NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM

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

June 2011

RESCUE SPECIALIST POSITION DESCRIPTION
FEMA National US&R Response System
Task Force Position Description
Rescue Specialist

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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  
- Performing additional tasks or duties as assigned  
- Evaluating and modifying rescue tactics as needed  

**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  
   (Excluding Chapter 1 Administration: Section 1.3.3)  
   a. Chapter 5: Job Performance Requirements  
   b. Chapter 6: Rope Rescue (Level 1 & 2)  
   c. Chapter 7: Confined Space Rescue (Level 1 & 2)  
   d. Chapter 8: Trench Rescue (Level 1 & 2)  
   e. Chapter 10: Vehicle and Machinery Rescue (Level 1 & 2)  
   f. Chapter 11: Surface Water Rescue (Level 1 & 2)
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3. Complete the DHS/FEMA National US&R Response System Structural Collapse Technician course or FEMA/DHS approved equivalent

4. Complete DHS/FEMA National US&R Response System GPS Awareness Level course

5. Current Certification in Basic First Aid for First Responders or equivalent