



National  
Operational  
Guidance

## Control measure

**Have clearly defined area of  
operations**



**NFCC**  
National Fire  
Chiefs Council

Developed and maintained by the NFCC

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### Control measure knowledge

To carry out a co-ordinated search plan, the best way of defining and subdividing the search area should be considered. Once designated, search teams should confirm this, and provide regular updates to the incident commander.

Establish clearly defined parameters of the search area and subdivide into appropriate sizes depending on:

- Structure
- Terrain
- Natural features
- Type and size of transport involved
- Available resources

If visibility is reduced, or at night, give additional consideration to using safe routes and landmarks.

### Strategic actions

Fire and rescue services should:

- Provide personnel with the means to effectively co-ordinate, record and communicate search information

### Tactical actions

Incident commanders should:

- Implement a co-ordinated search plan, define parameters and sub-divide the area where necessary
- Develop a plan based on Locate, Access, Stabilise, Transport (LAST) principles