

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



June 2011

SAFETY OFFICER POSITION DESCRIPTION

FEMA National US&R Response System

Task Force Position Description

Safety Officer

Position Specific Requirements

The Task Force Safety Officer is responsible for monitoring and assessing the safety aspects of the task force during training, exercises and incident operations. The Task Force Safety Officer reports directly to the Task Force Leader.

Description of Duties:

The Task Force Safety Officer is responsible for:

- Overseeing all health and safety of all task force personnel during day to day operations, training and exercises as well as on deployment
- Coordinating with task force Team Managers relative to the health, welfare and safe operations of their assigned personnel
- Preventing injuries and illness of task force members through appropriate administrative and engineering controls of hazards including enforcement of safety policies and procedures
- Conduct site safety analysis, complete required ICS documents for IAP/TAP, develop safety messages and conduct safety briefings
- Work with Task Force Team Managers to establish acceptable entry conditions and appropriate personal protective equipment to be worn by personnel entering the hazard zone
- Establish and enforce the use of a personnel accountability system to be used during training, exercises and actual disaster deployments
- Immediate intervention of activities to prevent the loss of life and prevention of injuries
- Conduct incident/accident investigations with appropriate task force personnel under the direction of the Task Force Leader. Prepare post incident injury reports and submit them to the Task Force Leader
- Preparing and maintaining entry permits, records and reports
- Performing additional tasks or duties as assigned

FEMA National US&R Response System

Task Force Position Description

Safety Officer

Position Requirements and Criteria:

Individuals who meet the following requirements and criteria will be eligible to become Task Force Safety Officers in the DHS/FEMA National US&R Response System. The intent of these requirements are to select functional managers capable of effectively managing and supervising the safety function in the urban disaster environment.

Required Training:

The Task Force Safety Officer shall:

1. Meet all Administrative and General Training requirements
2. Complete FEMA National US&R Response System GPS Awareness Level Course
3. Complete ICS-300 in accordance with the National Standard Curriculum Training Development Guidance
4. Complete FEMA National US&R Response System US&R Safety Officer Course
5. Meet requirements of NFPA 1006 (2008) Technical Rescuer Level 1 & 2 (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)
6. Complete the DHS/FEMA National US&R Response System Structural Collapse Technician course or FEMA/DHS approved equivalent.
7. Current Certification in Basic First Aid for First Responders or equivalent