

**2025 MINE RESCUE, FIRST AID, BENCH AND PRESHIFT RULES
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Section I

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MINE RESCUE Q & A

1. **Q: Rule 19:** At team's request and direction, the command center will be responsible for starting, stopping, or reversing fans. Can the briefing officer do these functions/changes? Or does it have to be the command center?

Answer: The team must request permission from the briefing officer and the briefing officer must perform these functions unless stated differently in the written instructions.

2. **Q: Written Exam:** Are the statements taken from the "contest rules"? Does this mean the rules or the statements?

Answer: The written exam questions will be taken from the statement of facts in the back of the rules.

3. **Q: Written Exam:** Do the two blanks in the written exam have to be consecutive?

Answer: No

4. **Q: Written Exam:** Do the answers to the written exam have to be spelled correctly?

Answer: Yes

5. **Q:** Are smart glasses permitted in lock up?

Answer: No

6. **Q:** Will the 2024 Questions and Answers apply this year?

Answer: No

7. **Q:** If half of a stopping is in an inaccessible area and not hooked up and one side is not in an inaccessible area can the team pull it out of the inaccessible area?

Answer: Nothing in the rules prevents this.

8. **Q: Rule 23:** Team checks the roof and ribs in the FAB for a build on either side of the briefing officer. If the build is moved back and forth in the same location is another roof and rib test required?

Answer: No if built in the same location. The team would be discounted under rule 27 if after the build is moved and built in a new location and the captain does not D&I the stopping before it is moved again. Also, if the team gets discounted for not building at the same location, it would be difficult to get it removed.

9. **Q: Written Exam:** If all hyphenated words are shown on the test as two blanks, wouldn't it confuse teams testing when words such as re-initiated and non-metallic are taken out of a statement on the written exam?

Answer: Problem designers can use 1 or 2 blanks for hyphenated word(s) but the hyphen must already be in the test question when given to the team.

10. **Q:** Page 45 drawing shows unsafe roof on the rib in the second crosscut in the #3 entry and one row of timbers set. Is this correct?

Answer: This is just a mistake on the drawing. If the rib is not unsafe one row of timbers will suffice. If by placard the rib is shown as unsafe then two rows of timbers will be needed.

11. **Q:** When should judges flip gas placards after clearing a gas?

Answer: The rules do not require the placards to be flipped when cleared.

12. **Q:** Statement 52 has two to's back-to-back. Is this a miss spelled or are we keeping the two to's?

Answer: The statements are as is this year. This will be fixed in the 2026 rules. The second "to" is not a key word and should never be left as a blank.

13. **Q:** Will the command center be allowed to boot up their computer and SD card in the staging area?

Answer: No

14. **Q: Rule 42** On a solid line map with a barricade in the face, why can we not assume that it is airtight? There are no openings or shafts in the problem, unless shown on the mine map.

Answer: Rule 42 states you erect a temporary stopping outby before breaching an airtight separation where the conditions are unknown.

15. **Q:** In the statement of facts there are three that are identical except one word.

Answer: The answer must make the statement false.

16. **Q:** Can a test contain 10 fill in the blank only or 10 multiple choice only, or are the problem designers encouraged to do a combination of both?

Answer: The problem designer can do either or a test that has some blanks and some multiple choice.

17. **Q: General Rule 5:** Teams must assure themselves that before they report to the mine entrance or fresh air base all apparatus are fully assembled, airtight, and ready to wear? Is this correct?

Answer: You will not be discounted if a problem exists in the fresh air base as long as it is fixed before the team goes in by the fresh air base.

18. **Q:** The use of any equipment that exists within problems should be intuitive. If a pump is available to the teams, turning it on should pump water. If a radio is on the field, the teams should be aware of it being an ignition source or not (teams should not have to attach the battery to the radio). If a placard has the word "battery" on it, then the teams may consider this object an ignition source. Thoughts?

Answer: A radio battery alone is an ignition source. A properly assembled battery radio is not an ignition source because it is intrinsically safe. Problem designers should not require teams to assemble a radio body and a radio battery underground.

19. **Q:** With 6 members still taking the tests, is it still going to be 300 people trying to get into one, or multiple rooms to take the test. It's going to be as confusing and hard to manage as it was in the 2024 nationals. The testing process should limit the number of people taking the written exam. Pick one, Pick two, etc. Having the option to do multiple choice and fill in the blank in the same test is going to be terribly confusing. Some designers will mess this up. Time has shown.

Answer: These are the rules for 2025 Coal Mine Rescue.

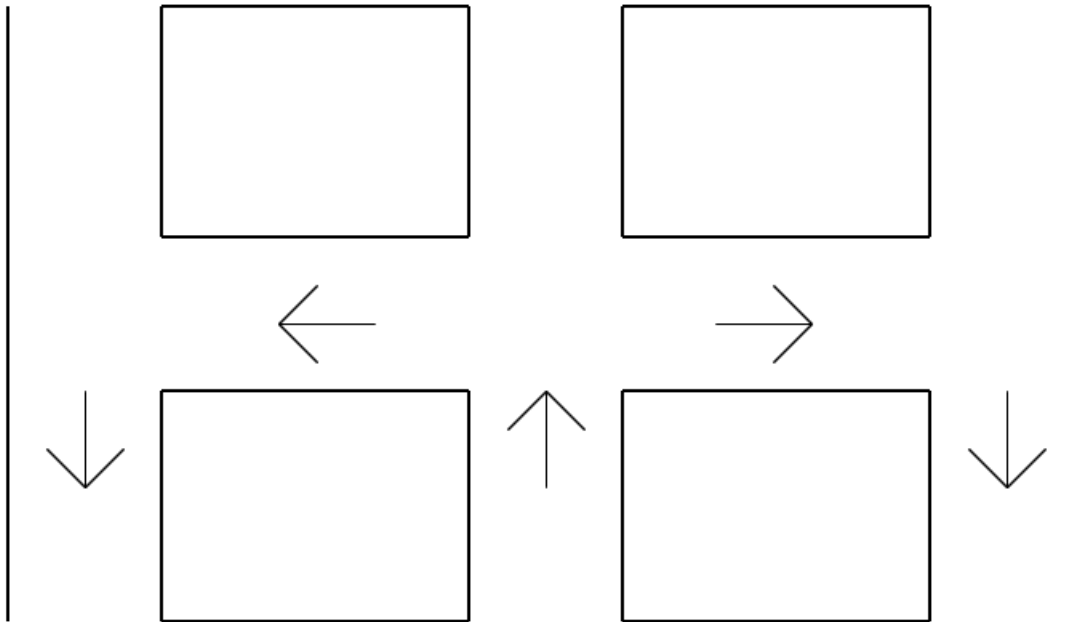
20. **Q:** Why can't the captain roof and rib both locations, start a build, D&I that build, then take the same build down and move to second location, start build, then D&I that location? There is nothing in the rules that states he must finish the D&I before finishing the build. So, at that location is the D&I before the clock is stopped, it should count? The rule 29 has been met.

Answer: In order to do this, you would have two different builds and roof and rib both locations and have one side up. Once a stopping is taken completely down, in order to build back in the same location, you would have to repeat the process. Sequence: R&R-Start the build-D&I before it is moved, or the clock is stopped. Rules 27 say “after the building process has begun”. A partial built stopping that has been moved is not the same stopping when you bring it back to that location later in the problem.

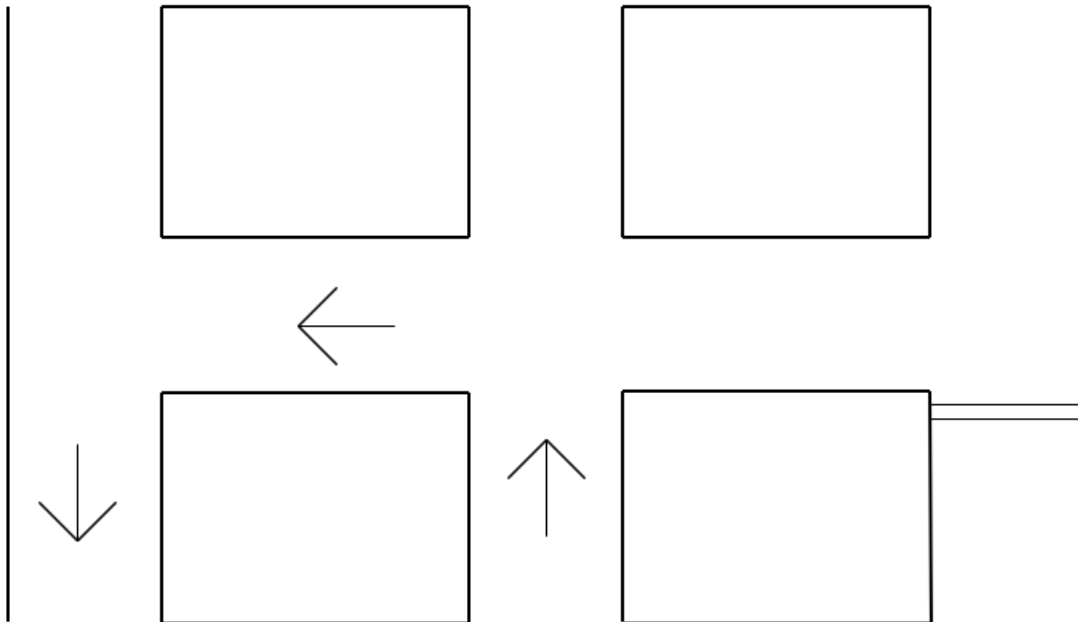
21. **Q:** Can any team member request permission from the briefing officer to change ventilation, start/stop fans and energize circuits?

Answer: Yes, any team member. The communication is between the team and the briefing officer.

22. Q: If ventilation is found in the example below where is the air directed.

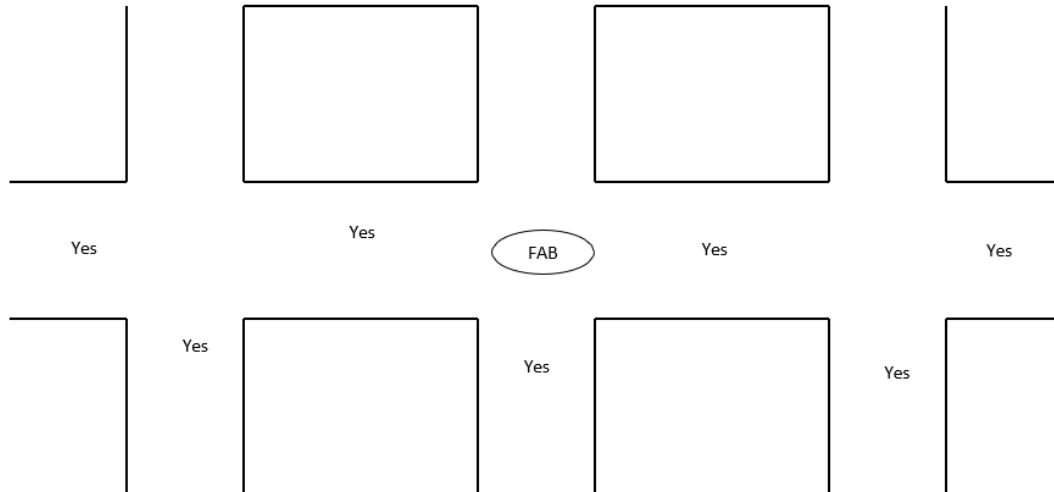


Answer: It is as shown below. Air is still not directed inby the fresh air base.



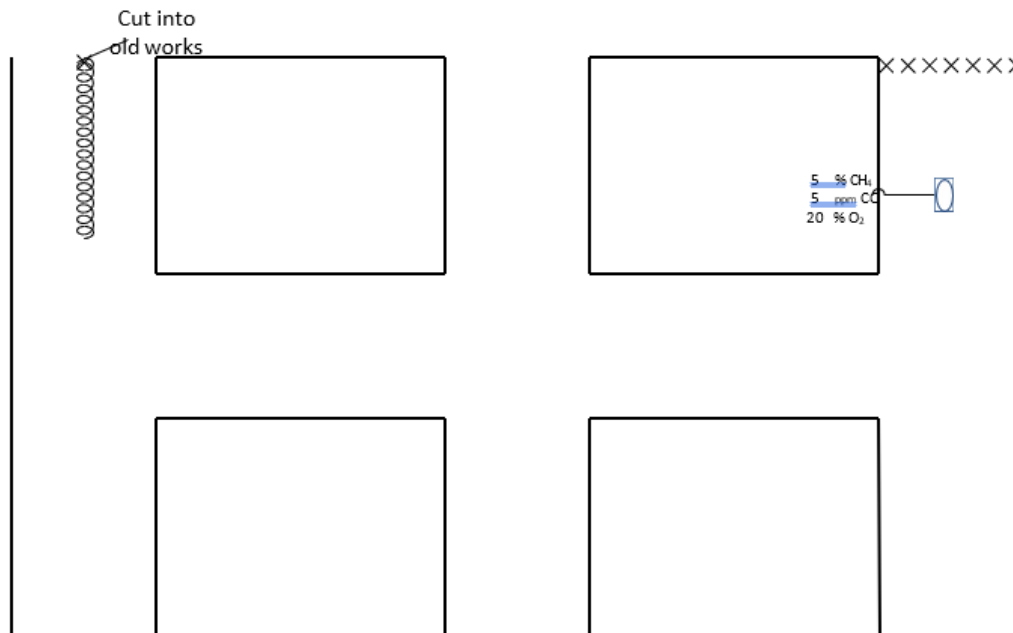
23. **Q:** Can briefing officer build in these locations after roof and rib and date and initial by captain?

Answer: At the locations shown below. In or outby the fresh air base but not inby the fresh air base.



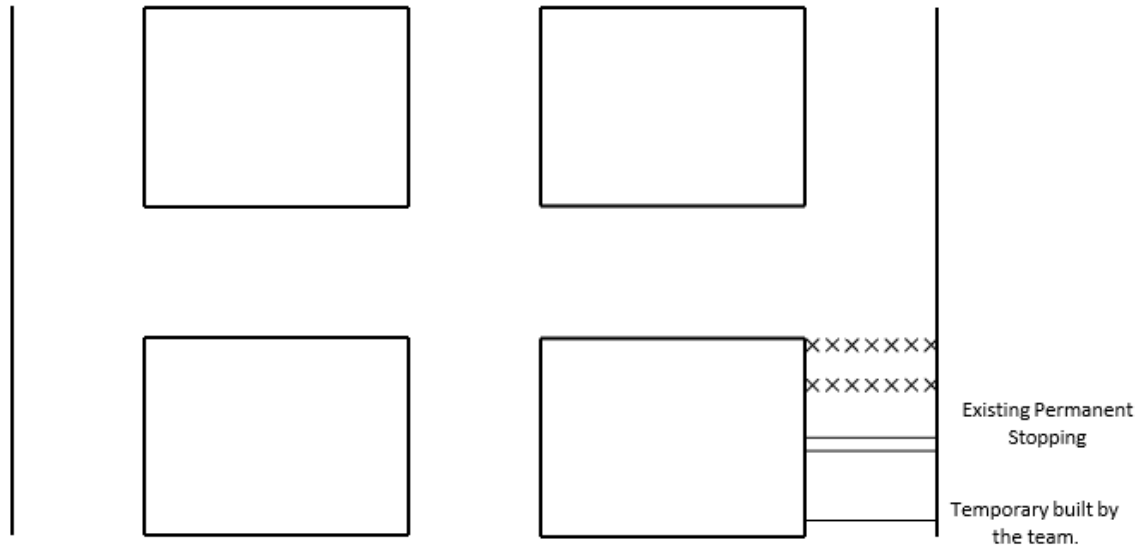
24. **Q:** Is this a Quitter?

Answer: Yes, if the smoke is encountered first.



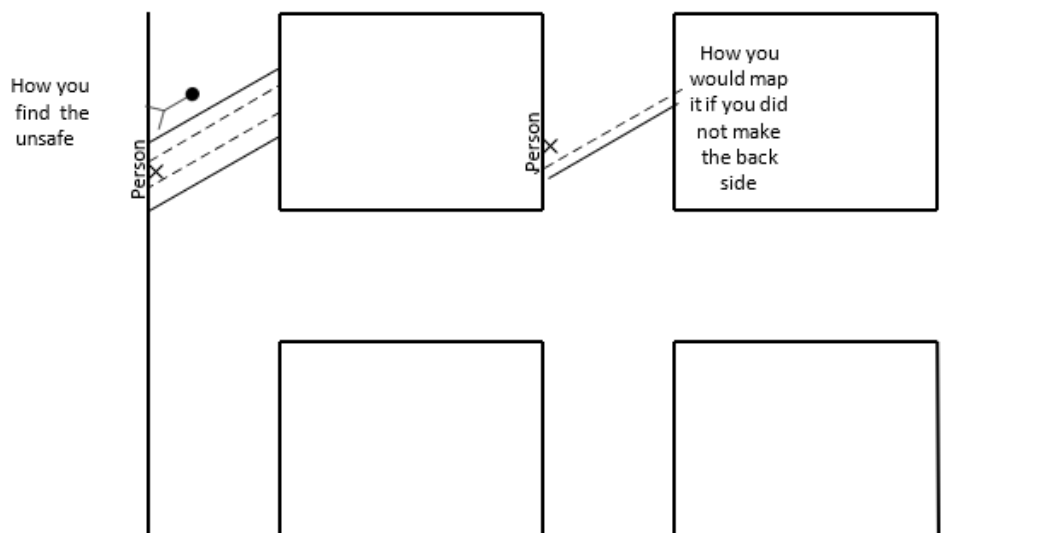
25. **Q:** Is a roof and rib test required prior to rebuilding a stopping just inby the fresh air base that is preexisting, but the team only removed one side of the stopping to examine behind the build.

