

Search Subgroup



Position: Search Subgroup Member

Background

Search and rescue operations in the urban disaster environment require the close interaction of all task force elements—search, rescue, medical, and technical personnel—for safe and successful survivor extrications. Search strategy and tactics including the use of canine, technical and physical search is a foundational element of the US&R System. Effective search techniques efficiently lead to the successful location and extrication of survivors. The Search Subgroup is responsible for developing and maintaining their respective area and integrating them into the System. The members of the group, are chosen based on their management and/or technical expertise to provide advice and recommendations upon which decisions are based. These decisions will be made through consensus, whenever possible.

Under the direction of the Search Subgroup Leader within the Operations Functional Group in the Advisory Organization, a system wide recruitment for Search Subgroup members with the knowledge, skills and abilities to assist both the US&R Branch and US&R Task Forces.

Knowledge

- Thorough understanding of disaster search standards, strategies and tactics
 - Thorough understanding of search priorities
 - Thorough understanding of search concepts
 - Thorough understanding of USNG mapping system
 - Thorough understanding of the proper use and the limits of search component equipment
- General understanding of Canine search and how it integrates with the technical search function
- General understanding of the search data transfer process
- General understanding of all 19 positions and function for Type I US&R Team.
- General understanding of a US&R Incident Support Team (IST)
- General understanding of an Incident Management Team (IMT)
- General understanding of System Program Directives
- Familiarity with the Training Program and Administration Manual (TPAM)

Skills

- Prepare and deliver documents and reports on time
- Computer Skills: Operate computer equipment and systems; use keyboard, mouse, and various software programs Such as: Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Visio, and Adobe products to access database information and prepare reports and forms
- Express or communicate information, thoughts, ideas, instructions, or descriptions in writing so that others will understand; use abbreviations that are understandable; complete forms accurately; use proper spelling, punctuation, and grammar; communicate routine information in writing; express ideas in writing in an organized, clear, and concise manner
- Good interpersonal communication skills. Give full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, and asking questions as appropriate.

- Convey information effectively.
- Prioritize work assignments.
- Breakdown complex problems and related information to develop procedures

Abilities

- Complete the FEMA US&R Canine Search Specialist Course
- Complete the FEMA US&R Technical Search Specialist Course
- Qualified as a Search Team Manager rostered on one of 28 FEMA US&R Task Forces
- Ability to communicate effectively with multidisciplinary US&R audiences to promote safe and successful survivor extrications
- Ability to speak and lead large groups through complex rescue procedures.
- Member must have support from his/her sponsoring agency to fulfill role which may involve travel.
- Critical Thinking: Evaluate information critically that conflicts with existing information or that is ambiguous; identify strengths and weaknesses of various alternatives; recognize patterns and relationships in data or information; gather and understand the relevance of information from different sources; recognize the combination of cues leading to a conclusion
- Interpersonal Relations: Develop and maintain effective, inclusive, and cooperative working relationships with others; discuss sensitive subjects tactfully and diplomatically; respect others' perspectives and differences
- Teamwork and Collaboration: Actively participate as a member of the team by sharing responsibilities and tasks; encourage others to participate; demonstrate receptiveness and responsiveness to others' ideas and requests; share necessary knowledge to complete assignments; support team decisions
- Conscientiousness and Dependability: Arrive promptly and prepared for work; follow through on assignments without prompting; maintain a good attendance record; able to work with minimal supervision; willing to perform menial, routine, and demanding physical tasks required by the job
- Integrity: Apply standards of ethics and integrity; honest and open with coworkers; demonstrate consistency among one's principles, values, statements, and behaviors; build trust and credibility with others through demonstrated commitment to personal values