

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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

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



FEMA

**MEDICAL SPECIALIST
POSITION DESCRIPTION**

FEMA US&R Response System
Task Force Position Description
Medical Specialist

Position Specific Requirements

Medical Specialist

The Medical Specialist is responsible for performing the medical function of the task force incident operation. The Medical Specialist reports directly to the Medical Team Manager.

The Medical Specialist is responsible for:

- The general health considerations of and delivery of medical care to all task force personnel, victims, and search dogs, while under the supervision of the Medical Team manager, during disaster events.
- Implementing the medical action plans specified by the Medical Team Manger.
- Accountability, maintenance, and minor repairs for 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 Medical Specialists in the FEMA US&R Response System. The intent of these requirements is to select personnel fully capable of providing medical care required by the task force in the urban disaster environment.

Required Training

The Medical Specialist shall:

1. Meet all General Training requirements
2. Be currently certified/licensed as a medical provider (EMT-Paramedic, Physician Assistant, Registered Nurse-Practitioner or Registered Nurse) and meet all the requirements in the AHJ and is trained in BTLS, ACLS, and PALS regimens (or equivalent).
3. Complete the FEMA/US&R Medical Team Training course.
4. Complete the FEMA/US&R WMD Considerations for The Medical Team.
5. Complete the GPS Awareness course
6. Complete the Technical Rescue Skill Sets as identified in Appendix A

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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*
- 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