Answer: No, not unless both sides were taken down



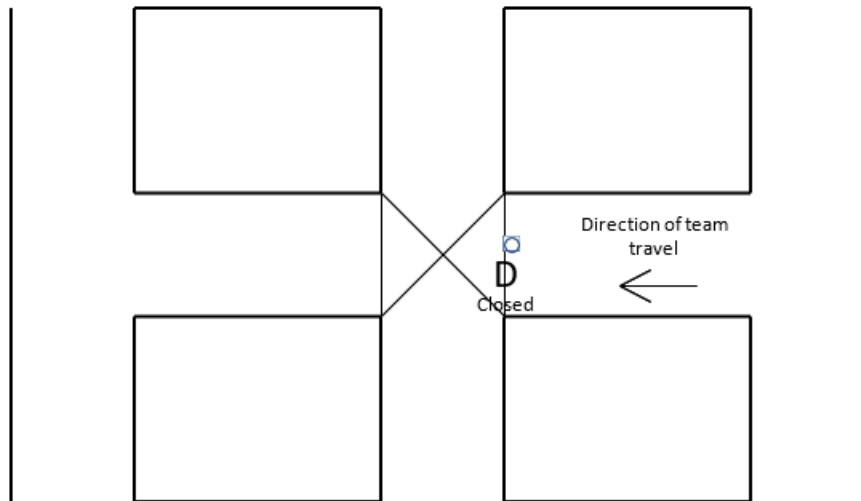
26. **Q:** If I do not make the back side of diagonal unsafe roof, do I map the back side?

Answer: No, just map what is in the unsafe roof perpendicular to where the unsafe roof stopped the captains travel.



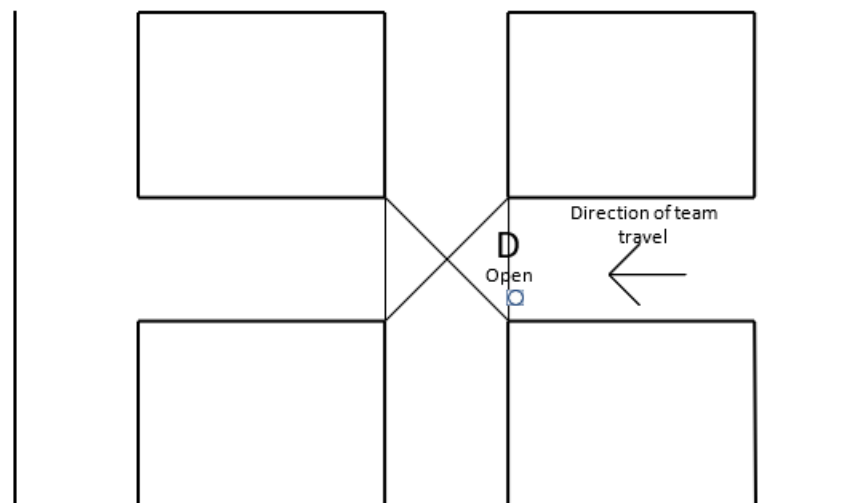
27. **Q:** Where is the location of this gas?

Answer: Only over the Overcast.



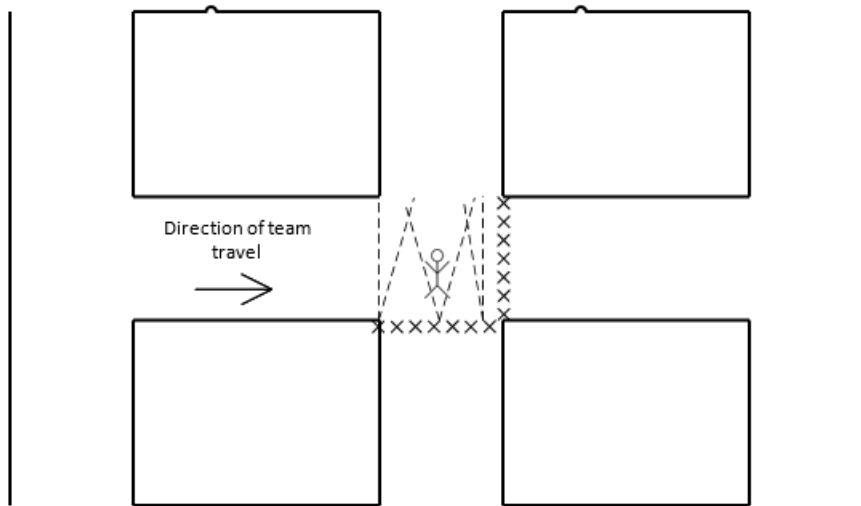
28. **Q:** Is this gas above and below the overcast?

Answer: Yes.



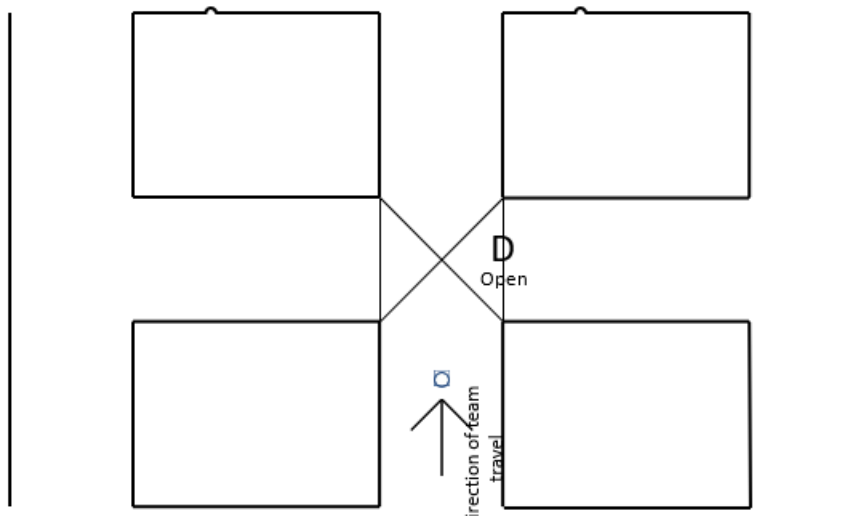
29. **Q:** What is the correct method to do the roof and rib exam in the intersection with the person? Can you acknowledge the person prior to completing the roof and rib test?

Answer: Zig Zag the intersection. Yes, you can acknowledge the person when you have reached the person during the roof and rib exam.



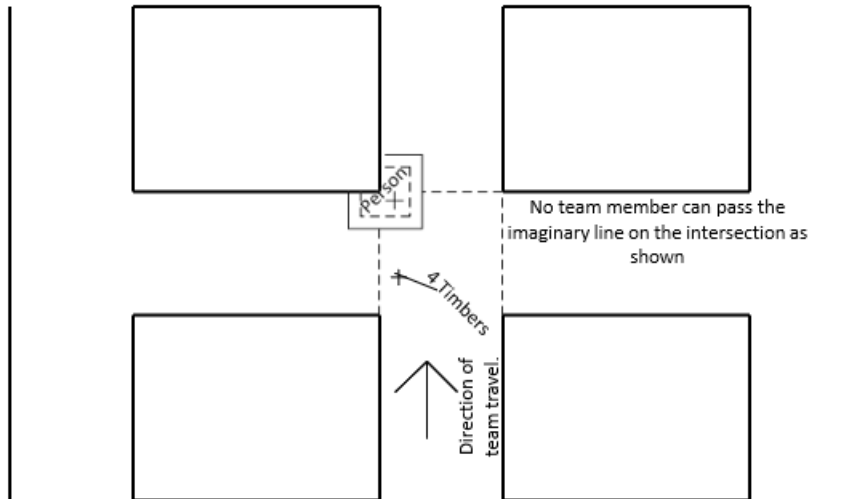
30. **Q:** Is this gas above and below the overcast?

Answer: No, only under the overcast.



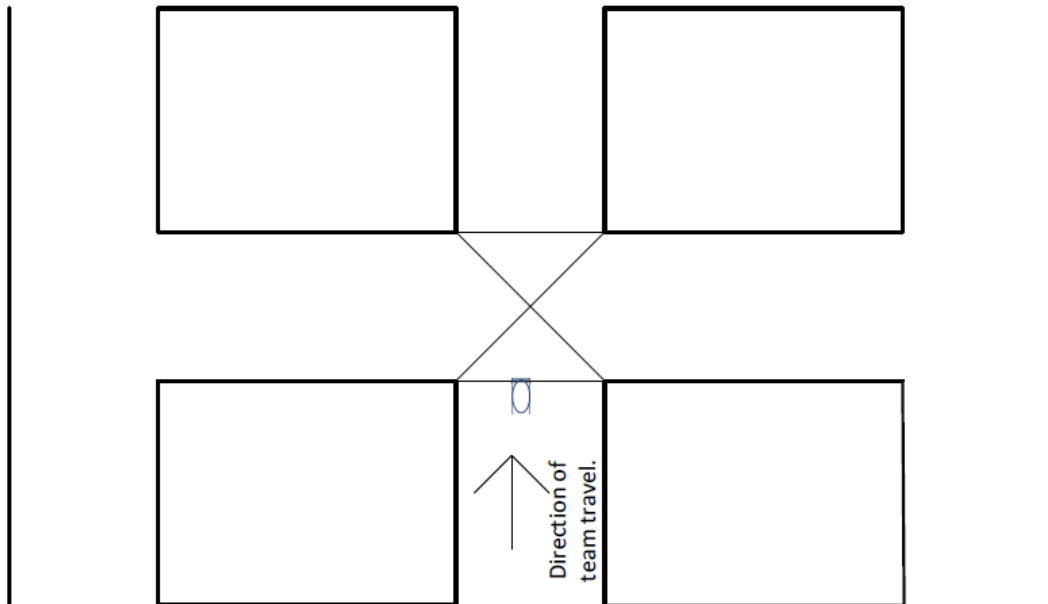
31. **Q:** Can the team pass this person without timbering to the person if they have enough timbers to reach the person?

Answer: No, But the team has not passed the person as long as no team member breaks the planes of the intersection into an area they have yet to explore.



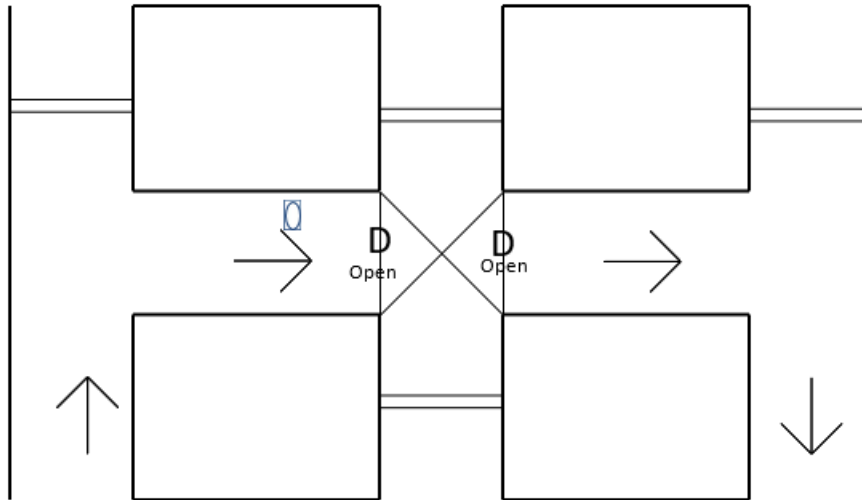
32. **Q:** Where is this gas located?

Answer: Only above the overcast.



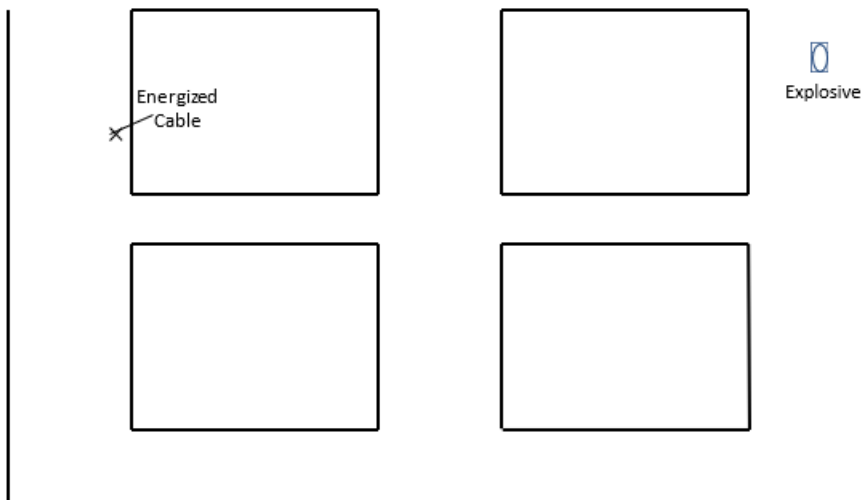
33. **Q:** With the gas above and below the overcast does the drawing below clear the gas above and below?

Answer: Yes. The gas is clear at the gas box and to the overcast wall. But the air splits. Half goes above and half goes below the overcast. You need one full source to clear a gas. So, the extent of the gas above and below the overcast is not clear.



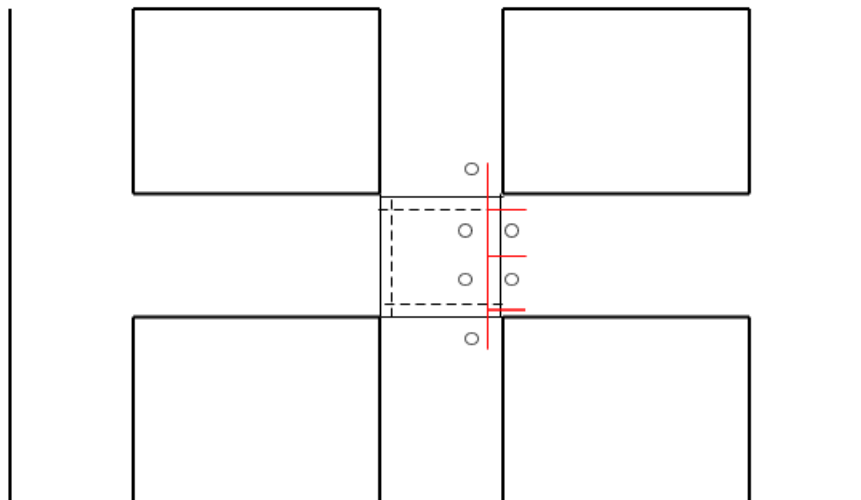
34. **Q:** Is this a quitter situation?

Answer: Yes, if the extent of the cable and explosive are unknown there is no clear air separation.



35. **Q:** What routes are safe for travel?

Answer: If the timbers are set correctly per page 45 sketch 2B the safe routes are shown below.



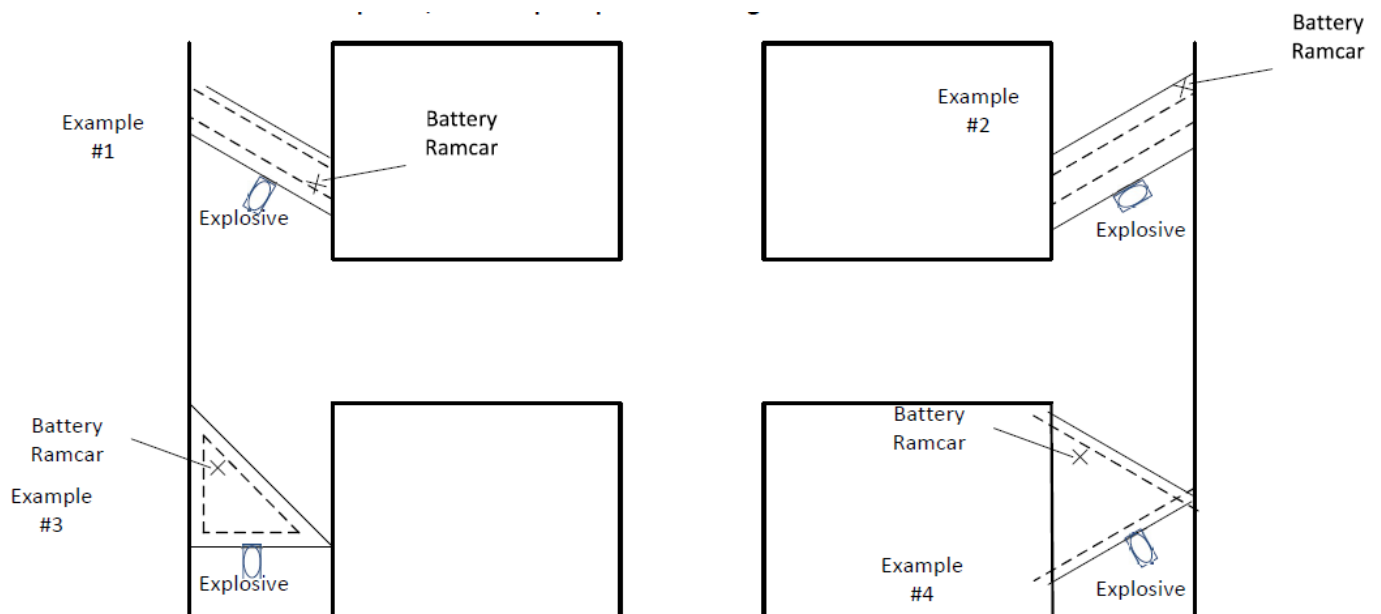
36. **Q:** Is this a quitter situation?

