



Virginia Task Force 2 Urban Search and Rescue

Administrative Manual

3.07 Post Mission Medical
Screening

March 2019

Post Mission Medical Screening

ISSUE STATEMENT

The nature of Urban Search and Rescue operations demands that team members often be exposed to hazardous environments. Despite appropriate usage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), it is an unfortunate reality that team members may still encounter significant environmental hazards. Although every effort is made to identify hazards and mitigate exposures, it is impossible to predict in advance all hazardous exposures encountered by team members. To protect the health and well being of all team members, a well coordinated Post Mission/Deployment Medical Screening Program must be in place.

REQUIRED ACTIONS

- It is the duty of the IST, Task Force Leaders, Hazardous Materials Team, Medical Team Manager and Safety Officer to attempt to identify and mitigate all hazards in advance.
- In the event that hazards and exposures are identified during the mission, all team members will be required to participate in Post Mission Medical Screening. This will consist of consultation between the IST, Task Force Leaders, Safety officer, Hazardous Materials officer, and Medical Team Managers. If treatment or other mitigation is required during the deployment, this shall be initiated during the deployment. Post deployment medical treatment, if necessary, will be arranged by the Medical Team Manager and consultation with the individual team members' occupational health physician. Each team member will be required to submit a Post Deployment Medical Screening Form (details below) at periodic intervals for the next 2 years. Each team member will be required to undergo a FEMA mandated physical within the 2 years following the deployment.
- In the event that no specific exposures are identified during the deployment, each deployed team member will be required to submit the Post Deployment Medical Screening form at specific intervals during the next two years. These forms will be reviewed by the Team Medical Coordinator and Team Medical Director. If a pattern of illness or disability emerges from this surveillance, then team members will be directed to each employer's occupational medicine department for further evaluation and treatment. Team members will be required to undergo a FEMA mandated physical within two years of the deployment.
- Team members must understand that all responses on the Post Deployment Medical Screening Form are confidential. All team members must be encouraged to be honest in their reporting of possible post deployment illness.
- The recommended intervals for submission of Post Deployment Screening are: 2 weeks post deployment, 3 months post deployment, and 6 months post deployment, one year post deployment.