

**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**

## **RESCUE SPECIALIST POSITION DESCRIPTION**

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

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**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
2. 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)

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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