Answer: Example #1, Yes.

Answer: Example #2, No. But poor problem design and should not be used at a contest.

Answer: Example #3, No. But poor problem design and should never be used at a contest.

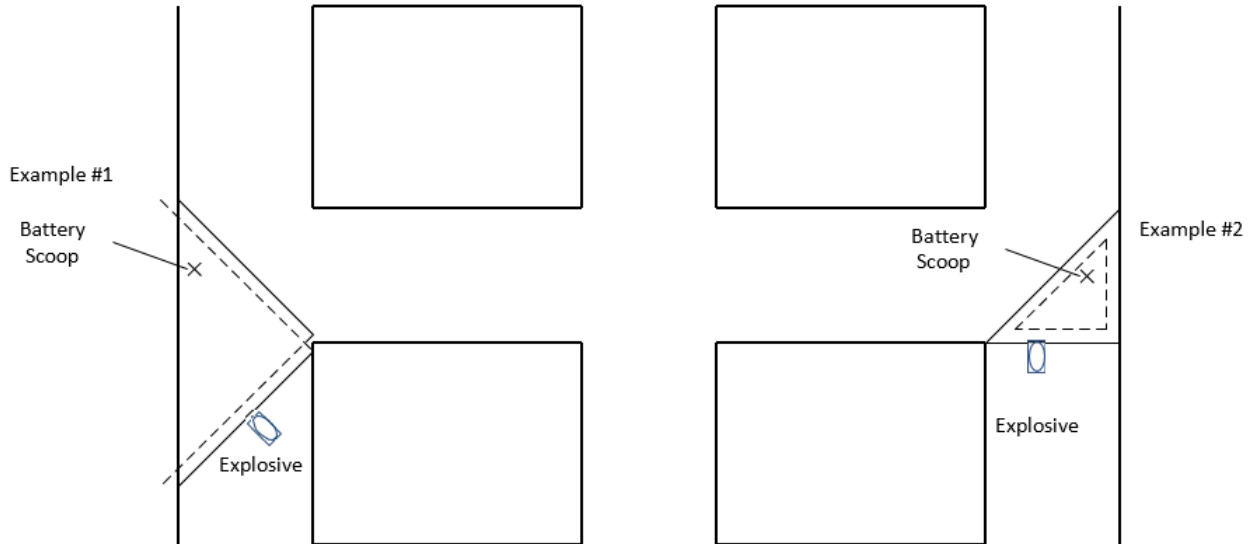
Answer: Example #4, No. But poor problem design and should never be used at a contest.



37. **Q:** Is this a quitter situation.

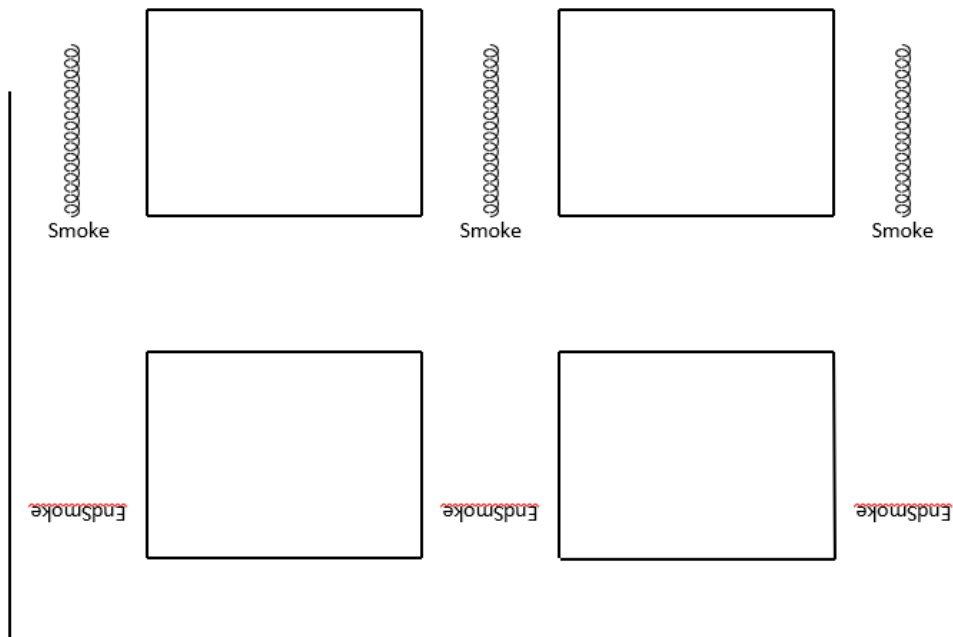
Answer: Example #1, No. This is poor problem design and should not be used in a contest problem.

Answer: Example #2, No. This is poor problem design and should not be used in a contest problem.



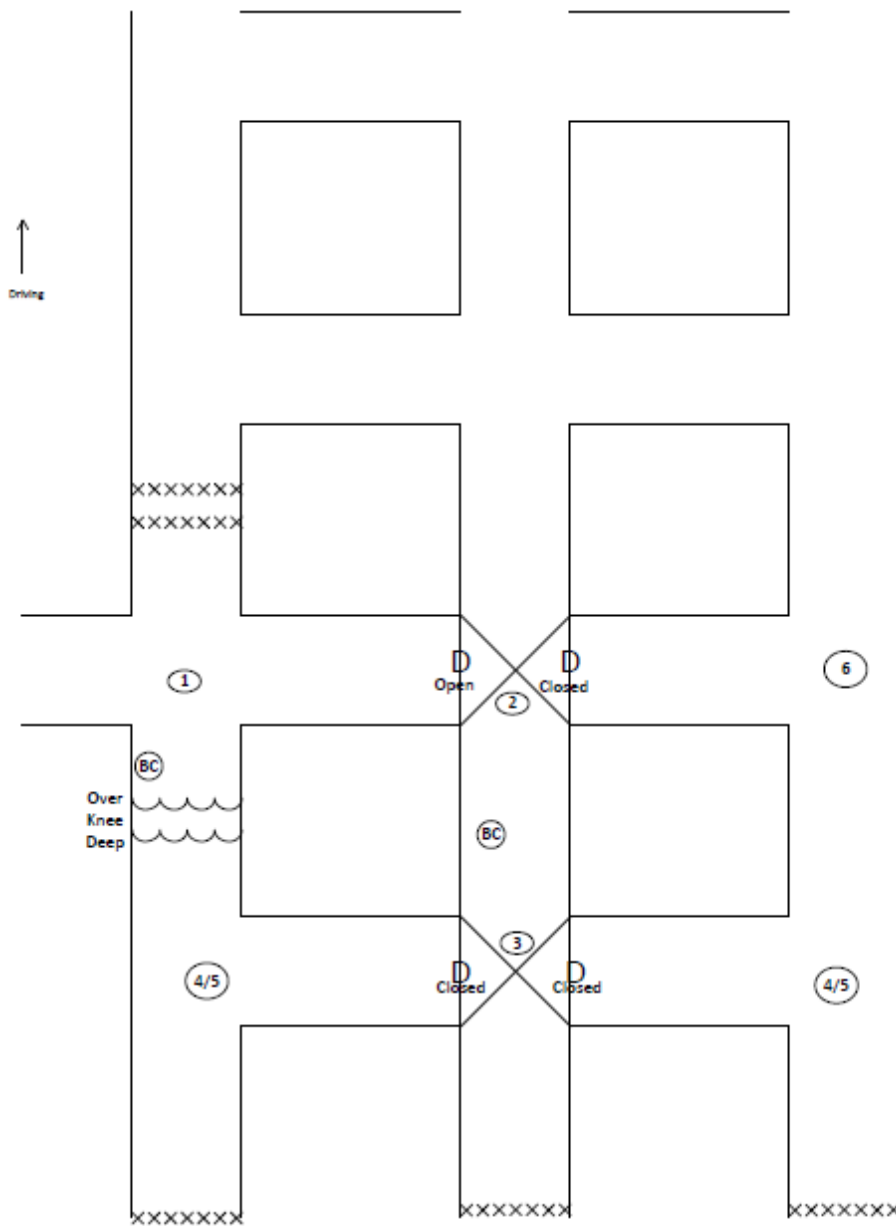
38. **Q:** How should Smoke/End Smoke placards be encountered or orientated?

Answer: There is no rule to say how they should be placed. However, they should be placed so the team knows when they enter and leave smoke. Example below.



39. **Q:** How or where should the two-break limit start in the example below?

Answer: The map should show the direction the mine is driving. Rule 44 then applies to systematic exploration.



MNM MINE RESCUE Q & A

1. **Q:** If you encounter an intense heat placard and a fire placard, would that require two map symbols, or would one suffice?

Answer: If two placards are on the field, both would require to be mapped.

2. **Q:** M/NM rules, page 37 - A new rule requires that all airflow must be directed to an opening to ventilate a barricade. In the case of a dead-headed drift where an auxiliary fan and bagging might be used to ventilate, will the team be required to construct a bulkhead at the location of the auxiliary fan to ensure 100% of the air is moved through the bagging and to the barricade?

Answer: If the capacity of the auxiliary fan is equal to or greater than the capacity of the main fan then yes, if the capacity of the fan is less than that of the main fan then concessions will need to be made by the problem designers to allow for gasses to be cleared out.

3. **Q:** M/NM rules, page 27 - Our team has experienced different interpretations of the rule for proper gas tests when using a single gas detector. With one detector in hand, is it required for the gasman during both advance and retreat to zig zag back and forth across each opening, all the way across for methane, all the way back for CO, all the way across for oxygen, and all the way back for NO₂? Some judges have required this, while many judges have been okay with placing the detector at the appropriate height in the center of each opening.

Answer: The rule book is very clear in several places about when and how to conduct proper gas tests. Every place it mentions gas tests it says that gas tests should be done rib to rib and at the correct height according to the specific gravity of the gas you are testing for. The only place it would be acceptable to perform a single gas detector gas test I believe is breaching a barricade before entering and after checking the back because the opening should be kept to a minimum.

4. **Q:** M/NM rules, page 51 [rule 10(b)(5)] - Are the items listed an exhaustive list of ignition sources, and must they be written on the placard as such to indicate an ignition source? If an explosive mixture is to pass through an exhaust fan, must the fan be stated in the problem as intrinsically safe? Are battery-powered starters on immobile diesel equipment ignition sources?

Answer: No, this is not an exhaustive list. Teams must determine for themselves what constitutes an ignition source. This is the critical thinking aspect of the mine rescue contest and meant to train teams to be ready for actual mine disasters. Any mobile equipment is considered an ignition source, tools that aren't non sparking or intrinsically safe are ignition sources. Teams must carefully calculate ventilation changes when moving explosive gasses and avoid any potential ignition sources.

5. **Q:** M/NM rules, page 53 - If a conscious live miner behind a barricade, states that he has another unconscious live miner with him, is that considered hearsay? Or are two miners accounted for at that point?

Answer: Hearsay would not include a statement from a miner with whom the team has made contact with, so long as the miner is located inside the barricade with the contacted miner. If the miner says the last time he saw the other miner, he was in a separate location then that would be hear say. Notes left in lunch boxes or found in the mine are hearsay and when a team finds them, they are in no way tied to that patient. Only when teams make visual or verbal contact with a patient will they be considered tied to a patient for undue delay purposes.

6. **Q:** When a team finds a refuge alternative, the team must enter the refuge alternative at the same team stop by the following method: What rule to dock under if this is not followed?

Answer: This would be an undue delay to the patient, rule 18 I and will result in 50 discounts.

“18. An act which does not endanger the team, but may injure or result in the death of a survivor. Some examples of this would be:

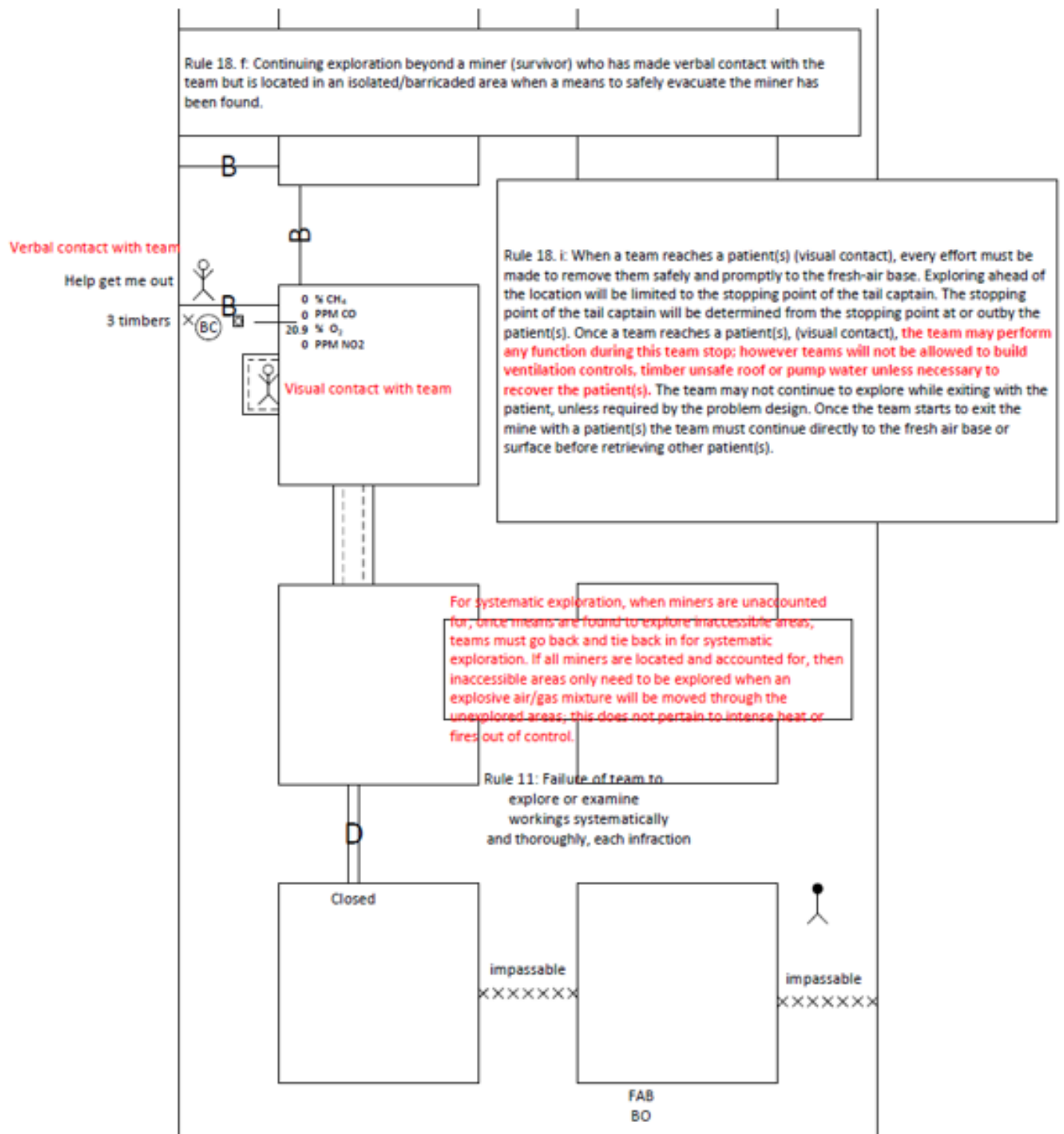
i. When a team reaches a patient(s) (visual contact), every effort must be made to remove them safely and promptly to the fresh-air base. Exploring ahead of the location will be limited to the stopping point of the tail captain. The stopping point of the tail captain will be determined from the stopping point at or outby the patient(s). Once a team reaches a patient(s), (visual contact), the team may perform any function during this team stop; however, teams will not be allowed to build ventilation controls, timber unsafe roof or pump water unless necessary to recover the patient(s). The team may not continue to explore while exiting with the patient, unless required by the problem design. Once the team starts to exit the mine with a patient(s) the team must continue directly to the fresh air base or surface before retrieving other patient(s).

7. **Q:** 3 people are missing, which rule should be followed first? See map below:

Answer:

- a. Teams can elect to take the curtain back to the first crosscut and access the unexplored area and explore it systematically. Teams may also elect to timber into the patient under bad back after exploring all the way around the elongated bad back making this area explored and rendering this patient a visual contact. Teams will not however be permitted to take the patient out of the barricade without first addressing the visual patient. Once the team has the visual patient, they may then retrieve the verbal patient and retreat with both of them.
- b. Team safety takes priority over rescuing of survivors.

C.



8. **Q:** All information recorded on the mine maps shall be verbatim of what is on the placard. Which map rule will be used to discount this?

Answer: It would either fall under Rule 1" Failure to record information on the map" or Rule 2 "Not recording information on the map accurately" - Either could be applied. Judges must pick one and not double dip.

9. **Q:** Smoke shall be carried for the extent of the smoke throughout the mine. In addition, smoke should be shown as cleared in known areas of cleared with ventilation. For ventilation purposes, teams are only responsible for clearing items on a map for areas in which they explore or reexplore. Which map rule will be used to discount this?

