

TECHNICAL SEARCH SPECIALIST

I. **Functional Description**

The Technical Search Specialist is responsible for performing the technical search function of the task force incident operation. The Technical Search Specialist reports directly to the Search Team Manager.

II. **Description of Duties**

The Technical Search Specialist is responsible for the following:

- Searching structures in US&R environments or other locations indicated in the mission assignment, utilizing appropriate technical search equipment and techniques
- Documenting and marking locations of victims, potential victims and hazards
- Making assessments through the use of technical search equipment
- Land navigation and site mapping
- Cooperating with and assisting other search and rescue resources
- Providing accountability, maintenance, and minor repairs of all issued equipment
- 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 Technical Search Specialists in the National US&R Response System. The intent of these requirements is to select competent personnel, fully capable of providing state-of-the-art search techniques and tactics required, in the urban disaster environment.

IV. **Required Training**

The Technical Search Specialist shall adhere to the following:

- Meet all general training requirements
- Complete the National US&R Response System Technical Search Specialist Course
- Complete all technical rescue skill sets and additional required rope rescue skills as identified Appendix D at the end of this manual

V. **Recommended Training**

The Technical Search Specialist should complete the following:

- A National US&R Response System Canine Search Specialist course
- The National US&R Response System Search Planning & Management Course
- Meet requirements of NFPA 1006 (2008) Technical Rescuer Levels 1 & 2 (Excluding Chapter 1 Administration: Section 1.3.3)
 - Chapter 5: Job Performance Requirements
 - Chapter 6: Rope Rescue (Levels 1 & 2)
 - Chapter 7: Confined Space Rescue (Levels 1 & 2)
 - Chapter 8: Trench Rescue (Levels 1 & 2)
 - Chapter 10: Vehicle and Machinery Rescue (Levels 1 & 2)
 - Chapter 11: Surface Water Rescue (Levels 1 & 2)
- The National US&R Response System Structural Collapse Technician Course or FEMA/DHS approved equivalent
- A canine emergency field care course