted themselves in the work environment and socially.
3. Ethics considerations include human rights, legal, moral and cultural issues and concern the relationship between USAR Team members and the community of the affected country.
4. All members of an INSARAG USAR Team are ambassadors of their team, their country and represent the wider INSARAG community. Any violation of principles or behaviour unbecoming by team members will be viewed as unprofessional. Any inappropriate behaviour may discredit the good work of the USAR Team and will reflect poorly on the entire team's performance, their home country as well as the wider INSARAG community.
5. At no time during a mission should USAR Team members take advantage of or exploit any situation or opportunity, and it is the responsibility of all team members to conduct themselves in a professional manner always.
6. USAR Teams that deploy internationally must be self-sufficient to ensure they are at no time a burden to the already overwhelmed country they are trying to assist.

INSARAG operates in accordance with the Humanitarian Principles, which form the core of humanitarian action.

Sensitive issues to consider:

1. The value that the local community attaches to life.
2. Cultural awareness including race, religion and nationality.
3. Wearing of sunglasses during conversations may be deemed to be inappropriate.
4. Communication barriers due to language differences.
5. Differences in work ethics and values.
6. Different local apparel.
7. Local customs regarding food and manners.
8. Local law enforcement practices.
9. Local policy on weapons.
10. Local living conditions, local driving habits and customs.
11. Local policy on the use of different medications.
12. Use of alcohol and illegal drugs.
13. Handling of sensitive information.
14. Use of search dogs.
15. Care and handling of patients and/or the deceased.
16. Dress code or standards.
17. Gender restrictions.
18. Recreational restrictions.
19. Local communication restrictions and accepted use.
20. Taking of and showing pictures of victims or structures.
21. Collecting of souvenirs (building parts etc.)
22. Defacing property such as occurs with the use of the structural marking system.
23. Access into restricted areas (military, religious, etc.)

24. Moral standards.
25. Consideration for other teams' capabilities and operating practices.
26. Use of gratuities to promote cooperation.
27. Political issues.
28. Any actions or behaviour that may aggravate stressful situations.
29. Smoking indiscriminately.
30. Ethical use of the social media and the network alike.