



Federal Emergency Management Agency
URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TASK FORCE (MA-TF1)
43 Airport Road, Beverly, MA 01915
Telephone: (978) 922-5680
FAX: (978) 921-6074



April 1, 2011

Dear Employer,

The employee whose name appears on the attached Memorandum of Understanding has been selected for a position on the Massachusetts Task Force (MA-TF1) of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Urban Search and Rescue Program. MA-TF1 is one of twenty-eight national teams and the only team based in New England.

FEMA initiated the Urban Search and Rescue Program in 1990 as a direct result of the Loma Prieta earthquake. The program has created twenty-eight teams of technical specialists capable of rapid response to an earthquake or other catastrophic disaster. These teams implement search and rescue procedures, provide emergency medical care to trapped and injured victims, and help to mitigate the effects of the disaster on our citizens.

When teams are deployed as part of a Presidential Disaster Declaration, Task Force members will be registered as "System Members" with FEMA/DHS. Task force members will remain employed by their respective sponsoring jurisdictions for salary and assessments of other benefits; upon activation, they will additionally become Federal Employees for the tort liability purposes and Federal Worker's Compensation. FEMA will reimburse the sponsoring organization the normal and usual rates of pay and backfill costs accrued as a result of the activation by their employer.

We ask you to support your employee's commitment to this program by signing the attached Memorandum of Understanding and to view this commitment the same as you do for those employees who are in the Armed Forces Reserve programs.

Sincerely,

Mark Foster
MA-TF1 Program Manager



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Memorandum of Understanding

As a member of the Urban Search and Rescue Task Force, I accept the following responsibilities:

While a member of the Task Force, I will maintain close liaison with the Task Force to which I am assigned. I will attend scheduled training meetings and exercises whenever possible.

In the event of a National Emergency, I intend to be available as assigned within the program.

If I am called to duty during a Presidential declaration, I understand that my agency will be compensated for my time while I serve as a member of the Task Force.

I understand that my assignment will be for a period not to exceed fourteen days.

My employer concurs with this commitment, which I am making to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Urban Search and Rescue program.

Name of Task Force Member: _____

Signature of Member: _____

Name of Employer: _____

Title of Employer's Representative: _____

Signature of Employer's Representative: _____

Date: _____