

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM

A Component of the National Response Framework
Emergency Support Function # 9



SEARCH TEAM MANAGER POSITION DESCRIPTION

FEMA National US&R Response System

Task Force Position Description

Search Team Manager

Position Specific Requirements:

The Search Team Manager is responsible for managing the search function of the task force and supervising the Canine Search Specialists and Technical Search Specialists. The Search Team Manager reports directly to the Task Force Leader.

Description of Duties:

The Search Team Manager is responsible for:

- Developing and implementing the search component of the Task Force Tactical Action Plan
- Coordinating, managing, and supervising all search and reconnaissance activities
- Participating in the oversight, administrative and operational control of the development, implementation and operational aspects of search component training (Canine Search Specialists, Technical Search Specialists and Search Team Managers)
- Participating in the Canine Search Specialist evaluation process at the task force level
- Providing research and development input at the task force level for the implementation and evaluation of new technologies, equipment, tactics and skills as they pertain to the search component
- Land navigation and site mapping
- Determining search and reconnaissance operational, organizational and logistical needs
- Ensuring that all assigned personnel are kept informed of mission objectives and status changes to include briefings and debriefings
- Preparing performance evaluations for assigned personnel
- Providing situation updates, documenting and maintaining records and reports
- Providing oversight for accountability, maintenance, and minor repairs for all issued/assigned equipment
- Performing additional tasks or duties as assigned

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Task Force Position Description

Search Team Manager

Position Requirements and Criteria:

Individuals who meet the following requirements and criteria will be eligible to become Search Team Managers in the DHS/FEMA National US&R Response System. The intent of these requirements is to select functional managers, capable of effectively managing and supervising the search component, in the urban disaster environment.

Required Training:

The Search Team Manager shall:

1. Meet all Administrative and General Training requirements
2. Complete the DHS/FEMA National US&R Response System Technical Search Specialist Course
3. Complete the DHS/FEMA National US&R Response System Canine Search Specialist Course
4. Complete ICS-300 in accordance with the National Standard Curriculum Training Development
5. Shall have experience in DHS/FEMA National US&R Response System Technical Search Specialist operations to include participation in field exercise(s) and/or deployment as a Technical Search Specialist (This requirement does not apply to those members rostered as Search Team Managers prior to July 1, 2008)
6. Complete all Technical Rescue Skill Sets as identified in Appendix A

Recommended Training:

The Search Team Manager should:

1. Complete the DHS/FEMA National US&R Response System Structural Collapse Technician Course
2. Complete the DHS/FEMA National US&R Response System Task Force Leaders' Course
3. Complete the DHS/FEMA National US&R Response System Planning Team Training Course
4. Meet all requirements of NFPA 1670 (2004 Edition) Chapter 9 Section 9.3.5. Operations levels for the specific disciplines defined in Sections 9.3.6 – 9.3.9 are excluded from this requirement.
5. Meet all requirements of Structural Collapse Technician as per NFPA 1670 (2004 Edition)
6. Complete the DHS/FEMA National US&R Response System GPS / Land Navigation Technician Course

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Appendix A

Technical Rescue Skill Sets:

Minimum skill set recommendations for Task Force Personnel who enter the hazard zone, i.e. forward deployment:

- General Requirements of NFPA 1670
- Rope Rescue awareness per NFPA 1670*
- Trench Rescue awareness per NFPA 1670
- Duties of the Entrant per 29 CFR 1910.146

* Additional Required Rope Rescue skills;

- Safety considerations during rope rescue operations
- Characteristics of life safety rope and webbing
- Application of rope rescue hardware specific to a lowering operation
- Application of rope rescue hardware and software specific to a belay line
- Assemble and apply a Class III harness
- Assemble and apply a "Hasty Harness"
- Tie a Simple Figure eight knot
- Tie a Figure Eight follow-through knot
- Tie an overhand follow-through with webbing
- Attach a prusik loop to a rope
- Be familiar with anchor systems
- Be familiar with raising and lowering systems
- Proficiency at attaching oneself to, and participating in a raising or lowering system
- Proficiency at descending and ascending a fixed line, low angle