

URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM

NUMBER: OPS-36

SOG DATE: 12/8/2020

XREF: N/A

I. PURPOSE:

This SOG establishes operating guidelines for the CAL FIRE/San Luis Obispo Urban Search and Rescue Team (US&R Team).

II. AUTHORITY:

- NFPA 1670 - Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Rescue Incidents 1999
- NFPA 1006 - Standard for Rescue Technician Professional Qualifications 2000
- FIRESCOPE ICS-SF-SAR 020-1
- FIRESCOPE ICS-US&R-120-1
- FIRESCOPE ICS US&R 120-2
- OES Urban Search and Rescue Program (Rev. 4-02)

III. SCOPE:

- All SCH A&B Employees, PCFs, and Programs
 State Funded County Fire Pismo Beach Los Osos
 ECC PCFs All Agencies Dispatched by ECC

The US&R Team is a multi-disciplinary technical rescue team from San Luis Obispo County emergency response agencies administered by CAL FIRE/San Luis Obispo, and designed to assist with rescues beyond the scope of engine company personnel. The types of rescues include, but are not limited to, Swift Water Rescues, Flood Rescues, Low and High Angle Rescues, Trench Rescues, near-shore Ocean Rescues (including Surf Rescues), Structural Collapse Rescues, and other technical rescues that require skills, knowledge, and equipment beyond those of initial attack resources.

IV. DEFINITIONS:

- A. Urban Search and Rescue (US&R): US&R involves the location, rescue (extrication), and initial medical stabilization of victims trapped in confined spaces. Structural collapse is the most common cause of trapped victims, but victims may also be trapped in transportation accidents, mines and collapsed trenches. US&R is considered a “multi-hazard” discipline, as it may be

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- needed for a variety of emergencies or disasters, including earthquakes, hurricanes, typhoons, storms and tornadoes, floods, dam failures, technological accidents, terrorist activities, and hazardous materials releases. The events may be slow in developing (as in the case of hurricanes) or sudden (as in the case of earthquakes).
- B. US&R Type 2 Company: A total of six (6) rescuers (including leader) plus a US&R Medium tool and equipment compliment and a vehicle. At the US&R Medium Level, this company represents the minimum capability to conduct safe and effective search and rescue operations at structure collapse incidents involving the collapse or failure of reinforced and non-reinforced masonry (URM), concrete tilt-up and heavy construction. (Personnel also capable and equipped at the Basic and Light Operational Levels.)
 - C. US&R Type 2 Strike Team: A combination of two (2) US&R Type 2 companies and a leader, for a total of 13 personnel.
 - D. Swift Water/Flood type 2 Search and Rescue Team (SWFR): A total of six (6) rescuers (including squad leader) plus an OES Type 2 tool and equipment complement. The SWFR Company can conduct search and rescue operations in standing or moving water where technical expertise and equipment are required. This includes managed search operations, power watercraft, helicopter transport, and technical rope system qualifications.
 - E. Swift Water/Flood type 1 Search and Rescue Team: A total of 14 rescuers (including two squad leaders and two managers) plus an OES Type 1 tool and equipment complement. This team meets Type 2, 3, and 4 requirements as well as providing ALS and personnel/equipment transportation capabilities.

V. GUIDELINES:

A. Organization, Selection, And Goals

1. The US&R Team will consist of 25 individuals, including 15 CAL FIRE employees from other San Luis Obispo County fire and emergency agencies. When dispatched, the US&R Team will respond to technical rescues to assist ongoing incident activities or to assume operations level and safety officer assignments as an interdisciplinary team well-versed in swift or flood water, ocean, high-angle, trench, confined space, and urban search and rescues
2. Goals of the US&R
 - a. Meet ICS staffing requirements for two (2) US&R Type 2 Rescue

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Companies or 1 US&R Type 2 Strike Team. The Strike Team Leader must have successfully completed SFM Rescue Systems 1 in addition to normal Strike Team Leader prerequisites.

