

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

***NATIONAL
URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE
RESPONSE SYSTEM***

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



FEMA

**MEDICAL SPECIALIST
POSITION DESCRIPTION**

**National Urban Search & Rescue Response System
Medical Specialist Position Description**

General Requirements

1. Must be able to meet the physical requirements of the sponsoring agency with or without accommodations.
2. Must be available on short notice to mobilize within six hours of request and be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours for a response assignment of up to 10 days in austere environments.
3. Must be capable of improvising and functioning for long hours under adverse conditions.
4. Must maintain current inoculations for Diphtheria/Tetanus (or Tetanus only if there is a contra-indication to Diphtheria), Hepatitis A & B, Measles/Mumps/Rubella (if born after 1957), and Polio.
5. Must be able to function safely at heights and on or around rubble.
6. Must be aware of the signs, symptoms and corrective measures of critical incident stress syndrome.
7. Must understand and adhere to safe working practices and procedures as required in the urban disaster environment.
8. Must have a working knowledge of FEMA's US&R Response System, organizational structure, operating procedures, safety practices, terminology, knowledge of all task force equipment, and communications protocols.
9. Must have successfully completed the First Responder Operations Level for Hazardous Materials as per OSHA Standard 29 CFR 1910.120 Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response.
10. Must be currently certified in America Heart Association (or equivalent) Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation - Basic Life Support.
11. Must have a working knowledge of the Incident Command System including successful completion of the IS-100, IS-200, IS-700 and IS-800 on-line courses.
12. Successful completion of the DHS/FEMA US&R Orientation Course or equivalent.
13. Successful completion of Respiratory Protection training and quantitative fit test per 29 CFR 1910.134
14. Successful completion of the DOJ Emergency Response to Terrorism, Basic Concepts or equivalent.
15. Successful completion of the FEMA/US&R WMD Enhanced Operations
16. Successful completion of Awareness Level training per NFPA 1670 including;
 - Confined Space Operations
 - Water Rescue Operations
 - Structural Collapse Operations

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17. Successful completion of GPS Awareness Level course (Garmin V or comparable)
18. Must understand the needs of and provide support to their counterparts within the task force for specific operations, techniques and application of tools and equipment.
19. Must possess training and experience in personal safety in US&R environments.
20. The authority having jurisdiction shall assure that the individual meets or exceeds the required knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSA's).

Position Specific Requirements

MEDICAL SPECIALIST

The Medical Specialist is responsible for performing the medical function of the task force incident operation. The Medical Specialist reports directly to the Medical Team Manager.

The Medical Specialist is responsible for:

- The general health considerations of and delivery of medical care to all task force personnel, victims, and search dogs, while under the supervision of the Medical Team manger, during disaster events.
- Implementing the medical action plans specified by the Medical Team Manger.
- Adhering to all safety procedures.
- Accountability, maintenance, and minor repairs for all issued equipment.
- Performing additional tasks or duties as assigned during a mission.

Position Requirements and Criteria

Individuals who meet the following requirements and criteria will be eligible to become Medical Specialists in the FEMA US&R Response System. The intent of these requirements is to select personnel fully capable of providing medical care required by the task force in the urban disaster environment. The requirements and criteria for the position are indented in the following categories:

- Knowledge
- Skills
- Abilities

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Knowledge

The Medical Specialist shall:

1. Be currently certified/licensed as a Paramedic or equivalent – Should be certified in BTLS, ACLS, and PALS regimens (or equivalent). Must be actively practicing pre-hospital care on a regular basis.

- OR -

2. Be currently certified/licensed as a Physician Assistant, Registered Nurse-Practitioner or Registered Nurse – certified within an accredited organization or municipality and meeting the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technician – Paramedic Standards or State certification requirements and actively practicing advanced pre-hospital life support. Should be certified in BTLS, ACLS, and PALS regimens (or equivalent). These individuals must possess the immobilization, extrication, vascular access, and airway management skills of a National Registry Emergency Medical technician – Paramedic. This is specifically intended to exclude nurses with certifications but no regular experience to ensure acceptable mechanical skill levels during mission operations.
3. Individuals must have a knowledge and understanding of medical conditions common to US&R incidents such as lacerations, fractures, shock, crush injury and crush syndrome, burns, penetrating and blunt trauma, head injuries, respiratory embarrassment, hyper/hypothermia, and infections. They must also have experience treating common medical emergencies, eye injuries, minor orthopedic injuries, etc.
4. Have an understanding of the broad range of disaster organizations.
5. Have a working knowledge of general rescue operations at structural collapse sites, landslides, hurricanes, and other such disasters.
6. Have successfully completed the FEMA/US&R Medical Team Training course.
7. Have successfully completed the FEMA/US&R WMD Considerations for Medical Specialists

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Skills

The Medical Specialist:

1. Must understand the need to adhere to pre-established local, municipal or State protocols and guidelines for which the Medical Specialist has been trained and certified by the Task Force Medical Director. This should be consistent with the sponsoring jurisdiction's standard of care and scope of practice.