Answer: It would either fall under Rule 1" Failure to record information on the map" or Rule 2 "Not recording information on the map accurately" - either could be assessed. Judges must pick one and not double dip.

10. **Q:** Explain this please - Any area that a condition is blocking off air flow to the unexplored area shall be protected to prevent the mixing of atmospheres; this will be site specific (immediate vicinity within the same team stop) based on conditions found in the mine of the problem.

Answer: This was written to make teams manage the ventilation in the mine. Some teams will shut off the ventilation to the entire mine to make miner adjustments to or enter an area without air locking or dealing with the ventilation. This is unrealistic, instead of building ventilation controls they simply would call the FAB and have them kill ventilation to enter a door or barricade. Thus, every vent change needs to be localized or site specific. For major vent changes of course, teams will need to shut off, reverse or alter ventilation using the main fan.

11. **Q:** Explain this please - For contest purposes, after ventilation changes, clear air or gas will not extend past the plane of intersections or entries if blocked off with an air tight condition.

Answer: This is just to say that the air in a deadheaded entry will not be changed or gasses will not enter or exit if there isn't a way into and out of an entry. The air beyond the plane of the intersection at the entry of a dead head will not be changed by ventilation outside of it, whether it's blocked by a face, air tight structure or caved airtight.

12. **Q:** See map below and check yes or no:

Answer: See exhibit A

13. **Q:** During ventilation purposes, splitting of air is permitted. However, all of the airflow will be directed to one opening to ventilate a barricade or other air tight structure when removing gases and/or smoke. See map below and check yes or no if cleared:

Answer: See Exhibit B

14. **Q:** Questions on the new rule on radio's at the fresh are base. "Only one radio in operation at the FAB". In the past whether it was radio or comms line, the # 7 person could listen in but not talk to the team once the 50 FT check was done. The way the rule reads this is no longer permitted. Is that the intent?

Answer: This rule does not affect the Com line, The number 7 person may still listen in on the Com line. The number 7 person may also have his own radio. The intent of the rule is that the number 7 person is not actually at the FAB, instead at a separate table representing the Command Center. Should the FAB and Command center be seated together at the FAB, as is the case in many contests, they can each have their separate radios or share the Com line. The intent of this rule was to limit the number 8 person from having a radio. Only the 6 & 7 team members may have radios.

15. **Q:** If the fan is considered the source, wouldn't that be considered to be using all of the air? My question was specifically about using mobile auxiliary fans within the mine - not the main fans.

Answer: The main fan is the source and would need to have all of the air from the main fan to disperse smoke or gasses.

16. **Q:** Clarification - from page 33 of the rules: Barricades, If survivors are found and conditions warrant (i.e., survivor will travel through an IDLH atmosphere), they shall be given proper respiratory protection. Otherwise just stretcher is necessary. Correct?

Answer: This is correct, patients will only need to be placed under oxygen to protect them from IDLH atmospheres.

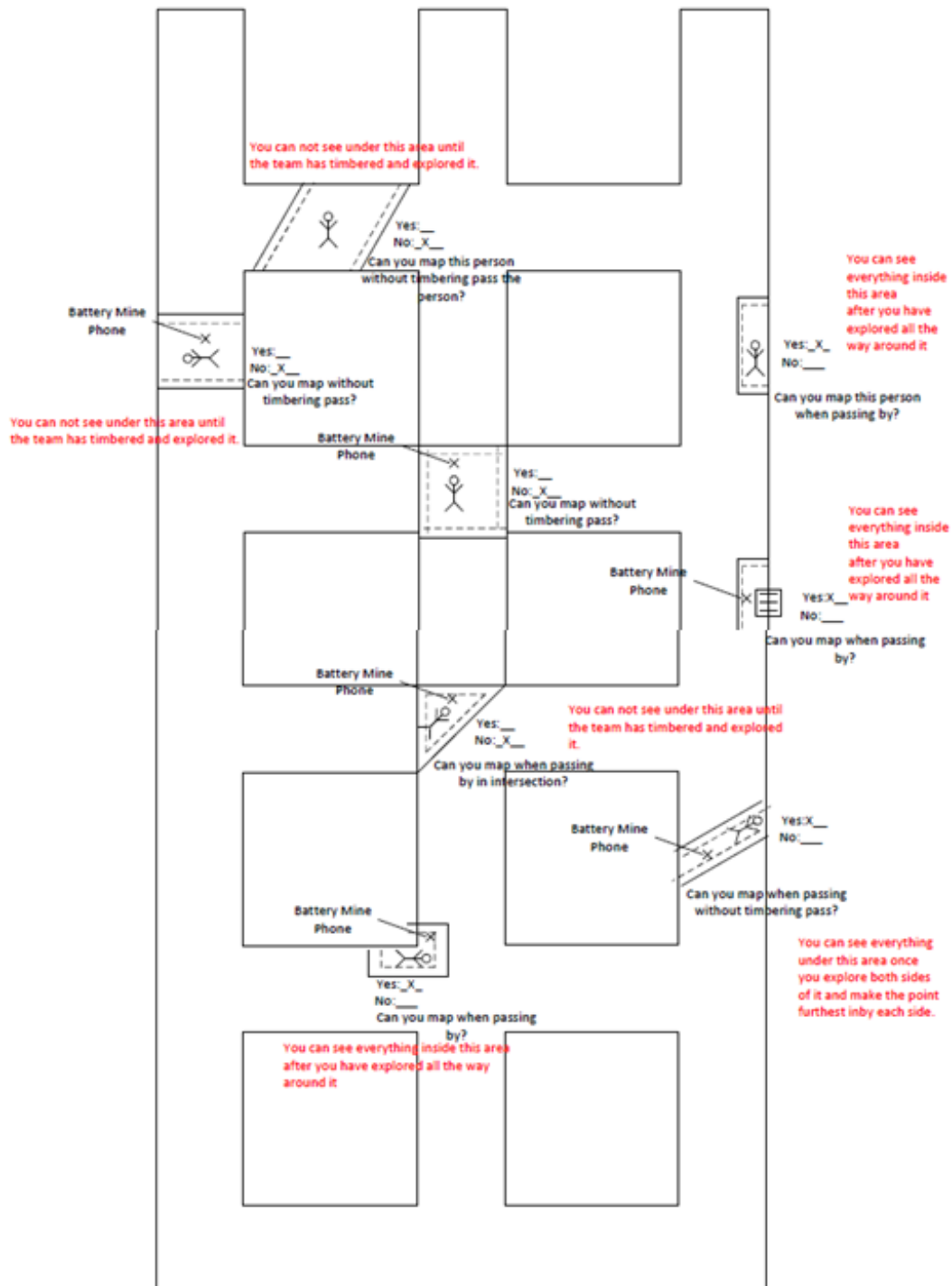
17. **Q:** If survivors are found and conditions warrant (i.e., survivor will travel through an IDLH atmosphere), they shall be given proper respiratory protection which can include an approved 1-hour oxygen generating unit (including a CareVent[1]CA). If a survivor is unconscious, an approved oxygen breathing apparatus equipped with a full face-piece must be used.

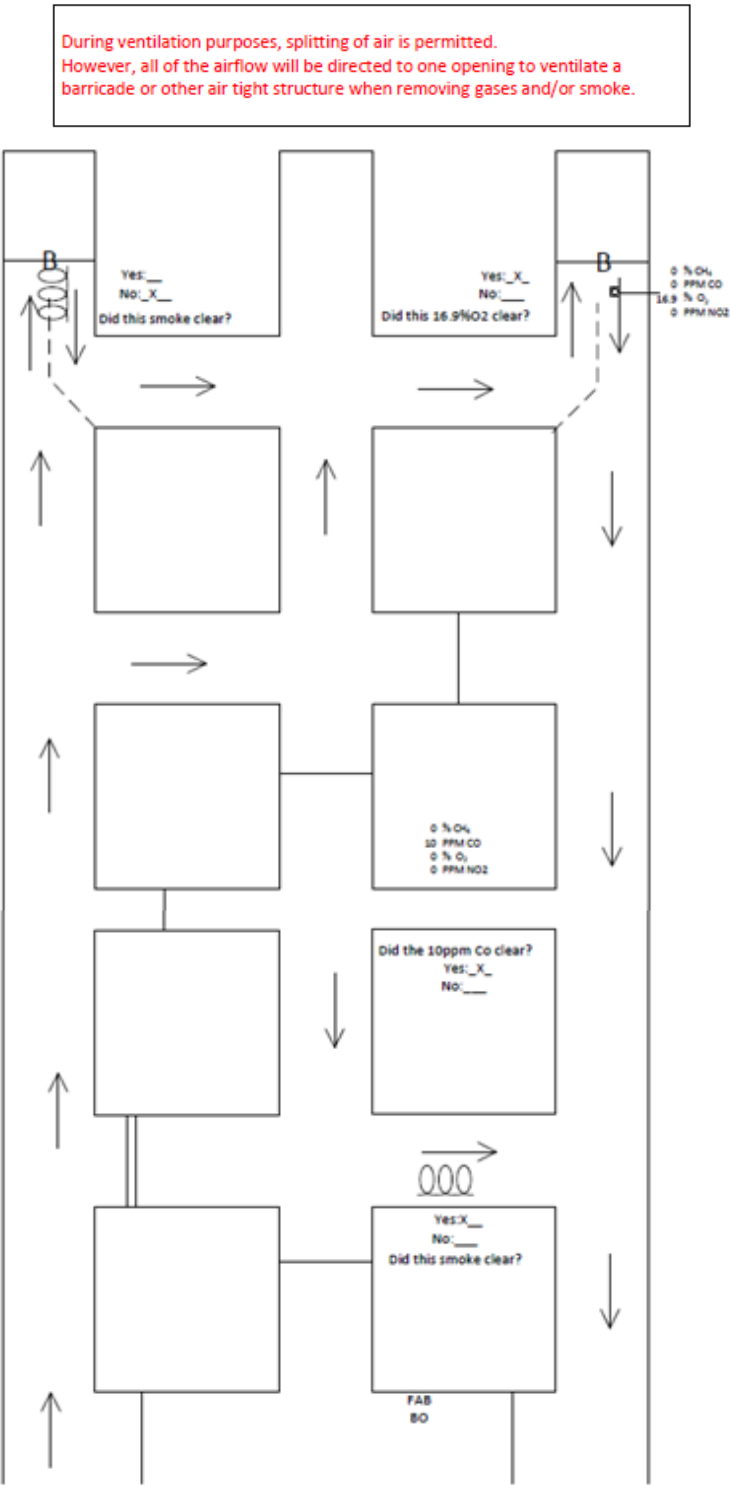
Answer: not all unconscious survivors need respiratory protection; only if they are going thru IDLH

18. see pages 24 - 41 for Exhibit C on Systematic Exploration, Rules explanation.

MNM_EXHIBIT A

Objects/conditions located in areas of elongated unsafe roof, unsafe rib, overhanging brow, and in areas where unsafe roof extends diagonally from rib to rib must be mapped if passed by the team and are considered made for ventilation purposes. Which can you map below.





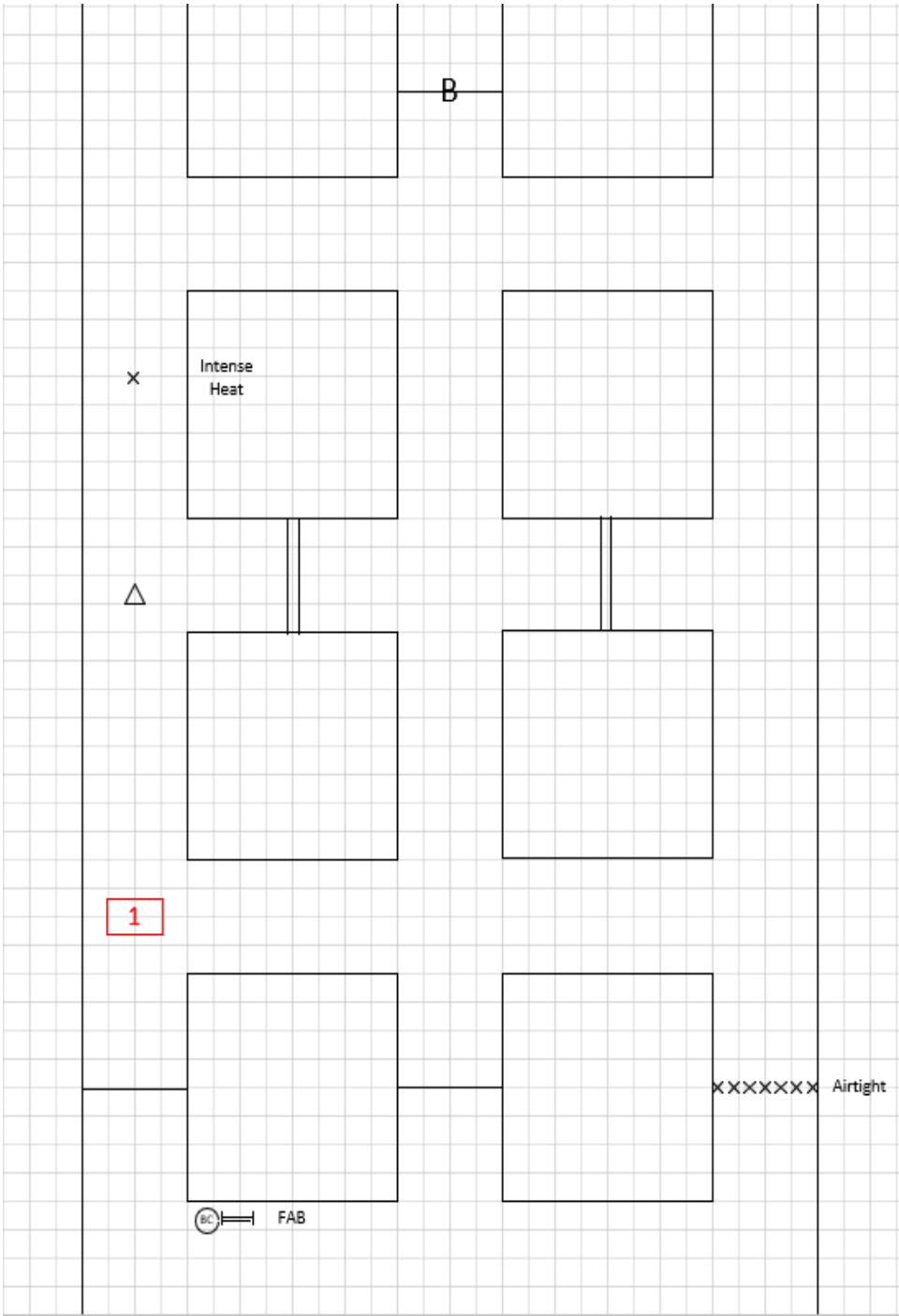
Systematic Exploration

Rules Explanation

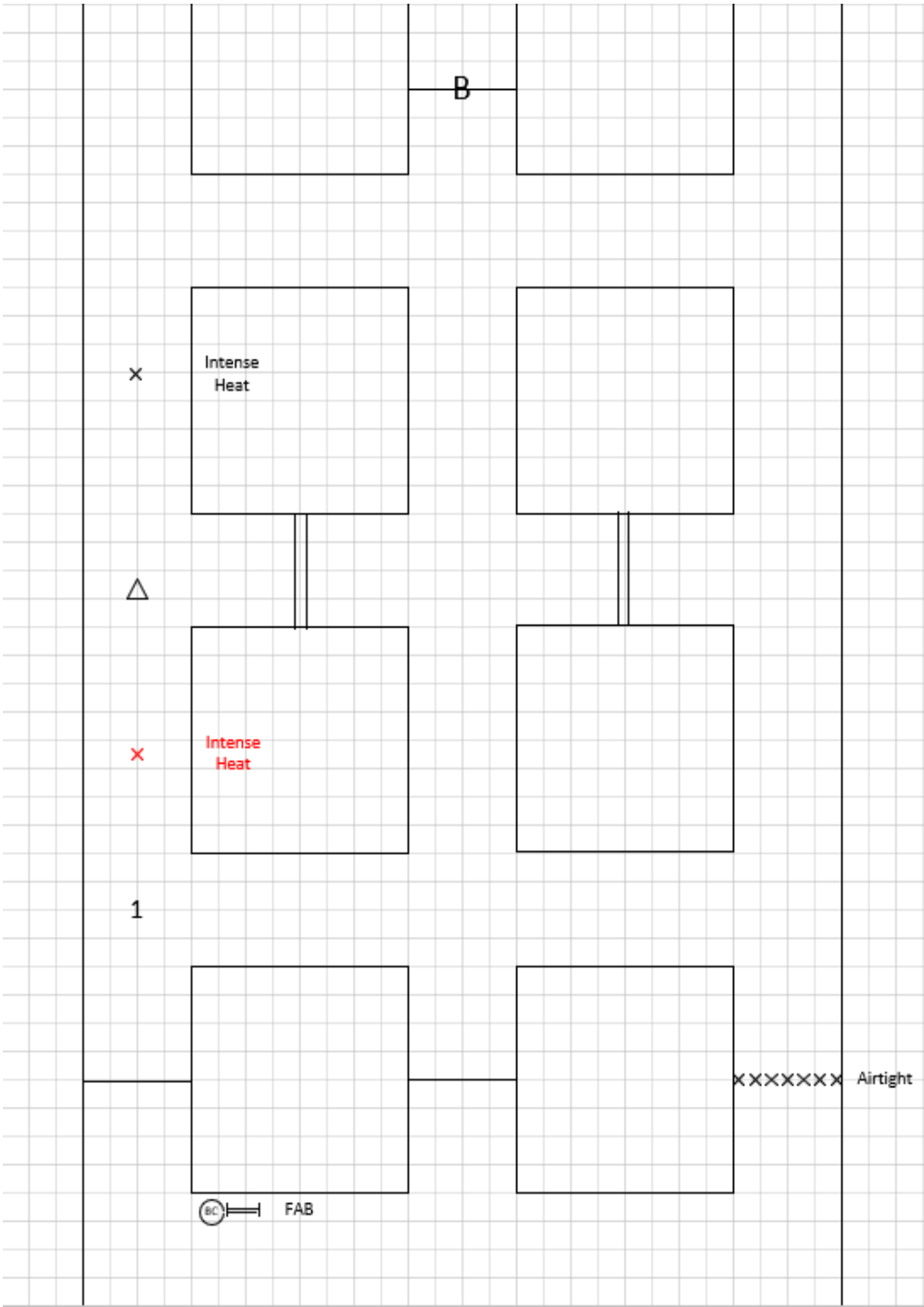
For systematic exploration, when miners are unaccounted for, once means are found to explore inaccessible areas, teams must go back and tie back in for systematic exploration. If all miners are located and accounted for, then inaccessible areas only need to be explored when an explosive air/gas mixture will be moved through the unexplored areas; this does not pertain to intense heat or fires out of control.

