

City of Lincoln Fire & Rescue Urban Search & Rescue Task Force

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has developed an Urban Search and Rescue network for the United States. This network consists of 28 task forces available to respond nationwide in the event of a Presidential disaster declaration. A task force consists of trained, equipped, and organized personnel capable of conducting Urban Search and Rescue. The task forces have been designed to include search, rescue, medical, and technical elements to provide an integrated, self-contained approach to locating, extricating, and treating victims.

Activation of task forces under FEMA is predicated on a request to the President of the United States. Within six hours of activation, a task force, will assemble for airlift or ground transportation to the disaster scene. Activations will not exceed fourteen days.

Composition

Seventy person tactical unit for search and rescue operations.

Multi disciplinary organization:

- * Search element
- * Rescue element
- * Medical element
- * Technical support element
- * HazMat support element

Totally self sufficient for the first 72 hours of operations includes:

- * Food
- * Water
- * Shelter
- * Fuel
- * Equipment
- * Equipment maintenance & support

Full equipment cache to support the task force's operations.

Capable of integration into local disaster response operation as a stand alone asset or part of the local incident response.



Capabilities/Limitations

Capable of round the clock search and rescue operations (two - 12 hour shifts.)

Search options include:

- * Physical
- * Canine
- * Acoustic
- * Seismic
- * Video
- * Fiberoptic

Rescue operations in various types of structures:

- * Wood/steel frame
- * Unreinforced masonry
- * Reinforced concrete

Sophisticated medical treatment capabilities limited to:

- * Entrapped victims
- * Task force members

Technical support capabilities for task force operations:

- * Structural integrity assessment
- * Hazardous materials assessment
- * Liaison with heavy equipment/crane operators

Communications capability

- * Land based cellular phone
- * Satellite cellular phone
- * Land line phone system
- * Independent portable radio communication system
 - * Handheld radio's
 - * Portable base stations
 - * Portable repeaters
 - * Aircraft radio communications

Capabilities to Operate in a Contaminated Environment

- * NBC Monitoring/Sampling Equipment
- * Search & Recon in a Contaminated Environment
- * Rescue Operations in a Contaminated Environment
- * Decontamination

Task Force Support Requirements

Local Operations Transportation

- * Vehicles/aircraft needed for the movement of the task force and cache
- * Medical transport required for after rescue victims
- * Evacuation required for any injured task force member

Communications

- * Host jurisdiction radio to interface with local communications
- * Reporting requirements to the local incident command post
- * Communications with medical Transport

Initial strategic/tactical briefing

- * If available, copies of past/current/future local incident action plans are desired
- * Strategic/tactical assignment clearly identified for the task force

Other Considerations

- * Identify local jurisdiction's media procedures (info release, interviewers, etc)
- * Appropriate area maps, building plans, or other information

NETF1 Partial & Full Team Deployments: Hurricane Emily, 1993; Oklahoma City Bombing, 1995; Hurricane Opal, 1995; Hurricane Bertha, 1996; Atlanta Olympics, 1996; San Juan, Puerto Rico, 1996; DeBruce Grain, 1998; Oklahoma Tornado's, 1999; Pentagon, 2001; World Trade Centers, 2001; Salt Lake City Winter Olympics, 2002; Space Shuttle Columbia, 2003; Hurricane Katrina, 2005; Greensburg Tornado, 2007; Hurricane Dean, 2007; Hurricane Dolly 2008; Hurricane Gustav 2008; Hurricane Ike 2008; Presidential Inauguration, 2009; Haiti Earthquake 2010., Moore Oklahoma Tornado 2013, Boulder Colorado Flooding 2013.