



National  
Operational  
Guidance

# Control measure

## Shoring



**NFCC**  
Fire Central  
Programme Office

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### Control measure knowledge

Shoring can be described as temporary support to elements of a structure using metal or timber shoring systems and can be provided by urban search and rescue (USAR) teams.

Shoring provides:

- Temporary stability of structures, objects or debris
- Protection from falling debris, secondary collapse to enable search or rescue operations to proceed
- Support to vertical, horizontal or sloping surfaces

Any shoring operation should be carried out by personnel with the appropriate level of knowledge and training, using suitable equipment. The shoring should be assessed and monitored.

It may be necessary to use temporary shoring to save life or prevent an incident escalating. However, the equipment immediately available to fire and rescue services, or to urban search and rescue (USAR) teams, may not be of sufficient strength to substitute for excavation support systems.

On-site machinery, vehicles or equipment, such as excavation support systems or materials suitable for use as trench or pit supports, may be available. However, the available equipment may have already failed, requiring a detailed risk assessment prior to further use.

If an excavation support system has been compromised, personnel should seek the advice or assistance of the responsible person or competent person, such as the contractor or a civil engineer.

### Strategic actions

Fire and rescue services should:

- Be aware of how to request National Resilience capabilities and mutual aid resources
- Consider providing shoring equipment and materials



## Tactical actions

Incident commanders should:

- Consider requesting specialist tactical advice and resources for shoring
- Assess and monitor the effectiveness shoring
- Liaise with the responsible person or competent person if required