

STRUCTURES SPECIALIST

I. **Functional Description**

The Structures Specialist is responsible for performing the various structural assessments for the task force during incident operations. The Structures Specialist reports directly to the Planning Team Manager.

II. **Description of Duties**

The Structures Specialist is responsible for the following:

- Assessing the structural condition within the area of task force operations, which includes identifying structure types and specific damage and structural hazards
- Recommending the appropriate type and amount of structural hazard mitigation in order to minimize risks to task force personnel
- Provide input to task force tactical action plans as appropriate
- Cooperating with and assisting other search and rescue resources
- Providing accountability, maintenance, and minor repairs for all issued equipment
- Performing additional tasks or duties as assigned during a mission
- Monitoring assigned structure for condition changes while rescue and recovery operations are proceeding
- Assuming an active role in implementing approved structural hazard mitigation as a designer, inspector, and possibly a supervisor
- Coordinating and communicating the structural related hazard mitigation with US&R IST Structural Unit Leader
- Performing additional tasks or duties as assigned

III. **Position Requirements and Criteria**

Individuals who meet the following requirements and criteria will be eligible to become Structures Specialists in the 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.

IV. **Required Training**

The Structures Specialist shall adhere to the following:

- Meet all administrative and general training requirements

- Complete the National US&R Response System GPS Awareness Level Course
- Complete the FEMA USACE Structures Specialist Training (StS-1) Course
- Complete all technical rescue skill sets and additional required rope rescue skills as identified in Appendix D at the end of this manual

V. **Other Specific Requirements**

The Structures Specialist shall meet the following requirements:

- Be currently licensed as a Professional Engineer (PE) specializing in structures or equivalent as sanctioned by the FEMA US&R Structures Sub-Group. The criteria for qualifying as equivalent to PE are as follows:
 - Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering (or similar curriculum) from a college or university that is recognized by a state licensing board
 - Five years of experience in any phase of structural engineering, including the teaching of subjects pertaining to structures, structural safety, and structural collapse
 - A letter from the individual's FEMA US&R Task Force expressing the support of task force leadership and the task force structures specialists addressed to the FEMA US&R Structures Sub-Group chair for consideration
 - Individuals who are licensed architects by any state may be considered as having equivalent certification, based on the requirements listed above
- Possess a minimum of five years of experience in structure design and analysis to include evaluation of existing structures, field investigation or construction observation experience

VI. **Recommended Training**

The Structures Specialist should complete the following:

- The National US&R Response System Structural Collapse Technician Course (with the exception of SCT01c)
- The National US&R Response System Planning Team Training Course
- FEMA/USACE Structures Specialist Training (StS-2) every five years
- USACE StS Regional Training every two years
- The National US&R Response System GPS Operations Level Course