

Prospective Applicant FAQ

Where can I find an application?

The application link is located at the bottom of the Join Page on the Task Force website.

When are applications due?

Applications to become a member of Texas A&M Task Force may be submitted each year from July 1-September 1.

Please note: Applications for Engineers and Doctors may be submitted year-round.

What positions does the Task Force accept applications for?

The Task Force accepts applications for the following positions:

- *Canine Search Specialist*
- *Communications Specialist*
- *Hazmat Specialist*
- *Heavy Equipment and Rigging Specialist*
- *Logistics Specialist*
- *Medical Specialist*
- *Medical Team Manager (Doctor)*
- *Rescue Specialist*
- *Structural Specialist (Engineer)*
- *Technical Information Specialist*
- *Technical Search Specialist*

Where can I find descriptions for each position on the Task Force?

Descriptions for each of the positions listed above can be found on the 'Join' page on the Task Force website

How many positions can I apply for?

You may apply for a maximum of two positions each year.

Do I need to submit a separate application for each position I apply for?

Yes, you need to submit an application for each position you wish to apply for.

Do I need to have completed all the training listed on the position description before I apply?

The training courses listed below must be completed prior to applying. Include the certificate from each course with your application.

IS-100

IS-200

IS-700

IS-800

Bloodborne Pathogens

Where can I get the required training?

If you have not completed any of these required courses, we have included a link for the required course. All the courses are free and can be completed online.

IS-100 Course link: <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-100.c>

IS-200 Course link: <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-200.c>

IS-700 Course link: <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-700.b>

IS-800 Course link: <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-800.c>

Bloodborne Pathogens link:

<http://www.onlinecprcertification.net/free-course.php?id=4&page=1&cid=95&type=ch>

Is there additional recommended training (general training recommendations for every position)?

Yes! The following courses are recommended for all positions.

First Responder Operations Level for Hazardous Materials (OSHA 29 CFR, 1910.120)

Confined Space Rescue Awareness (NFPA 1670 Awareness Level)

Water Rescue Awareness (NFPA 1670 Awareness Level)

Structural Collapse Awareness (NFPA 1670 Awareness Level)

If you have completed the courses listed above, please submit the certificates with your application. The certificate should state that the course was either OSHA 29 CFR 1910.120 compliant or NFPA 1670 compliant

Is there additional required or recommended training for specific positions with the team?

Yes. Read through the information below to see if the position you are interested in requires additional training prior to application.

Hazardous Materials Specialist applicants must be a certified Hazardous Materials Technician (OSHA 29 CFR 1910.120)

*Medical Specialist applicants must be **one** of the following*

- *Currently certified as an EMT-P (National Registry)*
- *Physician Assistant*
- *Registered Nurse-Practitioner*
- *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 or Emergency Medical Technician – Paramedic Standards or State certification requirements and actively practices advanced pre-hospital life support*

We recommend that applicants for the position of Medical Specialist be certified and maintain the following: BTLS, ACLS, and PALS regimens (or equivalent).

Medical Team Manager applicants must be a licensed physician who is emergency medicine residency-trained and/or Board-certified in emergency medicine and actively practicing clinical emergency medicine and having experience with pre-hospital care OR be a currently licensed physician with current ACLS, ATLS, PALS certification (or equivalent) whose medical activities include clinical medicine and or pre-hospital care.

Rescue Specialist applicants should have completed the following recommended courses:

- *Technical Rescuer Level 1 & 2 (NFPA 1006, 2008) including Rope Rescue (Level 1 & 2), Confined Space Rescue (Level 1&2), Trench Rescue (Levels 1 & 2), Vehicle and Machinery Rescue (Levels 1&2)*
- *Structural Collapse Technician Course or FEMA/DHS Equivalent*
- *Current Certification in basic first aid for first responders or equivalent*

Structures Specialist applicants must be the following:

- *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 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 stats may be considered as having equivalent certification, based on requirements listed above*
- *Must 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*

What certificates should I submit with my application?

You must submit the certificates for IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800 and bloodborne pathogens.

If the position you are applying for requires specific certifications or registrations, please submit them with your application.

If you have completed any of the recommended courses listed in general requirements or for a specific position, please submit the certificates.

How do I submit my application?

Applications are submitted online.

How do I know my application was received?

You will be notified via email when your application has been received.

What happens after my application is submitted?

Completed applications will be given to the appropriate Task Force Managers for review. The best qualified applicants will be invited to participate in the interview process.

When will I find out if I have been granted an interview?

All applicants will be notified by October.

I have been granted an interview, what happens next?

You will be contacted by Task Force staff to schedule your interview.

What happens after interviews?

Following interviews successful applicants' medical status will be reviewed following a required Task Force Physical.

Are there medical conditions that could prevent me from obtaining medical clearance for deployment?

- Certain cardiac disorders with abnormal electrocardiogram or abnormal cardiac stress testing
- Certain seizure disorders
- Kidney dysfunction with glomerular filtration rate of <60 mL/min/1.73m²
- Immune deficiency conditions both disease or treatment related
- Medications that affect platelet function or increase bleeding times

Are any vaccinations required for members of Texas A&M Task Force?

Yes, the following vaccinations are required.

- Diphtheria/Tetnus (or Tetnus only if there is a contra indication to Diphtheria)
- Hep A
- Hep B
- Measles/Mumps/Rubella (If born after 1957)
- Polio