

Breaking News

Mexico: Race to Save at Least Three Kids Trapped Under Collapsed School



Global Rescue analyzes the risks first responders may face when trying to rescue victims of the Mexican Earthquake



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Rescue efforts continue at an elementary school in Mexico City, where the earthquake destruction has trapped students inside the building.

Three elementary school students are believed to be trapped, or at least protected, by a granite table under the collapsed building.

Dan Richards, the CEO of Global Rescue, an earthquake and urban rescue group, weighed in on the biggest challenges to the rescue effort.

“In these kind of situations,” Richards said, “time is always the biggest challenge.”

As Richards explained, for victims trapped in the rubble, with each passing minute and passing hour, their lack of or water becomes more of an issue, and any injury they might have sustained becomes worse.

“There’s a possibility that as [rescuers] try and get down to [the children] that further debris may fall or the supports that the rubble is resting on might become compromised and could result in further collapse,” he said.

Maurice Wick, assistant chief of the Montgomery Fire Department provided further insight into the rescue mission, detailing the use of large pieces of lumber brought onto the scene in pick-up trucks minutes ago. The lumber is being used to prop up debris and create more space to get the children out.

“A lot of times what you want to do is make sure the building doesn’t move any further,” Chief Wick explained, “so, you’re bringing in lumber that’s cut at the size to fit the spaces as you remove all the debris and other supporting materials to ensure that as you’re pummeling into those areas that you don’t cause any shifting or movement of the heavy load above.”