USAR Planning Tool

In several INSARAG exercises the following tool has been utilized for planning and assignment of USAR teams to various sites. A simple visual matrix is developed in the OSOCC to keep track of the utilization and availability of international USAR teams in each geographical sector of the affected area/town. This should supplement the standard map of USAR operations showing activities and Base of Operations.

Such a low-tech tool can easily be updated and displayed in the OSOCC and gives a continuous overview of the situation. The various sites are named S1, S2, S3, etc. for easy reference with a legend explaining type and kind of site. For example:

Hospital S1

Apartment complex S2

School S3

A site marked with a circle means work in progress on site. A site with a line across is completed (compare with INSARAG Marking System). A team acronym with a line is already assigned while a team acronym unmarked is still available.

The angle of the Trend Arrow indicates if there is a need for more resources:

More resources (teams) are needed in the sector

Resources are sufficient according to needs

Needs are decreasing

