



URBAN SEARCH & RESCUE NATIONAL STANDARD

Executive Summary

The Urban Search and Rescue Standard was developed through a series of working group meetings with stakeholders from government, business and other sectors. Scalable yet rigorous, the Urban Search and Rescue Standard establishes criteria for the administration, operational, and logistics readiness of Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Resources in support of the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System.

Because of concerns about catastrophic disasters and the impact on urban and/or rural environments, the nation's leaders and citizens acknowledge a need to efficiently and effectively strengthen the disaster response capabilities for US&R Resources. The Urban Search and Rescue Standard has been collaboratively developed, serving as a compendium of national standards for administration, operations, and logistical readiness. The standard provides a means for strategic and operational improvement of US&R Resources, culminating in safer, enhanced capabilities required for an efficient and effective response.

The Urban Search and Rescue Standard is a scalable yet rigorous national standard for local, tribal, territorial, regional, state, national, non-governmental, private sector and international US&R Resources. It has been collaboratively developed through a series of work group meetings with stakeholders from all levels of government, business, and other sectors. The Urban Search and Rescue Standard is dynamic and will continue to evolve to represent the best-combined knowledge, skills and abilities of US&R Resources nationwide.

With the signing of House Bill 2097 on May 21, 2015, the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) officially became the coordinating agency with responsibility for the Kansas Search & Rescue Response System. The OSFM intends to use the US&R National Standard as the guiding document in the development of US&R resources in the State of Kansas. *Any modifications to the original standard, including the position descriptions, were made to customize the standard to the State of Kansas, and intended to meet or exceed the requirements of the national standard. Some elements of this standard apply specifically to FEMA Type 1 & 2 US&R task forces only.*

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Urban Search & Rescue Standard

Chapter 1: Administration

1.1: Purpose

The *Urban Search and Rescue Standard* establish the minimum acceptable performance criteria for the management, operations and logistical readiness elements required of a US&R Resource. These standards are intended to provide a foundation of sound practices in the performance of the US&R mission.

1.2: Application

This document applies to any organization having a US&R capability seeking alignment with the National US&R Response System readiness requirements and those US&R Resources seeking enhancements through the application of a recognized assessment standard for certification and validation.

Chapter 2: Definitions

2.1 Activation. The status of the US&R Resource placed at the direction, control and funding of the requesting authority in response to, or in anticipation of a response.

2.2 Activation Order. The Authority Having Jurisdiction communication placing the US&R Resources under the direction, control, and funding of the requesting authority.

2.3 Advisory. An Advisory Notification is issued for information purposes only and does not require formal action. It provides a means for sharing information concerning events that could develop into a disaster situation.

2.4 Alert (Alert Order). The Alert or Alert Order is issued when an event has occurred or is imminent, and that may require the response of US&R assets. Additionally, US&R Resources may be notified or advised to standby for deployment, in a timely manner.

2.5 Applicant. A US&R Resource that seeks to fulfill the requirements for certification and has submitted a certification application.

2.6 Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ). An organization, office, or individual having statutory responsibility for enforcing the requirements of a code or standard or for approving equipment, materials, and installation or a procedure (NFPA 1600). For the specific purposes of this standard, the relevant AHJ is the Federal, State, or a jurisdiction within the State having responsibility for preparedness, response, and recovery based upon law, statute, or ordinance.

2.7 Cooperative Agreement. A legal instrument between local, state, tribal, or federal agencies and the Sponsoring Agency that provides funds to accomplish a public purpose.

2.8 Disaster Search Canine. A dog that has successfully completed the FEMA US&R Canine Search Team Certification Evaluation (CSTCE) or equivalent certification.

2.9 Disaster Canine Search Team. A disaster search canine and handler who have successfully completed the FEMA US&R CSTCE or equivalent certification.

2.10 Deployable personnel. Rostered members of the US&R Resource who have completed all general and position-specific required training, according to the US&R position descriptions, and are administratively deployable.

2.11 Enabling Authority. Governmental and/or organizational documentation providing and establishing the formal creation of management, administration, operation, and sustainment of a US&R resource. Enabling authorities for the US&R Resource may be established at any level of government or organizational entity and include multi-jurisdiction structures. Enabling authorities may be vested in documentation including, but not limited to, laws, rules, regulations, policy, contractual and/or governmental agreements, etc.

2.12 Fully qualified. Rostered members of the US&R Resource who have completed all general and position-specific training and are administratively fully qualified.

