

OHIO TASK FORCE ONE RECRUITMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Ohio Task Force One (OH-TF1) is one of 28 Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) teams that function within the National US&R Response System managed by FEMA. OH-TF1 became operational in the spring of 1997. Prior to the events of September 11, 2001, its primary mission was to provide a heavy rescue response to structural collapses resulting from natural and manmade disasters such as earthquakes, tornados, explosions, and hurricanes. Following 9/11, the task forces found themselves at the forefront of the federal government's response to terrorism as well. In addition to its national response commitments, OH-TF1 is also a State of Ohio rescue response asset that has responded to natural disasters such as the Xenia tornado of 2001.

As a result of the terrorist attacks of 9/11, FEMA has established new deployment and staffing standards for all task forces. Currently, OH-TF1 is actively recruiting new members. Within the coming year, OH-TF1 expects to recruit 60 additional personnel. Several of the specialty positions within the task force that are in need of personnel are rescue, logistics, search, medical, structural, planning and hazmat.

FEMA requires the following training to be deployable as a US&R **Communication Specialist**:

- CPR/ Basic First Aid or EMT Certification
- NIIMS Basic ICS Course (I-200), or equivalent
- Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD)
- Haz Mat First Responder Operational Level, 29 CFR 1910-120
- WMD Awareness (e.g. DOJ, NFA)
- NIIMS ICS I-358 course (optional)
- FEMA Orientation Training
- FEMA Communications Specialist Training
- Respirator Training (29CFR1910.134)
- US&R WMD Enhanced Operations

A successful Communication Specialist applicant will possess, as a minimum, documented and current training in CPR/first-aid or EMT certification, basic ICS, , WMD Awareness, and Haz Mat First Responder Operations. Applicants are subject to a background investigation and interviews by various levels of task force management. The granting of full task force membership status is contingent upon approval of the planning team managers and the task force command staff. Upon appointment, the task force will provide a "FEMA Orientation Course", respirator training, and "US&R WMD Enhanced Operations". "Rescue Systems I" or equivalent training, the Structural Collapse Course and FEMA Communication Specialist Training would be completed as the classes were offered through the task force or FEMA. There is no monetary compensation for training or other task force activities unless the task force is activated by FEMA for response to an emergency. All FEMA and task force trainings are free of charge to the team member.