



FEMA

US&R GENERAL MEMORANDUM – 2016-029a

May 3, 2016

FOR: National Urban Search & Rescue Response System
Task Force Representatives

FROM: Dean Scott, Chief
Operations Section
Urban Search and Rescue Branch

SUBJECT: US&R General Memorandum 2016-029a – (Revised) Technical Search Specialist
Training Course – June 2016

This revision reflects a date change only. All other logistics information remains unchanged.

On behalf of the National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Response System (the System), Texas Task Force One (TX-TF1) is sponsoring the Technical Search Specialist Course (TSS) at Disaster City, 11000 Stillwater Road, College Station, TX 77840.

The TSS Course will take place **June 28-30, 2016**. The current version of the course involves both CBT and ILT participation. Course registration is limited to thirty-six students and is on a first come basis.

Further questions should be submitted to Stacy Macik at stacey.macik@teexmail.tamu.edu, or 979-458-5680.

Task Force Representatives are asked to coordinate this information as appropriate with their Task Force Training Managers.

Attachments: TX-TF1 TSS Logistics Letter

cc:

US&R Strategic Group
US&R Advisory Group
US&R Branch Staff
FEMA Regional/Federal/International ESF #9 Representatives

Technical Search Specialist Course Logistics Information June 14-16, 2016



Texas US&R Task Force One (TX-TF1) is pleased to host the FEMA US&R Technical Search Specialist course at Disaster City®. This document will provide information to help you during your Disaster City® training experience and provides links to course information, hotels, and other information that is useful while training in the College Station area. If you have questions about the course you will be attending, or questions related to traveling to Texas, please call Stacey Macik at the TX-TF1 Training Office at 979-458-5680.

Course Information:

- Travel to College Station: Monday, June 13, 2016
- Class begins at 0800 on Tuesday, June 14, 2016
- Class ends at 2200 on Thursday, June 16, 2016
- Return travel should be scheduled on:
Friday, June 17, 2016

Hotel Information:

Hotel arrangements and payment are the responsibility of the student. A block of rooms has been held at the below hotel locations:

Homewood Suites
950 University Drive
College Station, TX 77840
(979) 846-0400
Group Name: TEEX Texas Task Force 1
Rate: \$114/night plus taxes
Booking Link: [CLICK HERE](#)

Residence Inn
720 University Drive
College Station, TX 77840
(979) 268-2200
Group Code: TTTG
Rate: \$114/night plus taxes
Booking Link: [CLICK HERE](#)

Reservation Due Date:

Students have until **Monday, May 23, 2016** to book your reservations under this discounted group block.

Airline Travel:

Continental and American Airlines fly to the [College Station - Easterwood Airport](#) (Airport Code CLL).

The following airports are also within driving distance of College Station:

[Austin Bergstrom International](#) – (Airport Code AUS): 2 hrs

[Houston George Bush Intercontinental](#) (Airport Code IAH): 1.5 hrs

[Houston Hobby Airport](#) (Airport Code HOU): 2 hrs

Ground Transportation

Rental cars are available at all airports listed above. Students are responsible for transportation from the airport to the hotel and to class each day. Task Forces are encouraged to coordinate and cooperate with each other and share rides in the rental car.

Ground transportation is also available from the College Station, TX Airport is available by Taxi.

Course Locations:

The physical address for Disaster City® is:
11000 Stillwater Road, College Station, TX.

Each student will receive an informational email one week before class begins with a driving map, the specific classroom and building number and any last minute information.

Technical Search Specialist Course Logistics Information June 14-16, 2016



Length of Training Each Day:

Students should expect to be training for at least 8 to 9 hours or more each day. The last day of the course has a night time exercise that will go until approximately 2200 hours.

Computer Requirements:

Students attending this course should have familiarized themselves with their task force's Global Positioning System (GPS) device. Students must bring the following with them to the course:

1. Compass.
2. One GPS unit from their task force and the associated computer cables.
3. One laptop computer loaded with the following up-to-date software:
 - Google Earth
 - Microsoft Excel
 - Microsoft PowerPoint
 - Microsoft Word
 - Garmin Basecamp

NOTE: Students may need the ability to download and install software on their computer during the course and should make such arrangements with their task force computer support department.

Students should bring the following Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE) to class:

1. Safety-toe Boots
2. Rescue helmet with chin strap
3. Googles/Safety Glasses
4. Gloves
5. Long sleeve shirts and pants suitable for a US&R environment
6. Foul weather gear
7. Hearing protection
8. Knee and elbow protection
9. Half-face Air-Purifying Respirator (APR)
10. Flashlight and extra batteries
11. Canteen/Web Gear

Additional PPE Information:

Rescue helmet

The helmet must be ANSI rated Z89.1-1997 Type 1. The helmet should be designed for urban search and rescue work and have a chin strap. It is recommended you bring the same helmet used by your department.

Safety-toe safety boots

The boots must be steel-toe or safety toe and must meet ANSI Z41 PT99 M1/75C/75

Eye protection

The eye protection must meet the standard ANSI Z-87.1

Standard work/duty clothing

All shirts must be long sleeve and enough for 4 days of training. Long pants are required at all times in the training area and shorts are not allowed at any time. This course requires significant training outside so bring a work jacket if the weather conditions warrant.

Raingear suitable for search and rescue operations

Training is conducted rain or shine. One of the skill stations involves water spraying in the training area and students should expect to get wet.

Work gloves and kneepads

We recommend rescue or construction gloves with full palm and finger protection. Your gloves will get wet during training.

Respiratory and Hearing Protection

N-95 dust masks and hearing protection will be provided by TEEX when required.