

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

***NATIONAL
URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE
RESPONSE SYSTEM***

**A Component of the National Response Plan
Emergency Support Function # 9**



FEMA

**HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SPECIALIST
POSITION DESCRIPTION**

FEMA US&R Response System
Task Force Position Description
Hazardous Materials Specialist

Position Specific Requirements

Hazardous Material Specialist

The Hazardous Materials Specialist is responsible for performing the various hazardous materials functions for the task force during incident operations. The Hazardous Materials Specialist reports directly to the Hazardous Materials Team Manager.

Description of Duties

The Hazardous Materials Specialist is responsible for:

- Providing an initial and ongoing survey (detection, monitoring and sampling) for and identification of the presence of hazardous materials at search and rescue sites.
- Proficiency with the set up and use of the decontamination system in the US&R cache.
- Directing decontamination procedures for any task force member victim, canine, or equipment.
- Performing minor mitigation operations within the scope of the Hazmat/WMD equipment cache.
- Assisting Safety Officers and Medical Team Managers in providing information to personnel regarding chemical data and PPE compatibility for tactical operations
- Document all related information regarding the incident.
- Adhering to all safety procedures.
- Performing additional tasks or duties as assigned during a mission.
- Properly utilizing the detection monitors and devices in the US&R cache.
- Proficiency in donning and doffing all personnel protective equipment in the US&R cache.
- Proficiency in building triage and US&R marking systems.
- Working with Logistics Team personnel to establish and maintain a regular maintenance scheduled for hazmat cache items requiring some, including calibration, battery charging, and function tests.
- Performing regular assessments of the base of operations for hazardous conditions, such as carbon monoxide from generators, or any other contaminants.
- Establishing and maintaining a liaison with hazmat personnel from the IST and other taskforces.

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Position Requirements and Criteria

Individuals who meet the following requirements and criteria will be eligible to become Hazardous Materials Specialists in the FEMA US&R Response System. The intent of these requirements is to select personnel fully capable of providing competent hazardous materials assessments and advice to Task Force personnel in the urban disaster environment.

Required Training

The Hazardous Material Specialist shall;

1. Meet all General Training requirements
2. Meet and maintain the requirements as a certified Hazardous Materials Technician as per OSHA Standard 29 CFR 1910.120 Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response.
3. Meet and maintain the AHJ competencies in accordance with National Fire Protection Association standard 472 Standard for Professional Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents to the level of Hazardous Materials Technician.
4. Complete the FEMA/US&R WMD Considerations for Hazardous Materials Specialist course.
5. Complete GPS Awareness training.
6. Complete all Technical Rescue Skill Set as defined in Appendix A

Recommended Training

The Hazardous Materials Specialist should;

1. Complete all Technical Rescue Skill Set as defined in Appendix A
2. Complete the Weapons of Mass Destruction Radiological/Nuclear for Hazardous Materials Technician (Course PER-241) U.S. Department of Energy National Security Administration Nevada Test Site.
3. Complete the WMD Hazardous Materials Technician Training (HT) (Course PER-261) Centers for Domestic Preparedness, Anniston Alabama.
4. Complete GPS Operations 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
- 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