Teams will not be considered unsystematic if these conditions are found and passed during initial exploration of the problem field **until means are found**. When it becomes necessary to explore inaccessible areas, appropriate materials will be provided. Tops of overcast's will be considered explored once both sides are made unless otherwise denoted by placard.

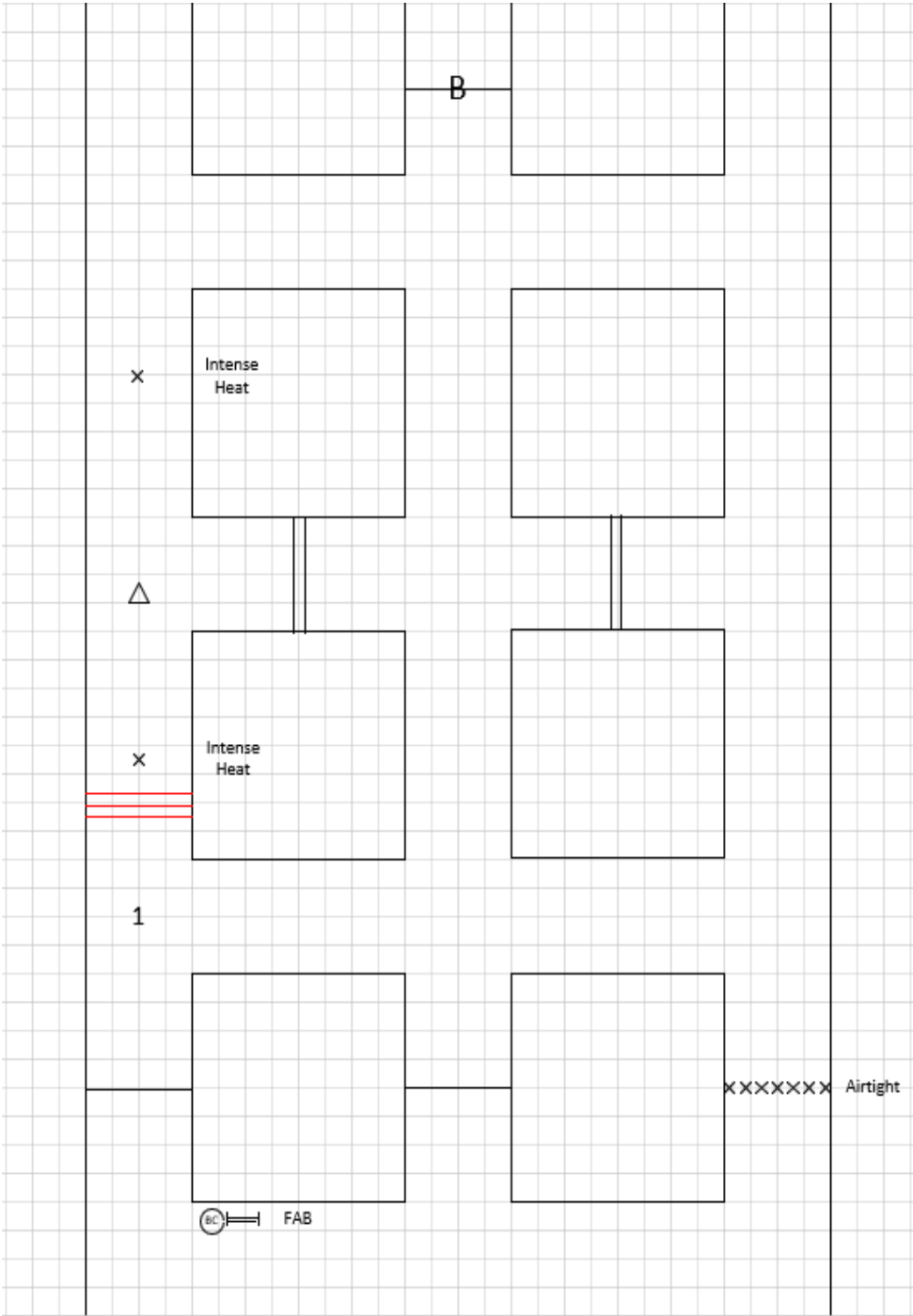
Team Stop 1



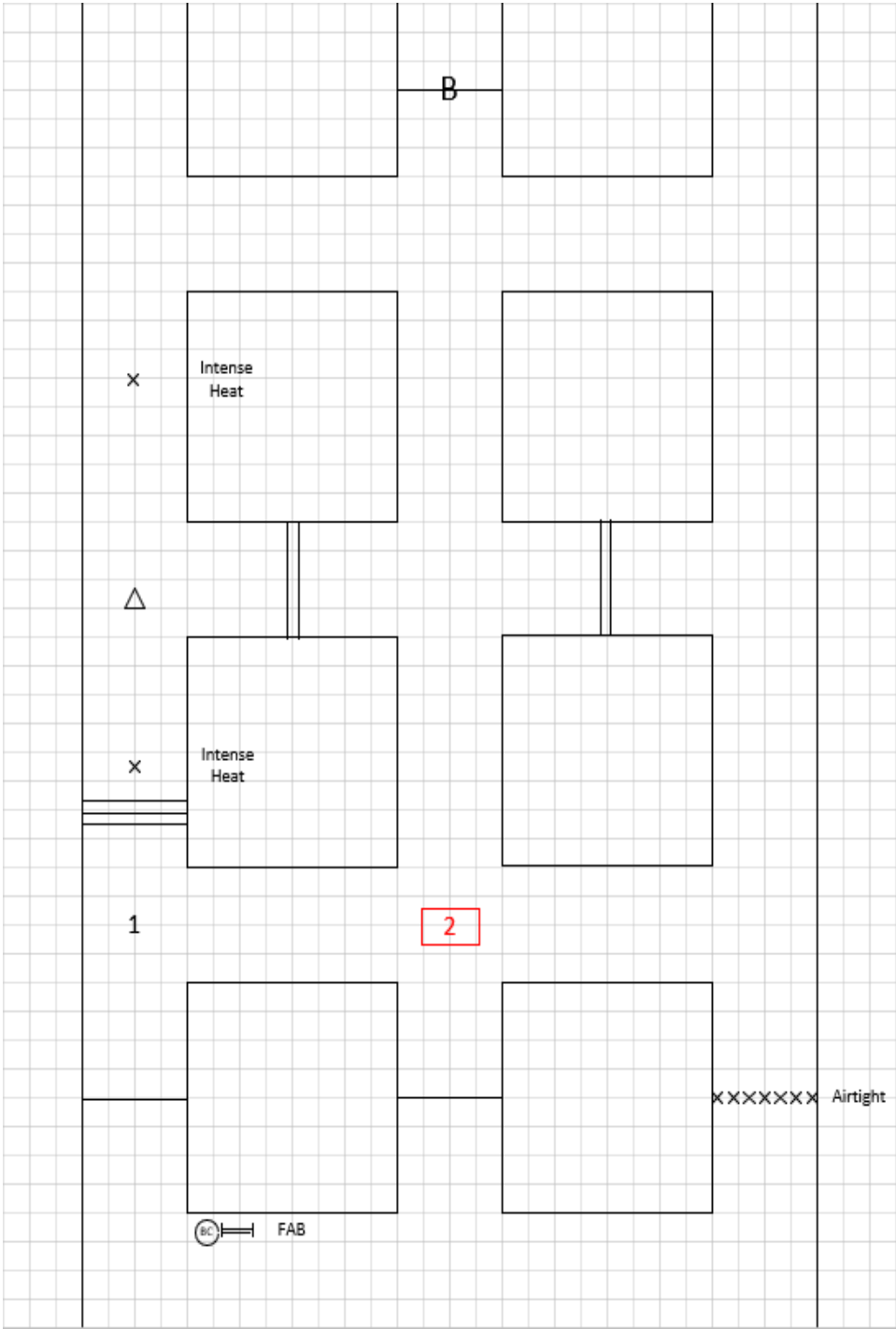
Find intense heat placard



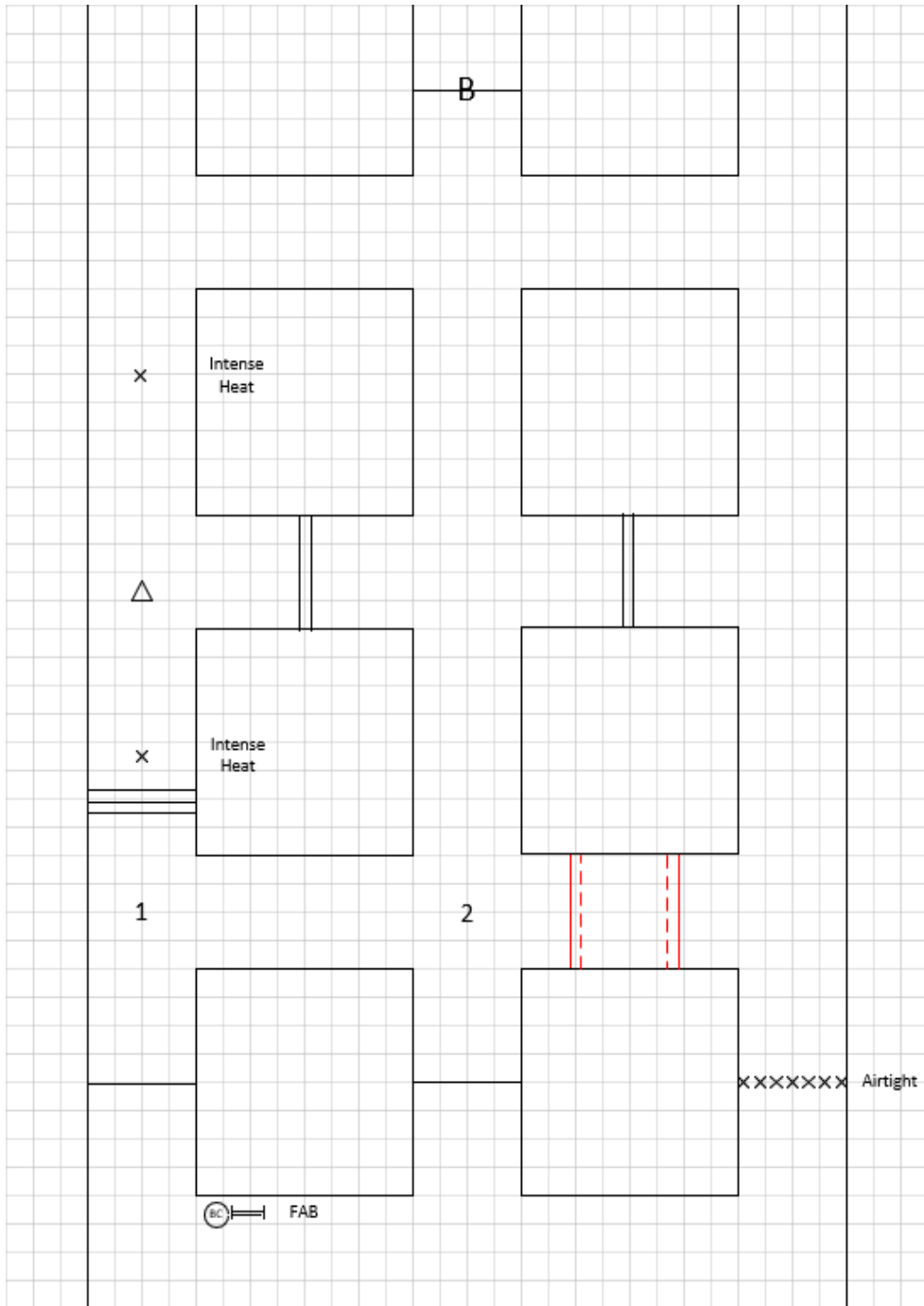
