

Canine Subgroup



Position: Canine Subgroup Member

Background

Search and rescue operations in the urban disaster environment require the close interaction of all task force elements—search, rescue, medical, and technical personnel—for safe and successful survivor extrications. Search strategy and tactics including the use of canine, technical and physical search is a foundational element of the US&R System. Effective search techniques efficiently lead to the successful location and extrication of survivors. The Canine Subgroup is responsible for developing and maintaining their respective area and integrating them into the System. The members of the group, are chosen based on their management and/or technical expertise to provide advice and recommendations upon which decisions are based. These decisions will be made through consensus, whenever possible.

Under the direction of the Canine Subgroup Leader within the Operations Functional Group in the Advisory Organization, a system wide recruitment for Canine Subgroup members with the knowledge, skills and abilities to assist both the US&R Branch and US&R Task Forces.

Knowledge

- Thorough understanding of disaster search standards, strategies and tactics
 - Thorough understanding of scent theory
 - Thorough understanding of canine search strategy
 - Thorough understanding of the canine certification process
 - Thorough understanding of the canine's role on a US&R Team
- General understanding of all 19 positions and function for Type I US&R Team.
- General understanding of a US&R Incident Support Team (IST)
- General understanding of an Incident Management Team (IMT)
- General understanding of System Program Directives
- Familiarity with the Training Program and Administration Manual (TPAM)

Skills

- Must have attended the CSST Course
- Must have certified a canine to the FEMA standards
- Must have been a FEMA rostered evaluator
- Communicate effectively in writing as appropriate for the needs of the audience.
- Good interpersonal communication skills. Give full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, and asking questions as appropriate.
- Convey information effectively.
- Prioritize work assignments.
- Breakdown complex problems and related information to develop procedures
- Utilize computer programs such as: Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Visio, and Adobe products

Abilities

- Complete the FEMA US&R Canine Search Specialist Course
- Qualified as a Search Team Manager rostered on one of 28 FEMA US&R Task Forces
- Qualified as a Canine Search Specialist rostered on one of 28 FEMA US&R Task Forces
- Ability to communicate effectively with multidisciplinary US&R audiences to promote safe and successful survivor extrications
- Ability to speak and lead large groups through complex rescue procedures.
- Member must have support from his/her sponsoring agency to fulfill role which may involve travel.