Abilities

The Medical Specialist:

1. Must demonstrate proficiency at the technical rescue skill sets identified in Appendix A.
2. Must have the ability to effectively communicate orally and in writing.

General Operational Checklist

UPON ACTIVATION / AT TASK FORCE ASSEMBLY POINT

- Receive notification of assignment and instructions from the initiating organization.
- Establish communications with the appropriate supervisor.
- Monitor mission-related information from local sources such as radio and television.
- Review the personal equipment checklist.
- Ensure that you have personal daypack, ear plugs, and warm clothes for flight.
- Report to the assigned Assembly Point at the prescribed time.
- Forward an accurate Responder Information Sheet to the Medical Team Manager.
- Complete check-in procedures to include medical screening.
- Ensure that you receive any appropriate issue of gear (radio, functional vest, etc.) pertinent to the position.
- Participate in task force briefings and meetings as requested.
- Carry out assignments as directed.
- Must not be under the influence of illegal substances or alcohol for the duration of the deployment.

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AT POINT OF DEPARTURE

- ❑ Participate in task force briefings and meetings as requested.
- ❑ Carry out assignments as directed.
- ❑ Ensure that electronic equipment is turned off prior to boarding aircraft.

IN TRANSIT

- ❑ Review the FEMA US&R Field Operations Guide for information pertinent to your position description, operational checklist, operational procedures, and safety procedures.
- ❑ Monitor mission-related information from local sources such as radio and television.
- ❑ Review disaster related information, as it becomes available.
- ❑ Take advantage of available travel time for rest prior to arrival.
- ❑ Carry out assignments as directed.

ARRIVAL AT MOBILIZATION CENTER

- ❑ Participate in task force briefings and meetings as requested.
- ❑ Carry out assignments as directed.

ON-SITE OPERATIONS

- ❑ Ensure your physical readiness through proper nutrition, water intake, rest, and stress control techniques.
- ❑ Participate in the task force daily briefings and meetings as requested.
- ❑ Ensure use of all safety practices and procedures.
- ❑ Ensure proper equipment needs are met and equipment is operational prior to each work period.
- ❑ Carry out assignments as directed.
- ❑ Report any signs/symptoms of incident stress, injury, fatigue, or illness in yourself/coworkers to your immediate supervisor.
- ❑ Brief your shift replacement fully on all ongoing operations when relieved at work cycle rotations.
- ❑ Prepare appropriate reports (i.e. Unit Logs ICS-214, etc.).

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REASSIGNMENT/DEMOBILIZATION

- ❑ Participate in the task force daily briefings and meetings as requested.
- ❑ Prepare personal belongings for demobilization.
- ❑ Carry out assignments as directed.
- ❑ Ensure the return of all items issued to you during the mobilization phase.
- ❑ Upon return, participate in the task force mission critique and incident stress management activities.
- ❑ Submit comments to your supervisor for inclusion in the after-action reports. This should include reviewing pertinent position descriptions, operational checklists, and procedures for recommended changes.

Position Specific Operational Checklist

MEDICAL SPECIALIST

The purpose of the checklist is to define the duties and responsibilities of the Medical Specialist during a mission assignment. The list is intended to be a general summary of actions. It should be understood that;

- ❑ Some required actions might not be listed, but must be identified and assumed by this position.
- ❑ Some actions may be the primary responsibility of another Task Force position, but may require assistance and coordination from this position.
- ❑ The actions are listed in a general chronological order, but may necessitate deviation as required.

UPON ACTIVATION/AT TASK FORCE ASSEMBLY POINT

- ❑ Assist in the review of all Responder Information Sheets and the evaluation of canines.
- ❑ Receive and sign for a paramedic medical pack or assigned medical equipment.
- ❑ Assist with the medical check-in procedures for deploying Task Force personnel.

AT POINT OF DEPARTURE

- ❑ Ensure the security and accountability of controlled drugs with the Medical Team Manager.

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IN TRANSIT

- Evaluate and monitor Task Force environmental, hydration, health, stress, and safety issues.

ARRIVAL AT MOBILIZATION CENTER

- Monitor Task Force personnel for signs of fatigue, dehydration, stress, or other health problems.
- Initiate appropriate medical documentation related to the treatment of any team member or victim.

ON-SITE OPERATIONS

- Assist in the treatment, extrication, and transfer of injured victims, under the direction of the Medical Team Manager, to local emergency medical services or available support networks.
- Keep the medical Team Manager apprised of tactical accomplishments or conflicts, supply deficiencies, equipment malfunctions, or other unresolved issues.

REASSIGNMENT/DEMOBILIZATION

- Ensure that all controlled substances are accounted for and secured. Notify the Medical Team Manager of their status and any discrepancies.
- Monitor Task Force personnel for the development of incident stress.
- Notify the assigned supervisor of the losses or potential maintenance requirements of any assigned tools and equipment.

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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
- Confined Space Rescue awareness per NFPA 1670
- Structural collapse awareness, 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 yourself to, and participating in a raising or lowering system
 - Proficiency at descending and ascending a fixed line, low angle