Seal or Regulate



Team Stop 2

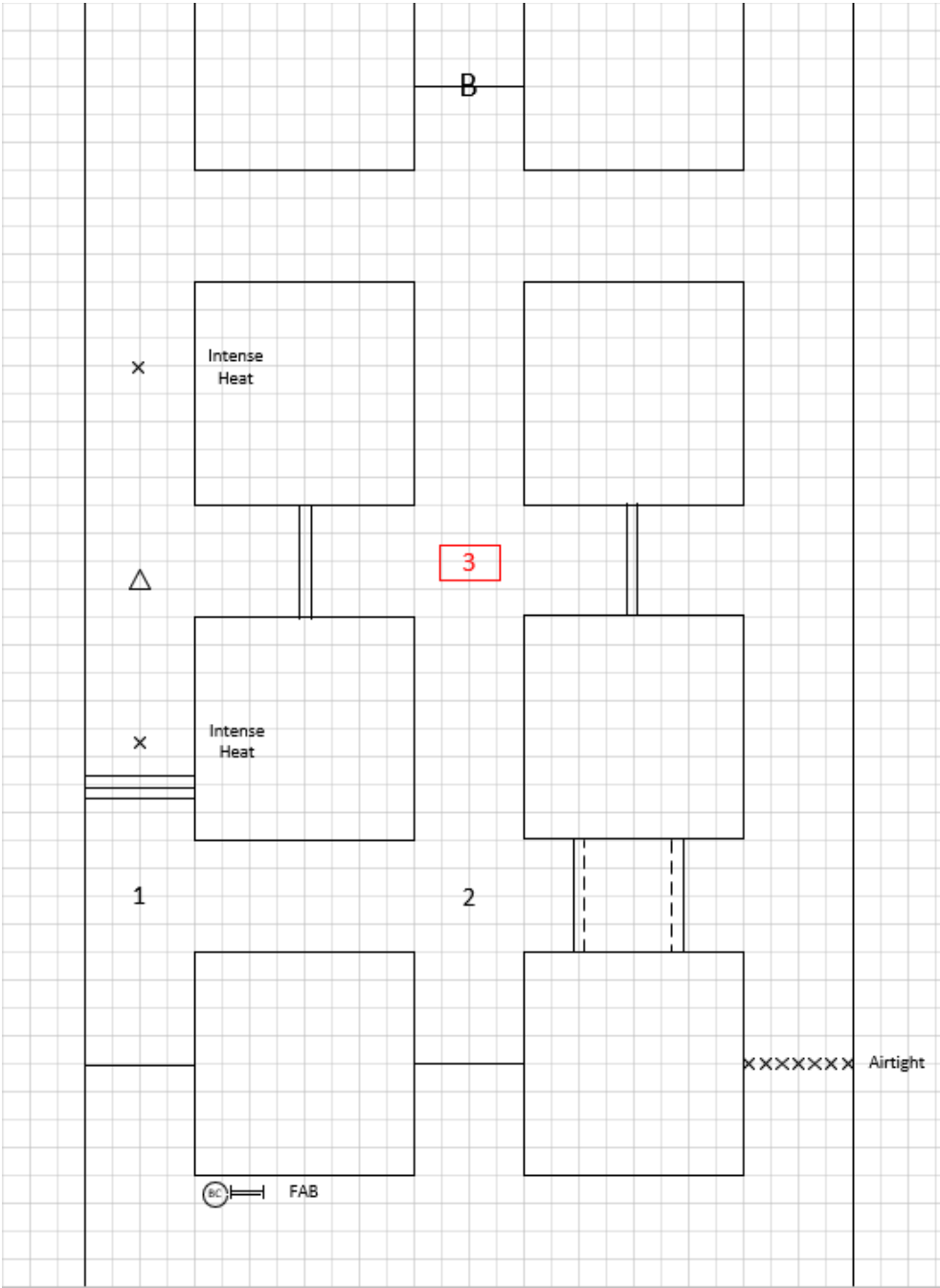


Find unsafe ground

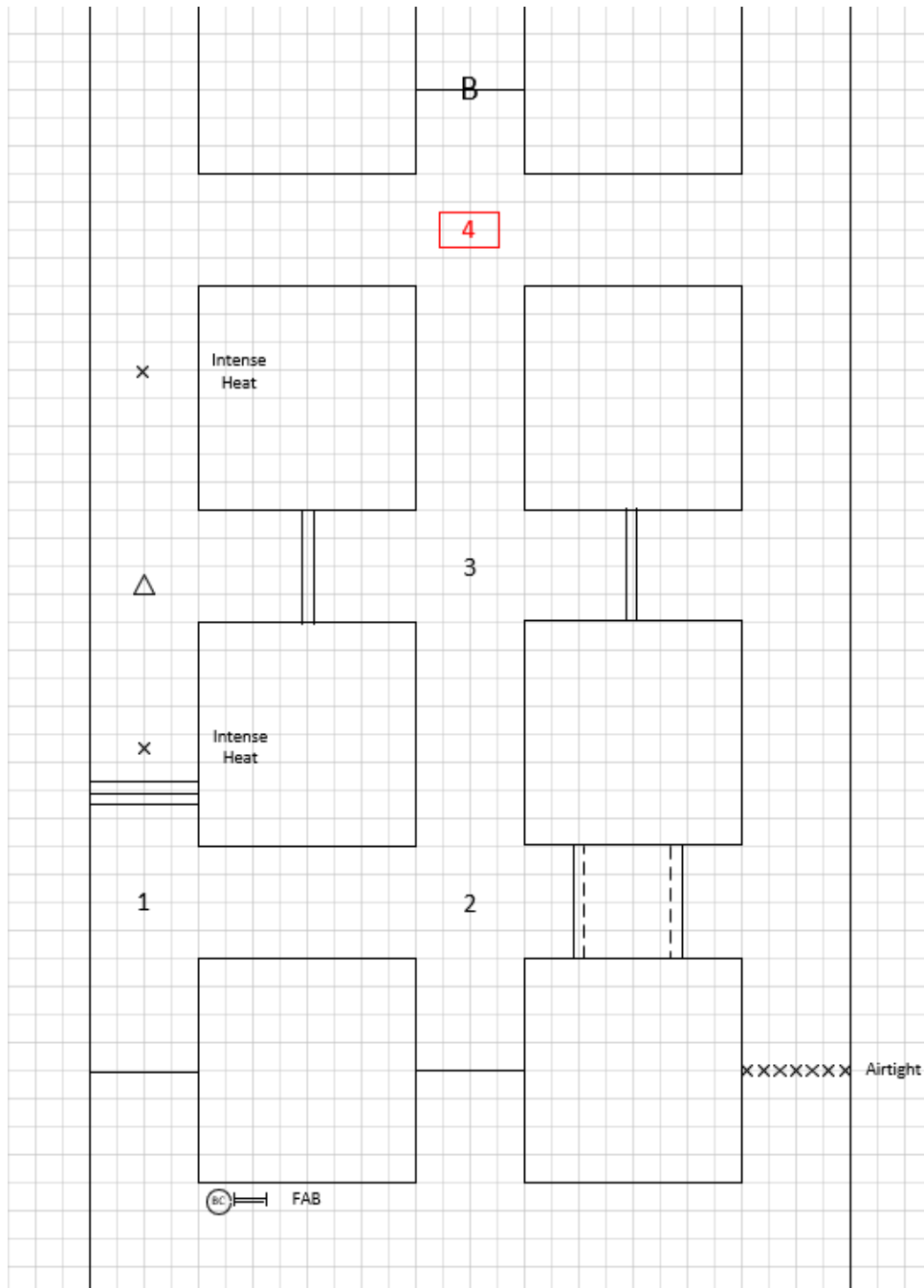


Team Stop 3

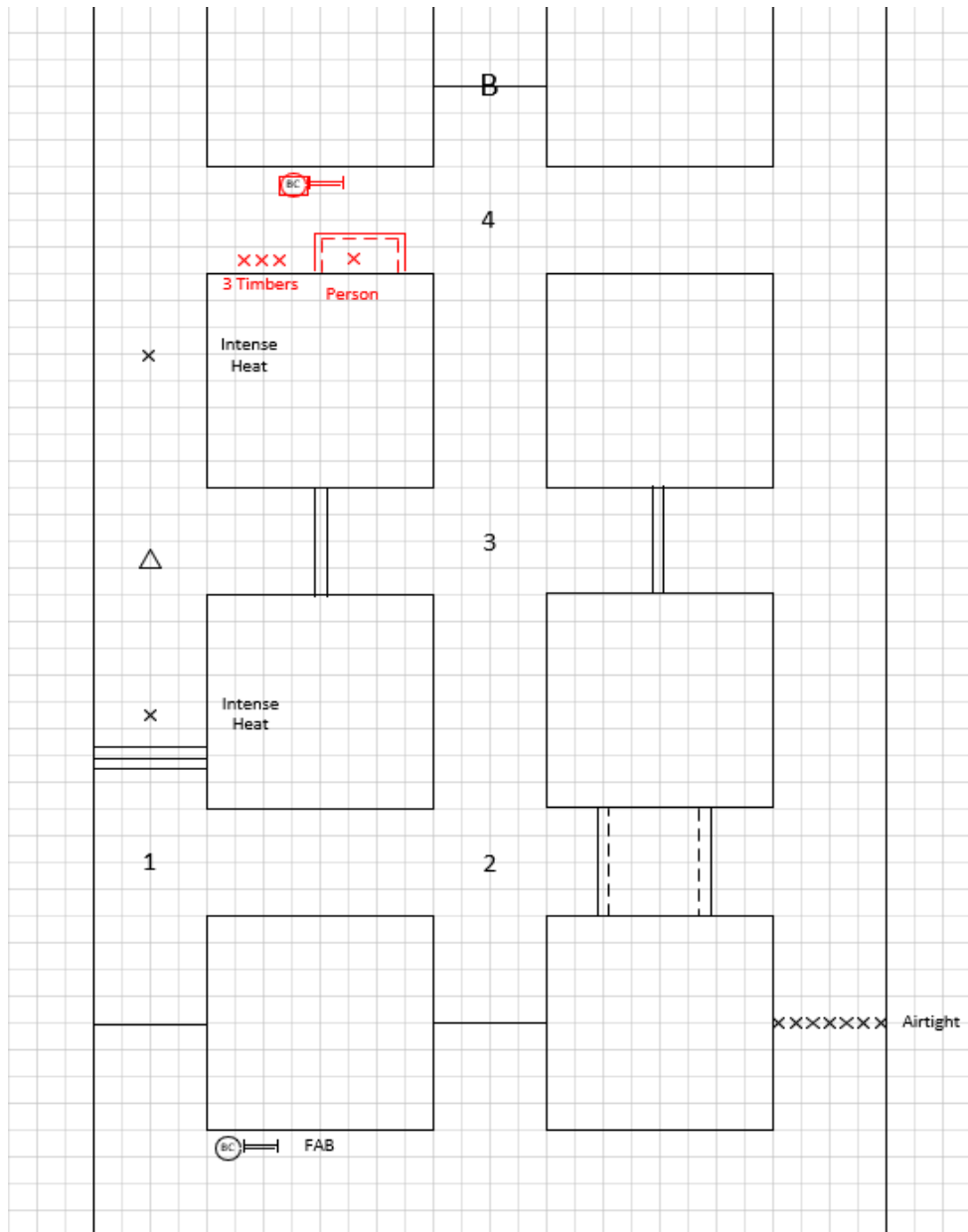
Find Permanent Stoppings



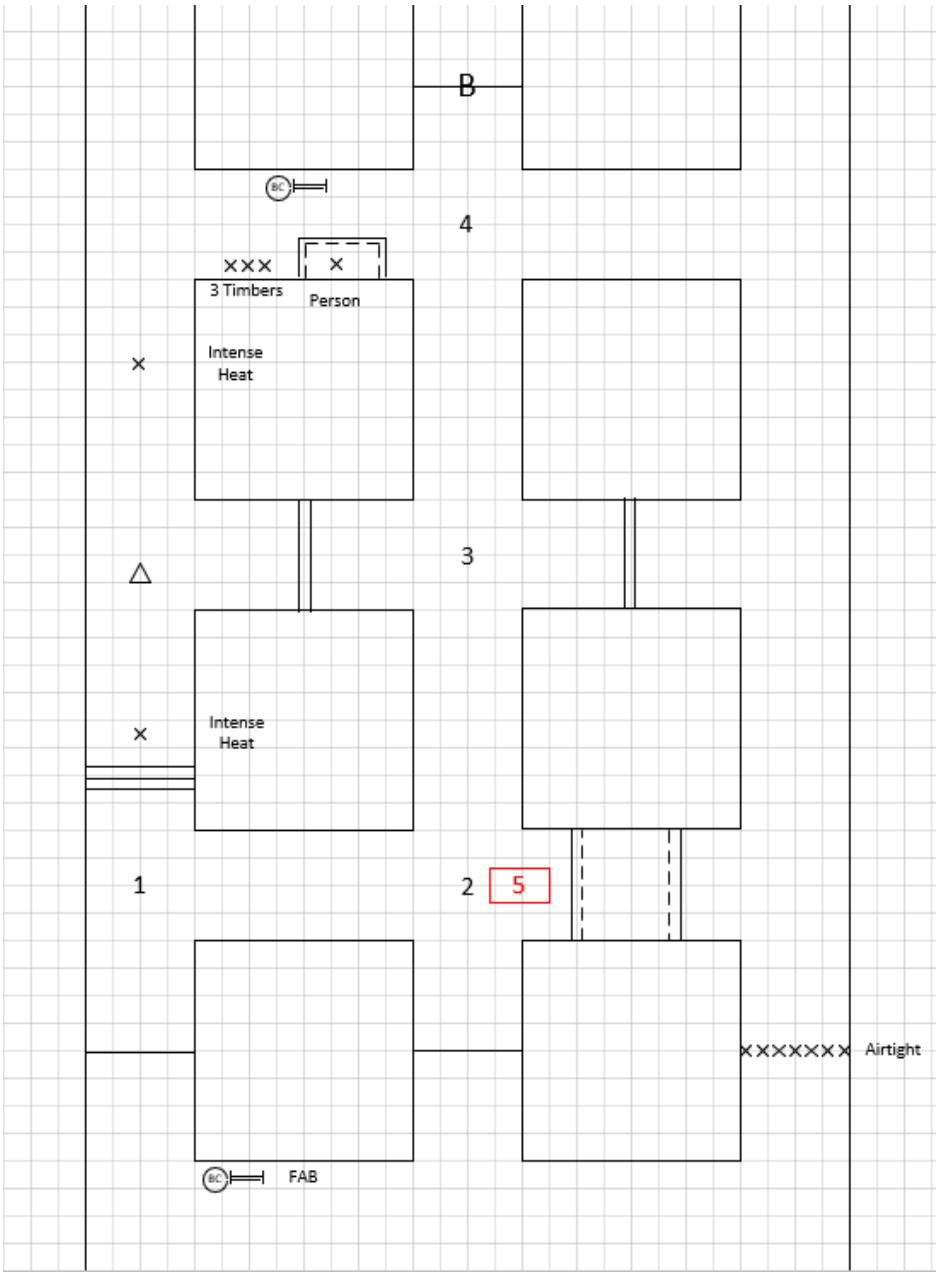
Team stop 4



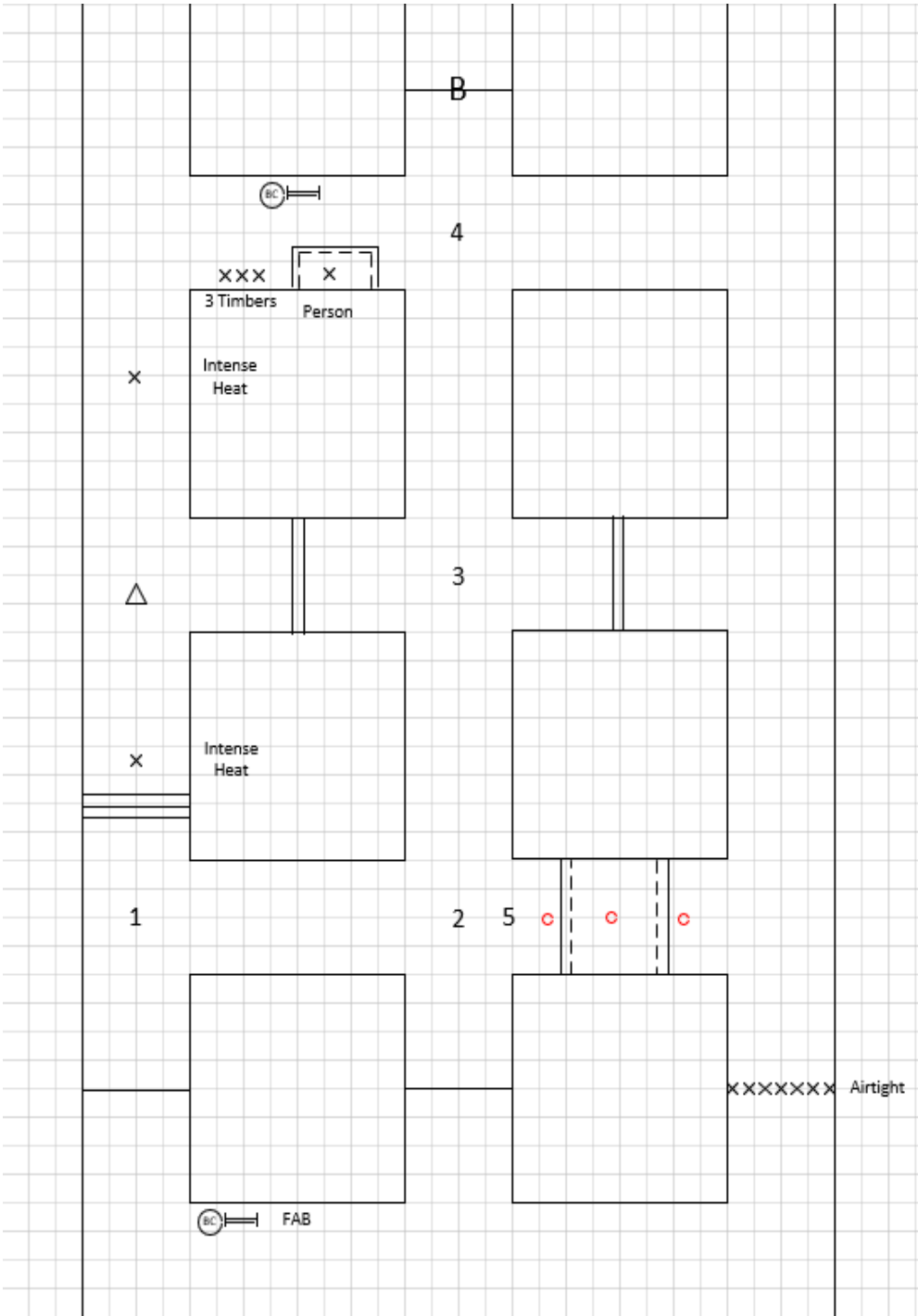
Find Unsafe Elongated with person
3 timbers
Building materials



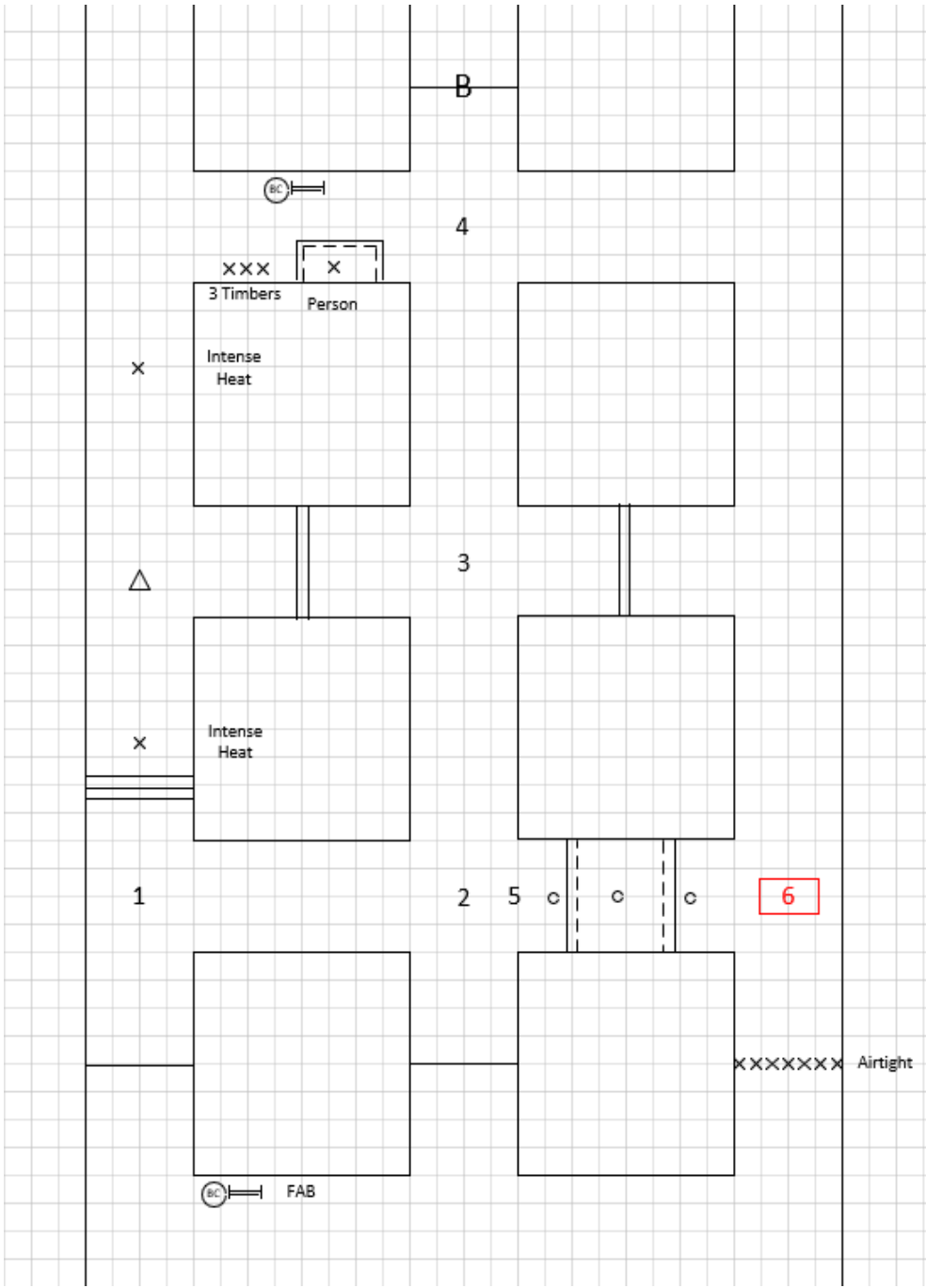
Since you found timbers you
should go back and make
Areas that once were inaccessible



