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

NATIONAL US&R
RESPONSE SYSTEM

FEMA

June 2011

HEAVY EQUIPMENT & RIGGING
SPECIALIST
POSITION DESCRIPTION
FEMA National US&R Response System
Task Force Position Description
Heavy Equipment and Rigging Specialist

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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
Task Force Position Description
Heavy Equipment and Rigging Specialist

Position Requirements and Criteria:

Individuals who meet the following requirements and criteria will be eligible to become Heavy Equipment and Rigging Specialists in the 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 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 FEMA National US&R Response System Structural Collapse Technician training course
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
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