

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



RESCUE SPECIALIST POSITION DESCRIPTION

FEMA National US&R Response System

Task Force Position Description

Rescue Specialist

Position Specific Requirements:

The Rescue Specialist is responsible for performing the rescue function of the Task Force incident operation. The Rescue Specialist reports directly to a Rescue Squad Officer.

Description of Duties:

The Rescue Specialist is responsible for:

- Implementing technical skills and operating equipment necessary for completing the rescue portion of the action plan
- Performing rescue operations under the direct supervision of a Rescue Squad Officer and providing periodic progress reports as needed
- The operation and routine field maintenance of rescue tools and equipment
- Ensuring accountability and maintenance for all issued equipment
- Evaluating and modifying rescue tactics as needed
- Performing additional tasks or duties as assigned

Position Requirements and Criteria:

Individuals who meet the following requirements and criteria will be eligible to become Rescue Specialists in the DHS/FEMA National US&R Response System. The intent of these requirements is to select personnel fully capable of providing the rescue tactics and techniques required in a disaster environment.

Required Training:

The Rescue Specialist shall:

1. Complete all Administrative and General Training requirements
2. Complete DHS/FEMA National US&R Response System GPS Awareness Level Course
3. Meet requirements of NFPA 1670 (2004) Structural Collapse Technician Level
4. Meet all requirements of NFPA 1670 (2004 Edition) Chapter 9 Section 9.3.5. Operations levels for the specific disciplines defined in Sections 9.3.6 – 9.3.9 are excluded from this requirement.
5. Complete the DHS/FEMA National US&R Response System Structural Collapse Technician course