- b. Provide input regarding ICS equipment complement for one (2) US&R Type II vehicles.
 - c. Meet ICS staffing guidelines for two (2) SWFR Type 2 Teams or one (1) SWFR Type I Rescue Team.
 - d. Provide direction, assistance, and training to CAL FIRE and other personnel in operational and awareness level technical rescue training.
 - e. Provide input regarding FEMA, OES, and other grants as needed/available.
 - f. Maintain the skills of CAL FIRE employees by providing access to specialized training.
3. US&R Team members will be selected by the Division Chief in Charge of the team. Candidates for the US&R Team will be selected by a skills assessment as well as a resume review based on the following.
- a. Leadership or extensive knowledge in one or more of the following areas: swift water, ocean, cliff side, trench, confined space, and collapsed building rescue.
 - b. Technical rescue instruction experience in one or more of the following areas: swift water, ocean, cliff side, trench, confined space, and collapsed building rescue.
 - c. Additional training, education, abilities, and/or experience that the candidate possesses that would enhance the overall capabilities of the team.
 - d. The ability and reliability to respond to drills, training, and technical rescue incidents throughout the county on a routine basis.
4. The Chief will designate one team member as the Team Leader. The Team Leader will designate one member as the US&R Team Training Officer and another as the Team Recorder. The Division Chief in charge of the US&R Team will supervise the Team Leader for all US&R related issues.

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B. Alert and Dispatch

1. The team will be dispatched via radio and alpha page by ECC.
2. In addition to the standard response, the US&R Team will be automatically dispatched to the following emergencies: high-angle rescues, large animal rescues, surf rescues, swift water rescues, flood rescues, trench rescues, confined space rescues, train derailments involving multiple train cars, and collapsed buildings (Urban Search and Rescue incidents). The team may be dispatched to low-angle rescues at the request of engine company personnel or by the ECC based on knowledge of the incident.
3. The Incident Commander or ECC may request the assistance of the US&R Team, as he/she deems appropriate.
4. Team members may respond in private or government vehicles as appropriate. Upon responding, they will advise the ECC.
5. On-duty CAL FIRE personnel will not respond to a dispatch without having a replacement in place for their work assignment and their immediate supervisor's or Duty Chief's permission.
6. Off-duty CAL FIRE personnel may respond as appropriate, and compensated per the MOU.
7. If any incident involving the US&R Team extends beyond the Initial Attack phase into the Extended Attack or Major Incident phase, the Team Leader and the Duty Chief will take appropriate steps to recall team members who are off duty in order to replace team members committed to engines or other assignments.

C. At-Scene Procedures

1. The first-arriving team member will immediately contact the Incident Commander and become the US&R Team Leader and, in the case of responses to other jurisdictions, the CAL FIRE Agency Representative. He/she will remain in this capacity throughout the entire incident or until either reassigned by the Incident Commander, or relieved by a CAL FIRE chief officer.
2. The first-arriving US&R Team member may also serve as a Technical Specialist, Team Accountability Officer, and/or Safety Officer at the direction of the Incident Commander.

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D. Team Standby

1. The Duty Chief may special-call members of the US&R Team back to duty for standby, such as for the duration of declared urban and small stream flood advisory, following an earthquake, or other events with high potential for technical rescue.
2. When the US&R Team or components of the US&R Team are placed on standby, the Duty Chief may assign the Team Leader or another qualified team member to act as the liaison between the US&R Team and ECC and/or Duty Chief. The Team Leader will maintain contact with team members to ensure a coordinated response to each incident as well as provide a sufficient response to new incidents.

