

URBAN SEARCH and RESCUE



TECHNICAL SEARCH SPECIALIST POSITION DESCRIPTION

General Requirements

1. Must be able to meet the physical requirements of the Task force with or without accommodations.
2. Must be available on short notice to mobilize within three hours of request and be self sufficient for at least 72 hours for a response assignment of up to 10 days in austere environments.
3. Must be capable of improvising and functioning for long hours under adverse conditions.
4. Must maintain current inoculations for Diphtheria/Tetanus (or Tetanus only if there is
1. a contra-indication to Diphtheria), Hepatitis A & B, Measles/Mumps/Rubella (if born after 1957), and Polio.
5. Must be able to function safely at heights and on or around rubble.
6. Must be aware of the signs, symptoms and corrective measures of critical incident stress syndrome.
7. Must understand and adhere to safe working practices and procedures as required in the urban disaster environment.
8. Must have a working knowledge of US&R Response System, organizational structure, operating procedures, safety practices, terminology, knowledge of all task force equipment, and communications protocols.
9. Must have successfully completed the First Responder Operations Level for Hazardous Materials
10. Must be currently certified in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation - Basic Life Support.
11. Must have a working knowledge of the Incident Command System including successful completion of the ICS-100 course.
12. Successful completion of the US&R Orientation Course or equivalent.
13. Successful completion of Respiratory Protection training and quantitative fit test.
14. Successful completion of CBRN Basic Concepts or equivalent.
15. Successful completion of US&R WMD Enhanced Operations
16. Successful completion of Awareness Level training per NFPA 1670 including;
 - a. Confined Space Operations
 - b. Water Rescue Operations
 - c. Structural Collapse Operations
17. Successful completion of GPS Awareness Level course
18. Must understand the needs of and provide support to their counterparts within the task force for specific operations, techniques and application of tools and equipment.
19. Must possess training and experience in personal safety in US&R environments.
20. Successful completion of the SAR Basic Skills course.
21. Successful completion of Base camp setup and deployment training.

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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 locations of alerts and, if possible, triaging the status of victims for rescue.
- Adhering to all safety procedures.
- 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 during a mission.

Position Requirements and Criteria

Individuals who meet the following requirements and criteria will be eligible to become Technical Search Specialists in the 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. The requirements and criteria for the position are identified in the following categories:

- Knowledge
- Skills
- Abilities

Knowledge

The Technical Search Specialist should:

1. Have completed the US&R Technical Search Specialist Course.
2. Be proficient in the operation and maintenance of all US&R Technical Search equipment and maintain proficiency as technology changes.
3. Have knowledge of the capabilities and operations of the canine search component.
4. Have a practical knowledge of search strategy and tactics.
5. Have a practical knowledge of the theory and types of building construction and collapse.
6. Have knowledge of the technical search equipment included in a task force equipment cache
7. Successful completion of the Structural Collapse Technician course is desirable but not required.

Skills

The Technical Search Specialist should:

1. Be proficient at performing basic electronic trouble shooting, in the field.

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2. Be proficient in the operation of selected technical electronic search equipment in the disaster environment and have a thorough familiarization of the manufacturer's manuals and technical publications, as provided.
3. Be proficient in applying search tactics, strategy, and procedures at collapse sites.
4. Be proficient in land navigation and site mapping.

Abilities

The Technical Search Specialist should:

1. Possess the ability to assess structural integrity, hazards and victim medical condition through the use of technical search equipment.
2. Must demonstrate proficiency at the technical rescue skill sets identified in Appendix A.
3. Have the ability to be flexible, improvise, share information and resolve conflict.
4. Be able to effectively communicate orally and in writing all findings.
5. Be able to operate in all natural and manmade disaster environments.

General Operational Checklist

UPON ACTIVATION / AT TASK FORCE ASSEMBLY POINT

- Receive notification of assignment and instructions from the initiating organization.
- Establish communications with the appropriate supervisor.
- Monitor mission-related information from local sources such as radio and television.
- Review the personal equipment checklist.
- Ensure that you have personal daypack, ear plugs, and warm clothes for flight.
- Report to the assigned Assembly Point at the prescribed time.
- Forward an accurate Responder Information Sheet to the Medical Team Manager.
- Complete check-in procedures to include medical screening.
- Ensure that you receive any appropriate issue of gear (radio, functional vest, etc.) pertinent to the position.
- Participate in task force briefings and meetings as requested.
- Carry out assignments as directed.
- Must not be under the influence of illegal substances or alcohol for the duration of the deployment.

AT POINT OF DEPARTURE

- Participate in task force briefings and meetings as requested.
- Carry out assignments as directed.
- Ensure that electronic equipment is turned off prior to boarding aircraft.

IN TRANSIT

- Review the US&R Field Operations Guide for information pertinent to your position description, operational checklist, operational procedures, and safety procedures.
- Monitor mission-related information from local sources such as radio and television.
- Review disaster related information, as it becomes available.
- Take advantage of available travel time for rest prior to arrival.
- Carry out assignments as directed.

ARRIVAL AT MOBILIZATION CENTER

- Participate in task force briefings and meetings as requested.
- Carry out assignments as directed.

ON-SITE OPERATIONS

- Ensure your physical readiness through proper nutrition, water intake, rest, and stress control techniques.
- Participate in the task force daily briefings and meetings as requested.
- Ensure use of all safety practices and procedures.
- Ensure proper equipment needs are met and equipment is operational prior to each work period.
- Carry out assignments as directed.
- Report any signs/symptoms of incident stress, injury, fatigue, or illness in yourself/coworkers to your immediate supervisor.
- Brief your shift replacement fully on all ongoing operations when relieved at work cycle rotations.
- Prepare appropriate reports (i.e. Unit Logs ICS-214, etc.).

REASSIGNMENT/DEMOBILIZATION

- Participate in the task force daily briefings and meetings as requested.
- Prepare personal belongings for demobilization.
- Carry out assignments as directed.
- Ensure the return of all items issued to you during the mobilization phase.
- Upon return, participate in the task force mission critique and incident stress management activities.
- Submit comments to your supervisor for inclusion in the after-action reports. This should include reviewing pertinent position descriptions, operational checklists, and procedures for recommended changes.

Position Specific Operational Checklist

The purpose of this checklist is to define the duties and responsibilities of the Technical Search Specialist during a mission assignment. The list is intended to be a general summary of actions. It should be understood that:

- 1) Some required actions may not be listed, but must be identified and assumed by this position.
- 2) Some actions may be the primary responsibility of another task force position, but may require assistance and coordination from this position.
- 3) The actions are listed in a general chronological order, but may necessitate deviation.

UPON ACTIVATION / AT TASK FORCE ASSEMBLY POINT

(see general operational checklist)

AT POINT OF DEPARTURE

(see general operational checklist)

IN TRANSIT (see general operational checklist)

ARRIVAL AT MOBILIZATION CENTER (see general operational checklist)

ON-SITE OPERATIONS

- Prepare technical search equipment for operation. Segregate the technical search equipment necessary for reconnaissance.
- Assist with the search and reconnaissance team evaluation of search areas. Provide technical assistance during rescue operations.
- Keep the Search Team Manager apprised of any tactical accomplishments, conflicts, supply deficiencies, or equipment malfunctions.
- During operations work with rescue squad personnel.

REASSIGNMENT/DEMOBILIZATION

- Notify the Logistics Section of the loss or potential maintenance requirements of any assigned tools and equipment.

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
- Confined Space Rescue awareness per NFPA 1670
- Structural collapse awareness, 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 yourself to, and participating in a raising or lowering system
- Proficiency at descending and ascending a fixed line, low angle