

*FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY*

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

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



**FEMA**

**TECHNICAL SEARCH SPECIALIST  
POSITION DESCRIPTION**

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

**Position Specific Requirements**

**Technical Search Specialist**

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.
- 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.

Position Requirements and Criteria

Individuals who meet the following requirements and criteria will be eligible to become Technical Search Specialists in the FEMA 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.

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

Required Training

The Technical Search Specialist shall;

1. Meet all General Training requirements
2. Complete the FEMA/US&R Technical Search Specialist course.
3. Complete the FEMA/US&R GPS / Land Navigation Technician course.
4. Have current certification in Basic First Aid or equivalent.
5. Complete all Technical Rescue Skill Sets as identified in Appendix A

Recommended Training

The Technical Search Specialist should;

1. Complete a FEMA/US&R Structural Collapse Technician course
2. Complete a FEMA/US&R Canine Search Specialist Training course
3. Meet all requirements of NFPA 1670 Chapter 9 Section 9.3.5
4. Meet all requirements of Structural Collapse Technician as per NFPA 1670