E. Training

1. The team will train once per month as a group, on duty.
2. After selection to the US&R Team, members will be expected to pass the courses below:

TRAINING	REQUIRED FOR	
• SFM Rescue Systems 1	US&R TYPE 3	US&R TYPE 2
• SFM Rescue Systems 2		US&R TYPE 2
• SFM Rescue Systems 3/SCT		US&R TYPE 2
• SFM Confined Space Technician		US&R TYPE 2
• SFM Trench Rescue Technician		US&R TYPE 2
• Rope Rescue Technician	SWFR TYPE 2	US&R TYPE 2
• Hazardous Materials Operations	SWFR TYPE 2	
• Large Animal Rescue Operations	SWFR TYPE 2	
• SLC Surf Rescue Operations	SWFR TYPE 2	
• SLC Swift Water Rescue Technician	SWFR TYPE 2	

3. Team Members must annually re-certify in the above classes to perform rescues in those disciplines.
4. The US&R Team Training Officer will maintain a record of types of drills and the attendance of each team member. A copy of the drill record will be sent to the CAL FIRE Training Bureau and the Team Recorder.
5. The US&R Team Training Officer will submit recommendations of training

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needs to the Team Leader every November 1st for the annual training schedule.

6. Documentation of initial training (copy of certification) for CAL FIRE employees will be maintained by CAL FIRE Training Bureau as well as by the US&R Team Training Officer.
7. Documentation (CAL FIRE IIPP 6 or equivalent) of training for CAL FIRE employees that will re-certify the member in any of the above disciplines will be maintained by the CAL FIRE Training Bureau as well as by the US&R Team Training Officer.
8. Non-CAL FIRE members will maintain their records of initial and re-certification training per their department policy as well as submit a copy to the US&R Team Training Officer.
9. Team members will have high priority with the Training Bureau for additional specialty rescue courses.
10. The Team Leader and the Division Chief leader, in coordination with the member's supervisor, will approve all training for CAL FIRE team members prior to training.
11. The Chief must approve all US&R Team training outside the San Luis Obispo County.

F. Other Agency Requests

1. Requests for the US&R Team by other jurisdictions within and outside of San Luis Obispo County will be placed through normal channels.
2. Requests outside of San Luis Obispo County must be approved by the Duty Chief.
3. The Duty Chief will be advised anytime the US&R Team is assigned to another agency.
4. The Duty Chief may consider sending a US&R team member as an Assistant Strike Team Leader on all OES Engine Strike Teams expecting a US&R component to their duties. The individual will provide technical expertise to the STL as well as other duties as required.

G. Team Member Performance Evaluation

1. The Team Leader will evaluate team members verbally or in writing on a

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routine basis to create a positive work environment. The evaluations may include, but are not limited to rescue skills and drill and dispatch attendance.

2. All appropriate documentation will be forwarded to the Division Chief in charge of the US&R team.
3. The Deputy Chief will review all written actions of the Team Leader and will inform the Chief of significant actions or recommendations.

H. Team Recorder

1. The Team Recorder will keep an accurate record of attendance to drills and incidents.
2. He/she will ensure that the CAL FIRE Training Bureau has an accurate record of initial and re-certification training. He/she will annually submit a copy of this record to the Team Leader by February 1 of each year.

I. Team Issued Gear

1. Each team member will be issued the following equipment by their respective department at their department's expense.
 - Personal Flotation Device (PFD) with Pig Tail
 - Water-proof Strobe Light
 - Knife
 - Water Whistle
 - Surf Rescue Helmet (Gath or equivalent)
 - Rescue / Water Rescue Helmet (Team Wendy Backcountry)
 - Rescue Buoy or Can
 - Fins
 - Throw Bag with 70 feet of rope and Carabineer
 - Type 3 Full Body Harness
 - Hand-Held Radio.
 - Rope and Water Gloves
 - Rescue Gear Bag
 - Dry Suit

VI. ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment A - High-Low Angle Check List
- Attachment B - Confined Space Permit
- Attachment C - Trench Rescue Check List

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE (SOG) MANUAL
CAL FIRE / SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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- Attachment D - Surf Rescue Check List
- Attachment E - Swift Water/Flood Rescue Check List
- Attachment F – Structural Collapse Check List

VII. HISTORY/REVIEW/APPROVAL:

A: Responsible Party: OPERATIONAL CHIEF

B: SOGs Replaced by this SOG: N/A

C: Review cycle: 3 YEARS

D: Date of original SOG: DECEMBER 1997 Unit Chief Approval: 

Date of review/revision: 12/8/20 Unit Chief Approval: _____