

Canine Search Specialist

Task Force Position Description

A. Functional Description

The Canine Search Specialist is primarily responsible for supporting the search function with the canine resource. They are also responsible for the care and welfare of the canine during mission deployment. The Canine Search Specialist reports to the Search Team Manager.

B. Description of Duties

The Canine Search Specialist is responsible for the following:

1. Searching disaster environments and locations indicated in the mission assignment using appropriate canine search equipment and techniques
2. Documenting results of the canine search, including locations of alerts and routing them appropriately
3. Understanding and accurately interpreting canine behavior, including knowledge of the capabilities and limitations of search canines
4. Care and welfare of his/her canine including assisting the medical team with the canine's medical care
5. Performing additional tasks or duties as assigned

C. Position Requirements and Criteria

Individuals who meet the following requirements and criteria will be eligible to become Canine Search Specialists in the National US&R Response System. The intent of these requirements are to provide canine teams capable of using the search techniques and tactics required to support the search function with the canine resource in various disaster environments.

D. Required Training

The Canine Search Specialist shall adhere to the following:

1. Complete all Administrative and General Training requirements
2. Have current certification as a National US&R Canine Search Specialist Team member
3. Complete the *FEMA US&R Canine Search Specialist - Instructor Led Training* (Course Code: 9P1331)
4. Complete the *FEMA US&R GPS Awareness Level Course* (Course Code: 9G6200)
5. Complete the required technical rescue skill sets and additional required rope rescue skills as defined in Appendix A of this Annex

E. Recommended Training

The Canine Search Specialist should complete the following:

1. The *FEMA US&R Technical Search Specialist - Instructor-Led Training* (Course Code: 9P1231)
2. The *FEMA US&R GPS Operations Level Course* (Course Code: 9G6210)
3. A canine emergency field care course

Communications Specialist Task Force Position Description (continued)

E. Recommended Training

The Communications Specialist should complete the following:

1. *FEMA US&R Communications Specialist - Networking Workshop* (Course Code: 9P4540)
2. *Incident Communications Technician (COMT)* course (Course Code: NWCG S-258)
3. *Communications Unit Leader* course (Course Code: NWCG S-358) and/or *NIMS ICS All-Hazards Position Specific Communications Unit Leader* course (Course Code: E/L-969), which is currently required for IST Communications Unit Leader position.
4. *Advanced Communications Specialist Qualification* course (Course Code: ACOM US&R), which is a MERS qualification process
5. The 2005 or later version of the *FEMA US&R Response System Communications Specialist Course* including the Non-Disclosure of Sensitive Information Training.