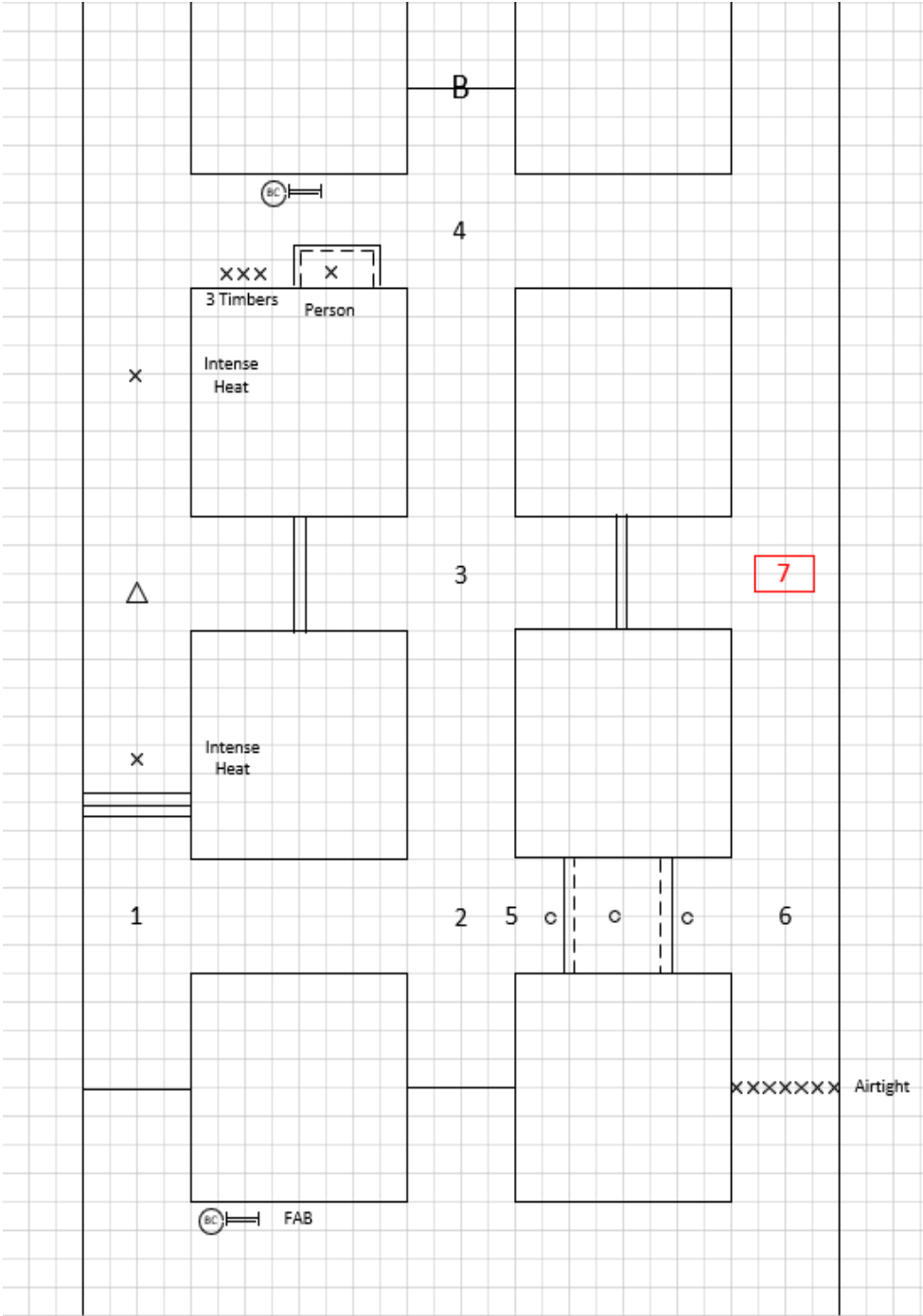
Set 3 timbers



Team stop 6

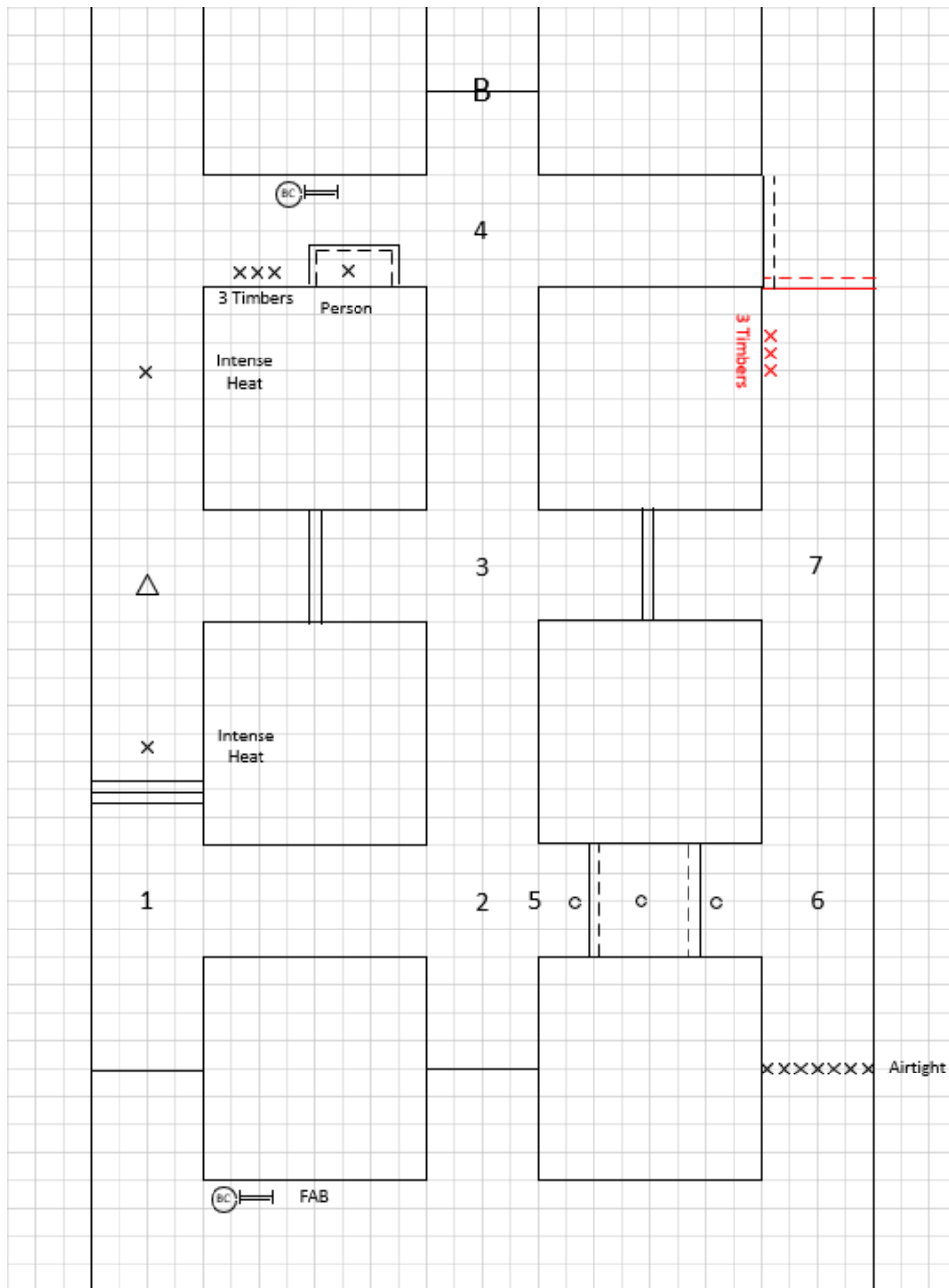


Team stop 7

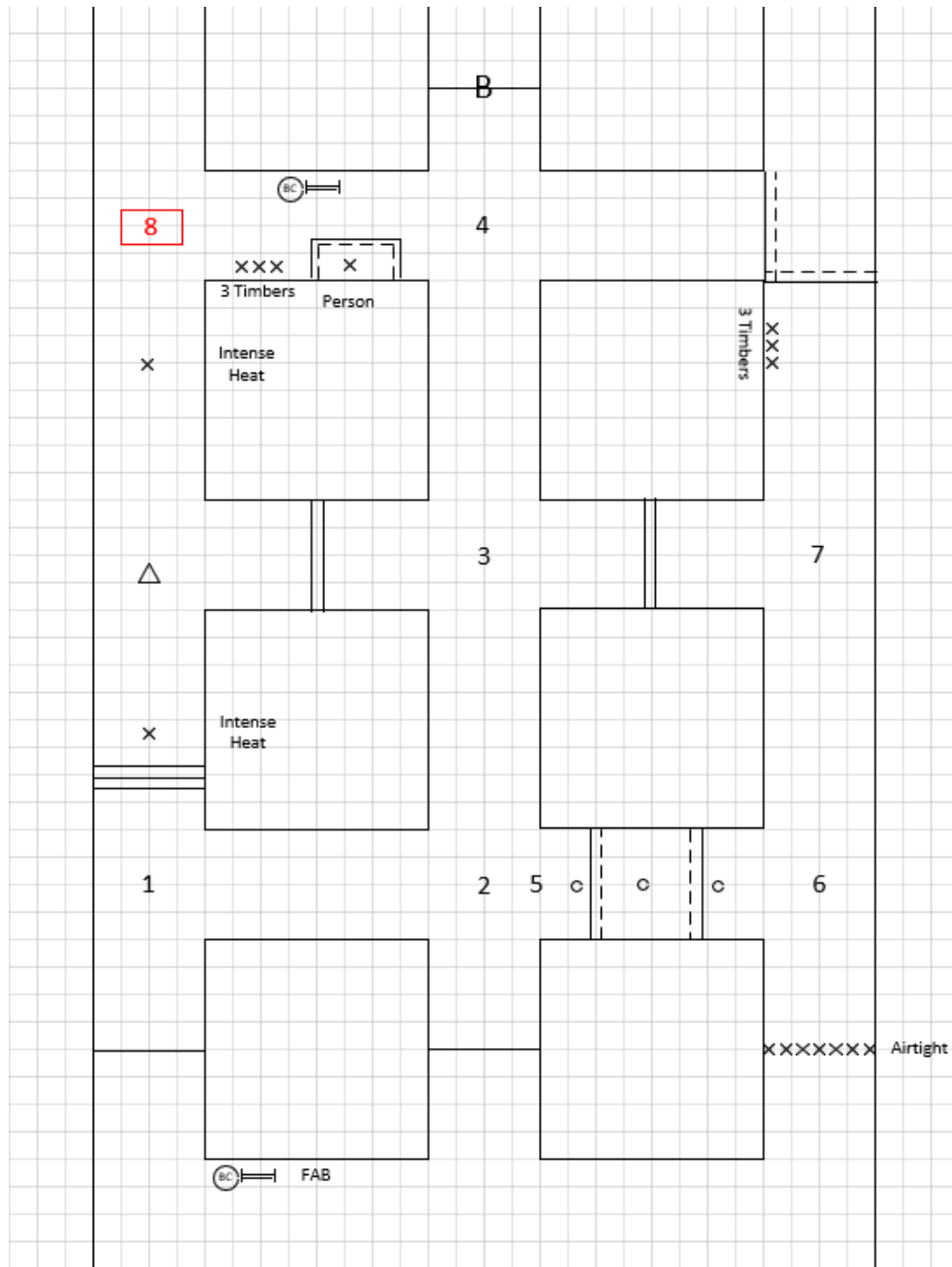


Find 3 timbers

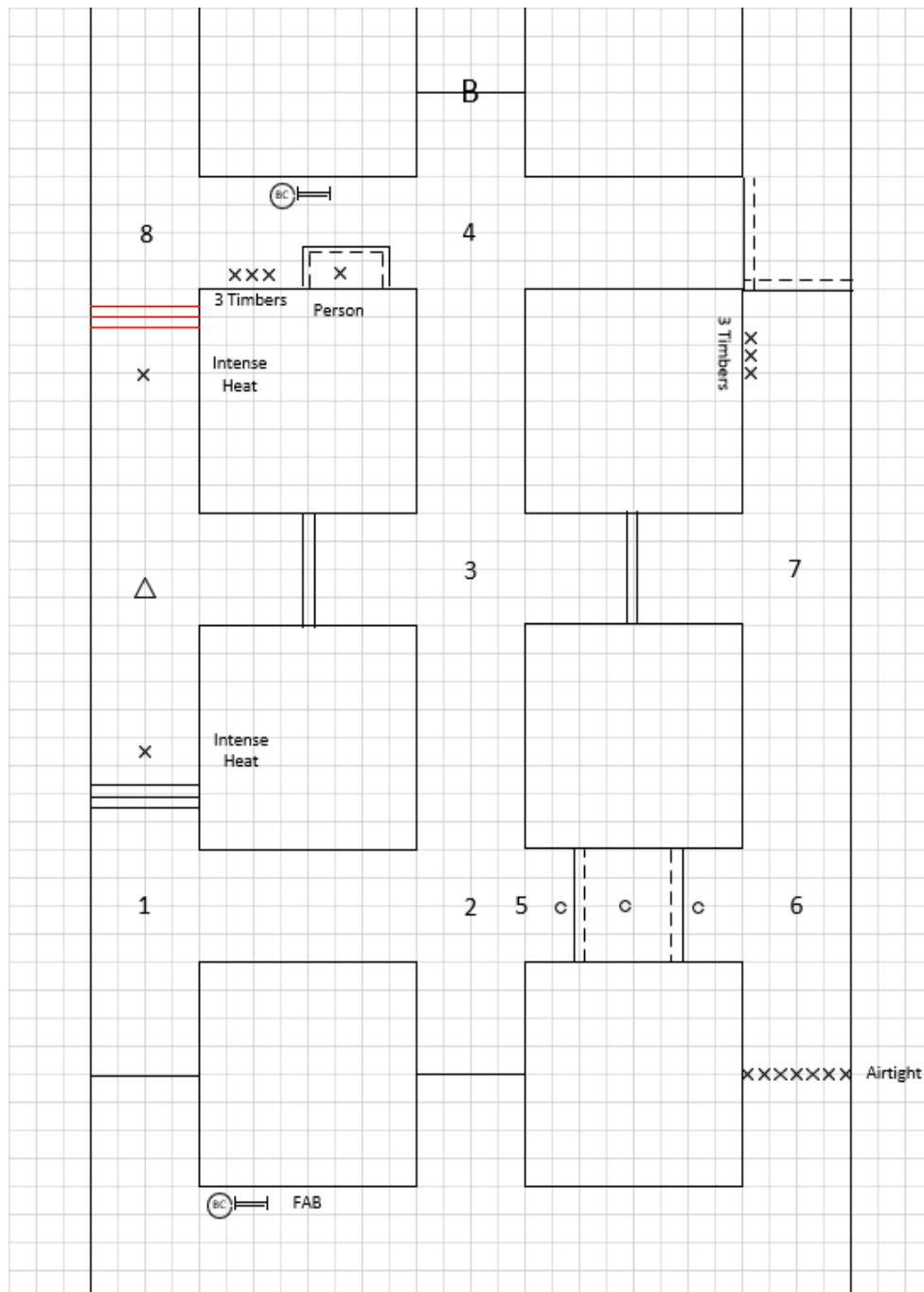
Find unsafe roof



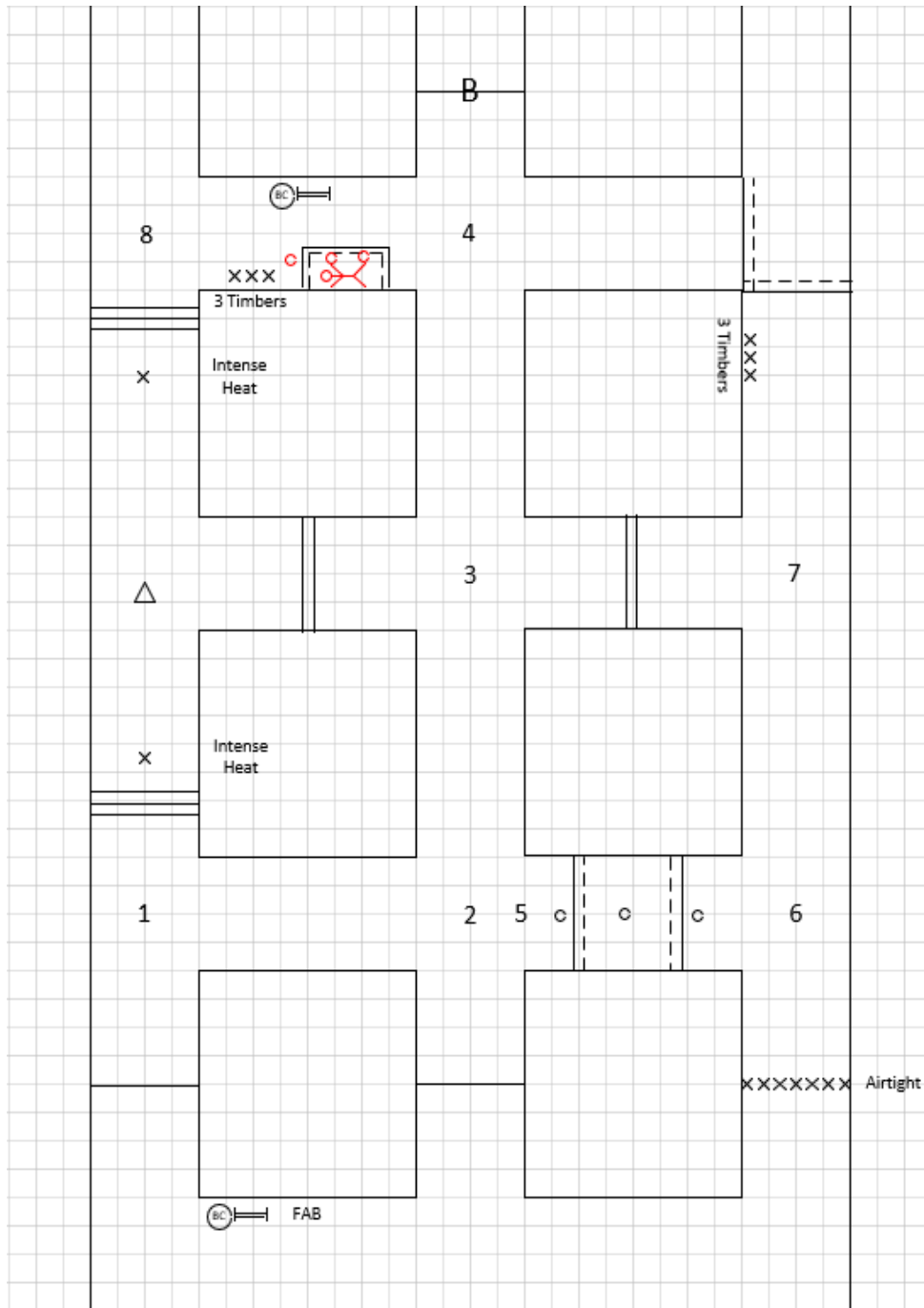
Now that you've tied across and behind you may continue to the back side of the intense heat



Find intense and seal



Now you can timber to patient



FIRST AID - Q & A

1. **Q: First Aid rules, page 4** - Item 2 requires proof of CPR certification, however some certifications supersede CPR (Basic Life Support, for example). Will a BLS certification be accepted to meet this rule?

Answer: Yes, any higher certification will be accepted. BLS, First Responder, EMT, Paramedic, etc. include CPR as a requirement to obtain the certifications.

2. **Q:** The rules are requiring team members to be certified in CPR yet the procedures, skill sheets, score cards are outdated for current standards. breaths/respirations are not standard training for today's CPR certification. Will the rules committee address this in next year's rules?

Answer: Yes

3. **Q:** If a patient is triage as an immediate only because of a life threat, you correct the life threat, are they now a delayed patient?

Answer: No once immediate always immediate.

4. **Q:** What equipment can be donned by teams prior to starting the clock?

Answer: Pg. 13 PPE can be donned, Belt style scissor/pin light belt holsters. Best practice would be anything that you wouldn't normally have on at the time you are notified of an emergency. Once the clock starts you can put on anything you want.

5. **Q:** What does "each area of the body shall be examined in its entirety" mean?

Answer: Pg. 14 Example: if you have a fractured arm, other than taking support, you must finish examining that arm before treating injuries to that arm.

6. **Q:** Will 1st aid judges be required to attend a minimum number of contests to judge at the National Contest?

Answer: Judges will be assigned specific tasks to be scored prior to the judging and will record their findings on a specific scoring card issued prior to the contest. Judges must be trained in first aid methods and knowledgeable in the scenario they will be judging.

7. **Q:** Can team be docked for not having all of the required equipment in the "required" equipment list on page 2?

Answer: Yes, as per the "required materials list" on page 2.

8. **Q:** When it comes to equipment, can equipment with the equal use as equipment in the “required” equipment list be sufficient or does it have to be as the list depicts? Pg. 2

Answer: No, the minimum of the equipment listed in the “required materials” list will be required, anything a team has above that is up to the teams.

9. **Q:** Can a 1st aid team have their own manikin during contests, and bring into the working area of the problem in the case of a CPR problem in the contest problem?

Answer: See page 4, rule 13. B.

10. **Q:** Will all “designated areas” for working of the problem be marked off by something physical or can it be by location?

Answer: See page 5, #17 for contest officials will designate a space 15 feet X 15 Feet, with minimum of 15 feet X 3 feet. Some locals have more realistic scenarios involving equipment, etc. but they should tell you where to stage your equipment within the designated area.

11. **Q:** Will 1st Aid teams be docked for working, stepping over a line meant to designate an area during the working of the problem?

Answer: Yes

12. **Q:** Will all contests have moulage or can it be a combination of one or the other or both?

Answer: All National problems should be moulage if feasible is what it states page 3 - #4.

13. **Q:** If an injury is not clear as to what its nature is, will judges be allowed to comment on what the injury is?

Answer: They shouldn't tell you what the injury is, however with moulage some things may look similar, I would ask “judge is this an open bruise or is this a burn? They may or may not tell you, but they could respond with yes or no. This should be in the judges training.

14. **Q:** Will Team trainers be allowed to attend the judges' briefings for the 1st aid contest?

Answer: No, the judges' briefing will be only for judges.

15. **Q:** Does a team have to be a member of a working/competing mine rescue team in order to compete in a contest?

Answer: No, First Aid teams not designated to a mine rescue team for the combination award

can compete in the first aid event, and their scores will only be used to determine their ranking within that event. See page 4 #6

16. **Q:** How will having a 12th edition Brady Text affect the national rules for the 2026 national contest?

Answer: The National committee is reviewing / comparing the changes in the 12th edition to the 11th edition, we have no definite answer as of now.

17. **Q:** Any thoughts by the 1st aid committee to use another medical reference for the 1st aid rules, since the Brady Text is for more advanced, medical procedures by Emergency Medical Technicians.

Answer: No, the current Brady is the First on Scene edition, which applies to our responders. It is a step up from basic first aid.

18. **Q:** If team finds a patient with a sucking chest wound and finds an exit wound when does the exit wound be treated?

Answer: When found, the exit wound is part of the sucking chest wound.

19. **Q:** Would a flail chest be considered a life threat?

Answer: No, life threats are listed on pag.10.

20. **Q:** Can an immediate patient become a delayed patient later?

Answer: No, but as per item 23, pg. 15, “unless otherwise notified” this would be achieved by envelope, verbal from one of the judges, etc.

21. **Q:** All contest when the contestant takes the key up, they stand in line changing answers. Can we change this in a way that eliminates this?

Answer: The contest director will ensure that this scenario does not occur.

22. **Q:** Can teams have bandages, cravats, etc. loaded not aprons before the clock is stated as long as aprons are not donned until the clock is started?

Answer: Yes, as long as they are not donned before the clock is started.

23. **Q:** Can you start treatment of an injury on an extremity while the assessment is still going on?

Answer: The team member that conducts the assessment must complete the assessment but

once a wound is identified another team member can begin treatment as long as the person that began the assessment continue the assessment.

24. **Q:** If a team is checking the back for an exit wound during the sucking chest wound assessment, would teams be docked for checking the back for other life threats while patient is rolled up?

Answer: No- when found, the exit wound is part of the sucking chest wound.

25. **Q:** Are patients with life threatening conditions considered to be an immediate patient?

Answer: Yes, having one or more life threats listed on pg. 10, FOR CONTEST PURPOSES ONLY

26. **Q:** Open Abdominal wound, can an occlusive dressing still be used or must it be plastic only?

Answer: As long as the occlusive is in plastic it can be used.

27. **Q:** Does red lettering imply that dressings should be applied. Teams will always have access to dressing.

Answer: Life threatening bleeding skill sheet in critical skills, item A-gloved hand, then item B-dressing will be applied.

28. **Q:** If moulage/stickers are used can contest officials use pictures of injuries? If pictures are used, can they be consistent?

Answer: Yes, yes if pictures are used, they are to be the exact same color, and size for each patient/field they are used on.

29. **Q:** First aid, Page 10 Triage. Are we getting life threatening injuries confused with triage?

Answer: No triage is used to determine who to treat first, we are aware of that.

30. **Q:** Page 559 figure 27.5 does not include life threatening injuries as part of triage, but page 10 of first aid rules states that it is from figure 27.5. The triage tag on 558 also does not use life threatening injuries as part of triage, either does any other form of the national curriculum. The biggest question is: Do you expect us to train our guys differently on triage than every other emergency responder in the nation? If so, why?

Answer: The red line addition to the chart (listing the life threats) should have been put below the table of reference since it is not from the referred chart in Brady. It was an attempt to clarify that these items would also make a patient Immediate whether they were found in triage or assessment.