2.13 Management process. May include human resources, information technology, facilities and other support functions (i.e. legal, medical, public affairs).

2.14 Memorandum of Agreement/Understanding (MOA/MOU). Is a document written between parties to cooperate on an agreed upon project or meet an agreed objective. The purpose of an MOA/MOU is to have a written understanding of the agreement between parties.

2.15 Sponsoring Agency (SA). A State, Local Government or other entity empowered through enabling authority that administers a US&R Resource.

2.16 Succession Development Policies. An established policy that includes administrative procedures and guidelines for the identification, training, and development of supervisory and management level personnel for the purposes of maintaining the long term sustainability of the administrative and operational readiness of the Task Force or Team.

2.17 Training and Exercise Plan. A training and exercise plan to include continuing education covering each of the functional areas, as well as certification training for new members, succession training for supervisory and managerial levels, and the maintenance of expiring certifications. The training plan will include annual mobilization exercises and operational readiness exercises. All currency related certificated program or Technical/Specialist training that seeks regular retention skills sets requires exercise of continuing education.

2.18 Urban Search and Rescue (US&R). US&R Resources provide coordinated, all-hazards capability for locating, extricating, and providing initial medical stabilization of survivors of structural collapse, and conduct other life-saving operations. *A US&R Resource is defined as any task force or team that is organized and typed according to the NIMS Resource Typing Definitions for Mass Search and Rescue Operations.*

Chapter 3: US&R National Standard Elements

3.1: Program Management

Standard 3.1.1

The Sponsoring Agency and/or Authority Having Jurisdiction (SA/AHJ) has documented management processes delivered through enabling authorities that establishes and provides for the readiness and response capabilities of the US&R Resource. The US&R Resource shall define or describe who/what gives the Task Force the authority.

Standard 3.1.2

The enabling authorities of the SA and/or AHJ have identified the agency, department, organization or office with the authority to manage the operations, maintenance and sustainment of the US&R Resource and shall meet all applicable reporting deadlines. If enabling authorities are established through multi-jurisdictional and/or multi-authority administrative structure; must meet the requirements of standards for Program Management 3.1.1 through 3.1.4.

Standard 3.1.2.1

The SA and/or AHJ shall have personnel identified who are assigned for the management and administration of the US&R Resource that conducts supervisory, administrative, training, and logistical duties. The SA and/or AHJ shall determine personnel resources necessary for management and administrative duties outlined above.

Standard 3.1.3

The enabling authorities of the SA and/or AHJ establish and implement methods for management, evaluation, and revision or corrective action utilized for/by the US&R Resource.

Standard 3.1.4

The US&R Resource has an established and current multi-year strategic plan. The US&R Resource has a documented schedule and an evaluation process that incorporates criteria established in 3.2 through 3.7.

Standard 3.1.5

The management structure shall have an established and ongoing process that provides for coordinated input into the sustainment of the US&R Resource.

Standard 3.1.6

The US&R Resource shall have a promulgated policy document detailing US&R Resource membership and establish a routine schedule and methodology to ensure membership rosters are current, status of members is continuously reviewed, training requirements are met, and members are removed from resource rosters when warranted and appropriate.

Standard 3.1.6.1

The US&R Resource shall provide complete medical evaluations and provide supporting documentation of required immunizations. Medical evaluations shall be conducted for each task force member based on requirements of the SA and/or AHJ. Each task force member must have a current Fit for Deployment form dated and signed by the examining physician on file.

Standard 3.1.6.2

The US&R Resource shall have a process in accordance with the SA and/or AHJ policies for verifying task force members meet the necessary license, certification, or other professional qualification requirements of their assigned position at time of deployment. The US&R Resource shall ensure that the documentation for certifications and licenses is on file to verify currency.

Standard 3.1.6.3

Records are maintained on a retention schedule established by the US&R Resource.

Standard 3.1.6.4

The US&R Resource shall maintain a roster of fully qualified personnel that is two deep in each functional position in accordance with the appropriate position descriptions. A Type I and II US&R Resource may reduce staffing to 1.5 deep in the following functional positions; Medical Team Manager (minimum of 3), Structural Specialist (minimum of 3), Heavy Equipment Rigging Specialist (minimum of 3), and Canine Search Team (minimum of 6).

3.2: Finance**Standard 3.2.1**

The SA and/or AHJ shall develop and implement financial and management procedures for day-today readiness support and response operations for the US&R Resource.

