

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

# NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM

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



## HEAVY EQUIPMENT & RIGGING SPECIALIST POSITION DESCRIPTION

## **FEMA National US&R Response System**

### **Task Force Position Description**

Heavy Equipment and Rigging Specialist

#### **Position Specific Requirements:**

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 types of 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

## **FEMA National US&R Response System**

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#### **Position Requirements and Criteria:**

Individuals who meet the following requirements and criteria will be eligible to become Heavy Equipment and Rigging Specialists in the DHS/FEMA National 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 Administrative and General Training requirements
2. Complete the DHS/FEMA National US&R Response System Heavy Equipment and Rigging Specialist course

#### **Other Specific Requirements:**

The Heavy Equipment and Rigging Specialist shall be:

3. Experienced in heavy construction field, such as heavy equipment operator, crane operator, iron worker, rigger, or other applicable field
- OR –
3. A minimum of three years experience as a Rescue Specialist on a Task Force

#### **Recommended Training:**

The Heavy Equipment Rigging Specialist should:

1. Complete all Technical Rescue Skill Sets as defined in Appendix A unless qualified as a Rescue Specialist
2. Complete DHS/FEMA National US&R Response System Structural Collapse Technician training course

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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\*
- Trench Rescue awareness per 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 oneself to, and participating in a raising or lowering system
- Proficiency at descending and ascending a fixed line, low angle