

# TEXAS TASK FORCE ONE

## STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

### CODE OF CONDUCT

#### VOLUME 1

#### REFERENCE NO. 1-01

##### 1.00 PURPOSE

- 2.01 The purpose of this standard is to create guidelines that governs the social component of USAR activities. This code, which includes human rights, legal, moral, ethical, and cultural issues, involves the relationship between members and those they serve.

##### 2.00 OBJECTIVE

The conduct of personnel of the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System is of high interest to the Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS/FEMA), the Sponsoring Agency, and the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ); therefore, it is important for all Task Force members to understand and abide by the code of conduct as demonstrated herein.

##### 3.00 DEFINITIONS

- 3.01 **Code of Conduct:** Consists of the rules of standards governing the demeanor of a person or the members of a profession.
- 3.02 **Sponsoring Agency:** Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX)

##### 4.00 GENERAL GUIDELINES

- 4.01 Since each system member is a representative of their team and their Sponsoring Agency, a violation of principals or adverse behavior demonstrated will be looked upon as unprofessional. Such behavior may discredit the good work that the resource completes and will reflect poorly on the entire team's performance, the Sponsoring Agency, and the National USAR system.
- 4.02 It is the responsibility of the Sponsoring Agency to prepare its system members before deployment regarding conduct expectations. Each deployed member is

bound by a regulation regarding professional conduct established by his or her Sponsoring Agency.

- 4.03 It is the responsibility of the USAR Incident Support Team and Task Force Leaders to reinforce the Code of Conduct and monitor compliance during all planning sessions, meetings, and incident briefings. Any violation will be addressed and documented, with follow-up action taken by a USAR Task Force Leader, the Sponsoring Agency, or Program Office, as appropriate.
- 4.04 It is expected that ethical conduct will be demonstrated at all times.
- 4.05 At no time during a mission will system members take personal advantage of any situation and/or opportunity that arises.
- 4.06 It is the responsibility of each system member to abide by this Code of Conduct.
- 4.07 Issues to be considered: As a basic guide, system members will base all actions and decisions on the ethical, moral, and legal consequences of those actions. It is in this manner that positive and beneficial outcomes will prevail in all system events. Accordingly system members will:
- Keep the value of life and the welfare of the victim constantly in mind
  - Remain cognizant of cultural issues including race, religion, gender, and nationality
  - Follow direction of the Chain of Command
  - Abide by all DHS/FEMA regulations and AHJ law enforcement practices and policies regarding weapons
  - Abide by DHS/FEMA regulations regarding handling sensitive information
  - Follow prescribed DHS/FEMA direction regarding dress code and personal protective equipment
  - Not possess or use alcohol or illegal drugs
  - Only procure equipment through appropriate channels
  - Not remove property from an operational work site for personal gain or accept gratuities
  - Demonstrate proper respect for public and private property
  - Demonstrate proper respect for other assigned personnel