

# OHIO TASK FORCE ONE RECRUITMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Ohio Task Force One (OH-TF1) is one of 28 Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) teams that function within the National US&R Response System managed by the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS). OH-TF1 became operational in the spring of 1997. Prior to the events of September 11, 2001, its primary mission was to provide a heavy rescue response to structural collapses resulting from natural and manmade disasters such as earthquakes, tornados, explosions, and hurricanes. Following 9/11, the task forces found themselves at the forefront of the federal government's response to terrorism as well. In addition to its national response commitments, OH-TF1 is a State of Ohio rescue asset that has responded to natural disasters such as the Xenia tornado of 2001.

As a result of the terrorist attacks of 9/11, DHS has established new deployment and staffing standards for all task forces. OH-TF1 expects to recruit 60 to 100 additional personnel in the coming year. Several of the specialty positions within the task force that are in need of personnel are rescue, logistics, search, medical, structural, and **hazmat**.

The following are prerequisites for persons desiring to **apply** as a hazardous materials specialist within the national US&R program (written documentation must be submitted with the application):

- NFPA 472 Hazmat Technician certification
- CPR/First-Aid or EMT certification
- Basic ICS training
- Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD) training
- WMD Awareness training (e.g. DOJ, NFA)
- 29CFR1910.134 respirator training
- Minimum five years experience as a member of a FD or regional hazmat team
- Possession of a current e-mail address

Applicants are subject to a background investigation and interviews by various levels of task force management. The granting of full task force membership status is contingent upon approval of the hazmat team managers and the task force command and administrative staff. Upon appointment, new personnel will begin a one-year probationary period and progress through an "in-processing" phase. Part of this requires enrollment in and successful completion of "US&R WMD Enhanced Operations", and "US&R WMD Considerations for Hazmat Specialists" training.

There is no monetary compensation for training or other task force activities unless the Department of Homeland Security activates the task force for response to an emergency. All DHS and task force trainings are free of charge to the team member.

To request an application or if you have questions, please contact Mr. Darrel Wilt (Training and Personnel Services Coordinator) or Evan Schumann (Administrator) via phone at 937-512-5103, or e-mail at [dwilt@ohf1.com](mailto:dwilt@ohf1.com) or [eschumann@ohf1.com](mailto:eschumann@ohf1.com).