31. **Q:** What will be the discount for pg. 6 #27?

Answer: Discount under Rule #26, failure to comply with the other adopted National Rules not covered in the discount sheets.

32. **Q:** Under Rule #21 Each area of the body shall be examined in its entirety prior to treating in that area, can another team member treat the injury while the other is completing the assessment, BP-DOC?

Answer: Yes, the team member conducting the exam shall complete the assessment, while the other team member can treat.

33. **Q:** Sucking chest wound critical skills sheet section 2, part c: Is the part C only referring to an impaled object?

Answer: No, this is recommended treatment for a sucking chest wound.

34. **Q:** Page 7-#11 What does "answer key" refer to in this statement? Is it the scantron sheet or other answer sheets turned into officials?

Answer: This is referring to the answer key that will be graded.

35. **Q:** Page 34 under "additional steps for open abdominal..." #1 does the stricken language concerning the occlusive dressing mean you cannot use an occlusive dressing and have to use plastic instead?

Answer: No, as long as the occlusive dressing is plastic, that will work also.

36. **Q:** Will a cup be sufficient and recognized for treating an impaled object in the eye?

Answer: Yes, as long as the cup isn't Styrofoam.

37. **Q:** With open abdominal wounds #1 says to put plastic on the dressing and #2 says to put pads or towel on the dressing. Do you place plastic on the dressing or pads or towel on the dressing?

Answer: Moist dressing, then plastic over the moist dressing, then pads or towels over the plastic.

38. **Q:** Just to clarify, the "loss" of pulse will make a patient an immediate patient, however the "absence" of pulse will make a patient deceased.

Answer: “loss” of pulse (**losing a pulse during assessment**) will make a patient immediate, absence of pulse during triage would make a patient deceased but if during treatment no, every effort will be made to bring the patient back to life.

PRESHIFT - Q&A

1. **Q:** Rule #11 on Interpretation of B card – Preshift Record. Failure to comply with general rules not covered in the discount sheet. This is an open-ended question. Can you give an example of what would be a discount?

Answer: An example would be failure to record a Foreman’s Number on the report page.

2. **Q:** Is the time and date to be recorded on the Preshift Record, the time that the contestant worked the problem?

Answer: Yes. Rule 11 states, “The contestant’s personal watch time will be the time used on the Preshift record for the time of examination.” The contestant will also use the date of the contest as the date on the Preshift Record.

3. **Q:** Rule #12, Does “Mobile” apply to all mining equipment?

Answer: No. Handheld equipment is not included. This applies to heavy equipment, i.e., scoop, roof bolter, mini-trac, power centers, etc.

4. **Q:** Rule #20 states that elapsed working time will be the fourth tiebreaker. Does this include both the field working time and the report page time?

Answer: No, the field working time will be the time used as a tiebreaker.

5. **Q:** Any chance in the future we can see a two-man Preshift competition? One person works the field, the problem already has the required air readings. The other person works the meters. This would obviously be coal only.

Answer: No. In coal each Preshifter is required to complete a record page for each area that they examined. Typically, there is only one examiner assigned each specific area.

6. **Q:** Can danger tape be used instead of verbalizing?

Answer: Rule #11 on Interpretation of A Card – Field Score Card states that Failure to verbally identify and/or correct a hazardous condition will result in a 10-point discount for each occurrence.

7. **Q:** Can the 2024 or previous Q&As be used for appeals in the 2025 contest?

Answer: No. The 2025 Q&As replace all previous ones and will be the only ones accepted at the Preshift contest in 2025.

8. **Q:** Can a problem designer require the use of a smoke tube?

Answer: No. Smoke tubes are not part of the required equipment for a Preshift Examiner and the proper technique to take a smoke tube reading requires two people.

TECHNICIAN TEAM - Q&A

1. **Q:** If the anemometer reading is 425, would the correction factor be -1?

Answer: Rules page 16 states "Interpolation for correction factor is not required. Select correction factor nearest Reading (fpm)." By interpolation, the correct answer would be -1. For competition, 0 or -2 would be acceptable. However, for problem design, an anemometer reading that provides a definitive answer is recommended.

2. **Q:** Regarding the correction-factor on the anemometer, do you always need to round up? Or do you round down, if it's closer to the actual reading?

Answer: Rules page 16 states "Select correction factor nearest Reading (fpm)." "

3. **Q:** For the written exam, it states that there will be 10 questions pulled from the manual (procedures). Will it just be procedures on pages 11 - 11.5 from the MX-6 Manual?

Answer: Rules page 6 states "Ten (10) questions will be taken from the Operator's Manual for the MX-6 iBrid Multi-Gas Monitors." This will be the most up - to - date manual posted on their website for the instrument.

4. **Q:** On the calculation sheet, how many places to the right of the decimal should the answer reflect? 2 or 4? Can we standardize?

Answer: Rules page 12 Air Calculation Worksheet, the highlighted answers should round to the nearest whole numbers. The instrument readings should reflect the accuracy of the instrument calibration. For example, a magnehelic calibrated from 0 to 0.50 inches of water should be read

to the nearest hundredth or two (2) decimal places.

5. **Q:** Why is failure to calculate air reading correctly only 1 doc, when failure on the spotter is 5 docs? Should be 5 across the board.

Answer: The Contest is intended to improve proficiency in gathering data and instrumentation used in Mine Emergencies. Higher value is placed on the field work than calculating numbers.

6. **Q:** Can the Tie Breaker Rule be changed to match the other contest rules? A team who zeroed the field should not lose to a team who got field discounts with the same number of discounts. Recommendation as follows:

- Field Discounts – The 1st tie breaker.
- Written Discounts-The 2nd tie breaker.
- Time-The 3rd tie breaker.

Answer: Rules page 3 states “In the event of a tie, the written test scores will determine the winner. The total time will be the second tie breaker.” This recommended change to the tie breaker will be considered during the 2026 Rules review.

7. **Q:** Why is there not a Statement of Facts for Team Tech for testing?

Answer: Rules page 6 states “Ten(10) questions will be taken from Module 2 – Mine Gases and ten (10) questions taken from Module 3 – Mine Ventilation of the MSHA 3027 (formerly IG6). Ten (10) questions will be taken from the (instrument) Operator's Manual”. The use of the Manuals rather than the Statement of Facts provides a source for more diverse questions and allows for updates made to the instrument Operator’s Manual.

8. **Q:** Are zero-air cylinders required for the Team Tech competition?

Answer: The 2020 MX-6 iBrid Operations Manual, page 9 states “Zeroing sets each installed sensor to recognize the ambient air as clean air.” For Team Tech competition, the ambient air is considered to be clean air, so a zero-air cylinder is not required.

9. **Q:** There needs to be a consistent response for providing a description of an anemometer.

Answer: Rules page 13 states an “**Example**” for description of an anemometer. The contestant is required to give a brief description of how an anemometer functions. Memorization of the rules is not a requirement. Any description beyond the stated “**Example**” is not required and will not be discounted, as long as the information is factual.

BENCH Q & A'S

1. **Q:** If you do get out of sequence, can you back up before that and redo test in proper sequence and keep from getting discounted.

Answer: Yes

2. **Q:** Where can the PSS BG4 AP/CP (Drager user's manual revision 1, November 2016) be found? In the rules (page 2, rule 8 & page 11, rule 13) it states that you can find it on the Holmes website under mine rescue association rules and contest resources. I have contacted my local Drager rep, and he does not have this manual either. Is this referring to the flow chart?

Answer: The manual will be attached in an email and sent out with the Q & A's and also posted on the Holmes website.