

Water Rescue Specialist

Task Force Position Description

A. Functional Description

The Water Rescue Specialist is responsible for performing water operations of the task force incident operation. The Water Rescue Specialist reports directly to a Rescue Squad Officer.

B. Description of Duties

The Water Rescue Specialist is responsible for the following:

1. Implementing technical skills and operating equipment necessary for completing the water rescue portion of the action plan in a safe manner
2. Performing supervised water operations and providing periodic progress reports as needed
3. Operating and performing routine field maintenance of watercraft and equipment
4. Ensuring accountability and maintenance for all issued equipment
5. Performing additional tasks or duties as assigned
6. Evaluating and modifying water operational tactics as needed

C. Position Requirements and Criteria

Individuals who meet the following requirements and criteria will be eligible to become Water Rescue Specialists in the DHS/FEMA National US&R Response System. The intent of these requirements is to select personnel who are fully capable of providing the water operational tactics and techniques required in a disaster environment.

D. Required Training

The Water Rescue Specialist shall adhere to the following:

1. Meet all Administrative and General training requirements
2. The *FEMA US&R GPS Awareness Level Course* (Course Code: 9G6200)
3. Meet the requirements of NFPA 1006 Technical Rescuer at the Technician or Level 2
 - 3-1 Job Performance Requirements
 - 3-2 Rope Rescue (Technician or Level 2)
 - 3-3 Surface Water Rescue (Technician or Level 2)
 - 3-4 Swiftwater Rescue (Technician or Level 2)
4. Obtain a safe boating certificate by the National Safe Boating Council website or equivalent
5. Boat operator requirements as outlined in the *Water Rescue Specialist Position Task Book*
6. Complete a minimum swim requirement. Example of a recommended swim requirement: Swim of 500 yards without stopping using a forward stroke and without using swim aids such as dive mask, swim goggles, fins, snorkel, or flotation device. Stopping or standing up in the shallow end of the pool at any point during the exercise will constitute a failure. To be completed within 19 minutes. (NFPA 1670, Annex A, 1670-51 Stamina Exercise #1)