

*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



**June 2011**

## **TECHNICAL SEARCH SPECIALIST POSITION DESCRIPTION**

**FEMA National US&R Response System**  
**Task Force Position Description**  
Technical Search Specialist

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## **FEMA National US&R Response System**

### **Task Force Position Description**

Technical Search Specialist

#### **Position Specific Requirements:**

The Technical Search Specialist is responsible for performing the technical search function of the task force incident operation. The Technical Search Specialist reports directly to the Search Team Manager.

#### **Description of Duties:**

The Technical Search Specialist is responsible for:

- Searching structures in US&R environments or other locations indicated in the mission assignment, utilizing appropriate technical search equipment and techniques
- Documenting and marking locations of victims, potential victims and hazards
- Making assessments through the use of technical search equipment
- Land navigation and site mapping
- Cooperating with and assisting other search and rescue resources
- Providing accountability, maintenance, and minor repairs of all issued equipment
- Performing additional tasks or duties as assigned

#### **Position Requirements and Criteria:**

Individuals who meet the following requirements and criteria will be eligible to become Technical Search Specialists in the FEMA National US&R Response System. The intent of these requirements is to select competent personnel, fully capable of providing state-of-the-art search techniques and tactics required, in the urban disaster environment.

#### **Required Training:**

The Technical Search Specialist shall:

1. Meet all General Training requirements

## **FEMA National US&R Response System**

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#### Technical Search Specialist

2. Complete the FEMA National US&R Response System Technical Search Specialist course
3. Complete all Technical Rescue Skill Sets as identified in Appendix A
4. Complete the DHS/FEMA National US&R Response System Structural Collapse Technician course or FEMA/DHS approved equivalent

#### **Recommended Training:**

The Technical Search Specialist should:

1. Complete a FEMA National US&R Response System Canine Search Specialist course
2. Complete the FEMA National US&R Response System Search Planning & Management course
3. Complete a canine emergency field care course
4. Meet requirements of NFPA 1006 (2008) Technical Rescuer Level 1 & 2 (Excluding Chapter 1 Administration: Section 1.3.3)
  - a. Chapter 5: Job Performance Requirements
  - b. Chapter 6: Rope Rescue (Level 1 & 2)
  - c. Chapter 7: Confined Space Rescue (Level 1 & 2)
  - d. Chapter 8: Trench Rescue (Level 1 & 2)
  - e. Chapter 10: Vehicle and Machinery Rescue (Level 1 & 2)
  - f. Chapter 11: Surface Water Rescue (Level 1 & 2)

## **FEMA National US&R Response System**

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#### **Appendix A (required skill-sets)**

##### **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

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