

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

## MEDICAL SPECIALIST POSITION DESCRIPTION

**FEMA National US&R Response System**  
**Task Force Position Description**  
Medical Specialist

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**Position Specific Requirements**

The Medical Specialist is responsible for performing the medical function of the task force incident operation. The Medical Specialist reports directly to the Medical Team Manager.

The Medical Specialist is responsible for:

- The general health considerations of and delivery of medical care to all task force personnel, victims, and search dogs, while under the supervision of the Medical Team Manger, during disaster events
- Implementing the medical action plans specified by the Medical Team Manger
- Accountability, maintenance, and minor repairs for all issued equipment
- Performing additional tasks or duties as assigned during a mission

**Position Requirements and Criteria:**

Individuals who meet the following requirements and criteria will be eligible to become Medical Specialists in the FEMA National US&R Response System. The intent of these requirements is to select personnel fully capable of providing medical care required by the task force in the urban disaster environment.

**Required Training:**

The Medical Specialist shall:

1. Be currently certified / licensed as an EMT-Paramedic and have met all the requirements in their local jurisdiction. Must be actively participating in pre-hospital care.

OR

Physician Assistant, Registered Nurse-Practitioner or Registered Nurse who is currently certified / licensed as a Physician Assistant, Registered Nurse-Practitioner or Registered Nurse – certified within an accredited organization or municipality and meets the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technician – Paramedic Standards or State certification requirements and actively practices advanced pre-hospital life support. Must be certified and maintain the following, BTLS, ACLS, and PALS regimens (or equivalent).

2. Have completed all Administrative and General Training Requirements.
3. Have successfully completed the FEMA/US&R Medical Team Training Course.

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4. Have successfully completed the FEMA/US&R WMD Considerations for The Medical Team.
5. Complete Technical Rescue Skill Sets, Appendix A

**Recommended Training:**

1. Complete a Canine Emergency Medical Course

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**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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