Standard 3.2.2

Financial and management procedures shall provide for the request, receipt, management, and application of funds available to/for the US&R Resource.

Standard 3.2.3

US&R Resource must include processes and coordinating instructions necessary for the utilization of federal, state, local, tribal, organizational and/or private sector funds and ensure prioritized application of available funding defined by the goals, objectives and milestones established in the enabling authorities and strategic plan.

3.3 Planning and Procedures

Standard 3.3.1

The US&R Resource shall have a formal planning process that incorporates key stakeholder engagement in the development of a Strategic Plan, Mobilization Plan, Administrative Manual, Operations Manual, Training Plan, and Equipment Management Plan. The review/update process is recorded and documented on a schedule established by the US&R Resource.

Standard 3.3.2

The Strategic Plan shall be a multi-year plan, utilizing national, state, local and/or tribal objectives and milestones.

The plan shall include the following items:

- 1) Mission and Vision of the US&R Resource;
- 2) Core sustaining values;
- 3) Strategic Readiness Objectives;
- 4) Training/deployment standards, field exercises, readiness evaluations;
- 5) Cache equipment, maintenance, storage and accountability;
- 6) Member's health, safety, security, succession development policies; and
- 7) Financial considerations of the US&R Resource.

Standard 3.3.3

The Administrative Manual shall identify the US&R Resource's policies and procedures and include information on or reference to the following items:

- 1) Member recruitment, appointment, assignment, and separation policies;
- 2) Reimbursement policies including time and payroll reporting for intra and inter state deployments;
- 3) Travel policies and procedures;
- 4) Position descriptions for program manager and staff;
- 5) Organization charts;
- 6) Issuance and turn-in of personal clothing/protective equipment procedures;
- 7) Worker's compensation procedures;
- 8) Ethics' policies/code of conduct;
- 9) Administrative files to include SA and/or AHJ reports, budgets, grant applications, enabling authority documents (Directives and Memorandums), personnel files, MOA/MOU;
- 10) Audit/inspection policies and procedures;
- 11) Public Relations Activities procedures;
- 12) Family support procedures during deployments;
- 13) Process to request support from SA and/or AHJ functions;
- 14) Federal, State, and local Equal Employment Opportunity policies;
- 15) Return to Readiness procedures;
- 16) Post mission medical screening processes including canines and worker compensation claims; and
- 17) After Action Report/Corrective Action Plan Reporting requirements established by the enabling authority.

Standard 3.3.4

The US&R Resource's Operations Manual shall include information on or reference to the following items:

- 1) Describe the composition and capabilities of the US&R Resource;
- 2) Describe the process through which the US&R Resource will be alerted, activated, and deployed;
- 3) Delineate organizational responsibilities and roles;
- 4) Describe the relationship between the US&R Resource and Federal, State, and local resources and other supporting organizations;
- 5) Provide procedures and guidelines for transporting task forces;
- 6) Describe the purpose of the mobilization center, staging areas, and activities related to the task force's occupation of these facilities; and
- 7) Identify the procedures for on-site operations, task force reassignment, and demobilization.

3.4 Incident Management

Standard 3.4.1

The US&R Resource formally adopts the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

Standard 3.4.1.1

The US&R Resource shall have procedures for implementation of the NIMS elements specified in Standard 3.4.1. SA and/or AHJ must report NIMS compliance activities in accordance with state and local NIMS guidance. A certificate of completion or official student transcript for each required course in accordance with current position descriptions must be located in each US&R member's personnel file.

Standard 3.4.2

The US&R Resource shall have procedures for implementation and operation of the NIMS to include enabling authorities for those specific to inter- and intra-agency coordination, integration into existing on-scene command structures, coordination with other higher, lateral and subordinate coordination and command structures, and interoperable communications.

3.5 Alert and Mobilization

Standard 3.5.1

The Mobilization Plan shall identify and assign specific actions for activating a US&R Resource for deployment. The plan shall include the following items:

- 1) 24-hour points of contact;
- 2) Team notification procedures for advisories, alerts, and activations;
- 3) Call-out procedures and methodologies;
- 4) Canine health and authorization procedures;
- 5) Safety and security procedures while enroute;

- 6) Point of assembly and check-in procedures;
- 7) Personnel health and authorization procedures;
- 8) PPE Issuance/Check-in procedure to ensure self-sufficiency for 72 hours;
- 9) Load plans for ground and air deployment;
- 10) Scheduled events to be at Point of Departure within assigned timeframes;
- 11) Convoy plan with appropriate vehicles;
- 12) Deployment plan for cache movement vehicles, command vehicles, and equipment cache;
- 13) Communications procedures with Incident Command and Control Organization and the SA and/or AHJ; and
- 14) Set-up procedures for Base of Operations, including environmental protection measures.

