

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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

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



**FEMA**

**HEAVY EQUIPMENT & RIGGING SPECIALIST  
POSITION DESCRIPTION**

## **Position Specific Requirements**

### **Heavy Equipment & Rigging Specialist**

The Heavy Equipment and Rigging Specialist is responsible for performing various assessments and construction-related liaison for the task force during incident operations. The Heavy Equipment and Rigging Specialist reports directly to the Rescue Team Manager.

### **Description of Duties**

The Heavy Equipment and Rigging Specialist is responsible for;

- Ensuring the safety of Task Force members by assessing hazards at disaster sites pertaining to the operations of cranes and other heavy equipment.
- Assessing the need for and capabilities of various construction-related equipment to assist task force personnel in US&R activities.
- Assessing disaster site for safe and efficient location of cranes and other heavy equipment
- Preparing site for and assisting with positioning and setup of cranes and other heavy equipment
- Identifying various rigging techniques to assist in the rescue of victims or stabilization of collapsed buildings, including the development of rigging plans and procedures.
- Interacting with and coordinating efforts between the task force personnel and heavy equipment operators, contractors and organized labor.
- Adhering to all safety procedures.
- Providing documentation to assist Task Force in procuring cranes and other heavy equipment, as well as maintaining daily logs.
- Providing accountability, maintenance, and minor repairs for all issued equipment.
- Performing additional tasks or duties as assigned during a mission.

**National US&R Response System**

**Task Force Position Descriptions**

Heavy Equipment and Rigging Specialist

Position Requirements and Criteria

Individuals who meet the following requirements and criteria will be eligible to become Heavy Equipment and Rigging Specialists in the FEMA US&R Response System. The intent of these requirements is to select personnel fully capable of providing competent assessments and advice to task force personnel in the urban disaster environment.

Required Training

The Heavy Equipment and Rigging Specialist shall;

1. Meet all General Training requirements
2. Complete the Heavy Equipment and Rigging Specialist Course

Other Specific Requirements

The Heavy Equipment and Rigging Specialist shall be:

1. Experienced in heavy construction field, such as heavy equipment operator, crane operator, iron worker, rigger, or other applicable field  
--or--
2. A Rescue Specialist with a minimum of three years experience in that position on a Task Force

Recommended Training

The Heavy Equipment Rigging Specialist should;

1. Complete all Technical Rescue Skill Sets as defined in Appendix A
2. Complete Module 4 – Lifting and Moving of the Structural Collapse Technician Training Course

**National US&R Response System**  
**Task Force Position Descriptions**  
Heavy Equipment and Rigging Specialist

**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\*
- 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