Standard 3.5.2

The US&R Resource has developed and maintains a plan to initiate, receive, and/or relay notifications to alert key decision makers and emergency personnel. This capacity has been designed for the requirements of the jurisdiction's potential operating environments, and includes redundancy to provide alternative means of notification in case of failure in primary system(s).

Standard 3.5.3

Primary and alternate notification systems are regularly tested on an established schedule under operational conditions and results documented and addressed. Repair, maintenance, and testing logs are maintained on a retention schedule established by the US&R Resource.

Standard 3.5.4

The US&R Resource has developed and maintains formal written procedures to ensure personnel familiarity with and the effective operation capabilities and utilization of the notification systems and equipment. Procedures address requirements of the US&R's potential operating environments, clearly delineate any decision making processes or triggering events, and are reviewed and updated regularly on an established schedule. The review/update process is recorded and documented on a schedule established by the US&R Resource.

3.6 Training and Exercises

Standard 3.6.1

The Training and Exercise Plan shall describe planned training and scheduled events to include the following:

- 1) A calendar of national, regional, state, tribal, and local events of relevance to the US&R Resource;
- 2) Periodic training sessions and drills including topics applicable to US&R position functions, dates/times, duration, frequency; and
- 3) Exercises to include equipment deployment.

Standard 3.6.2

The US&R Resource shall ensure personnel are trained in accordance with established US&R position descriptions.

Standard 3.6.3

The US&R Resource shall have a policy for the security of personnel records and maintain a centrally located filing system for General and Position Specific functional training/certification records (completion certificates) for all rostered members.

Standard 3.6.4

The US&R Resource shall maintain the readiness training records of resource members in terms of attendance at meetings, completion of continuing education training including certifications, recertifications and licensures.

Standard 3.6.5

The US&R Resource shall conduct training and exercises to maintain readiness including but not limited to deployment exercises, mobilization exercises, and training sessions/drills. US&R Resource will ensure training and exercise activities meet national standards, requirements, and certifications to operate within a US&R environment.

Standard 3.6.5.1

The US&R Resource shall employ cache equipment in training and mobilization exercises to:

- 1) Implement cache load plans;
- 2) Utilize personal protective equipment (PPE);
- 3) Set up and utilize communication equipment;
- 4) Qualify in the operation, maintenance, and repair of all equipment; and
- 5) Rehabilitate the cache and return to the readiness state.

Standard 3.6.6

A process for after action reporting shall be established and implemented to submit reports within 90 days of completion of the exercise. The process shall track lessons learned and prioritize resolutions of deficiencies within exercise and training events. The products of after action reporting are documented and disseminated within the US&R Resource to include stakeholders and selected partners.

3.7 Resource Management and Logistics

Standard 3.7.1

The SA and/or AHJ shall develop and implement an Equipment Management Plan for day-to-day support and response operations for the US&R Resource.

Standard 3.7.1.1

The US&R Resource Equipment Management Plan shall include a documented process for the regular testing, maintenance, repair, and replacement of equipment on an established schedule and results are documented. The US&R Resource Equipment Management Plan includes a documented process for the retention of logs and records established by the US&R Resource. As appropriate, the US&R Resource utilizes and/or incorporates industry standard practices.

Standard 3.7.2

The US&R Resource shall have a documented process to ensure the equipment cache is consistent with the Equipment and Commodities listed in Chapter 5 of this standard. The US&R Resource shall maintain equipment, commodities, and material consistent with the types and quantities established through the US&R resource type approved equipment and commodities list.

Standard 3.7.2.1

The US&R Resource shall have and maintain documented inventory of resources and commodities consistent with the Equipment and Commodities listed in Chapter 5 of this standard. At a minimum, the US&R Resource will have an inventory that includes resources and commodities that provide for the operational capabilities of the NIMS resource type as defined in Chapter 5.

Standard 3.7.2.2

The US&R Resource shall have and utilize a documented inventory management system to identify, receive, issue, store, kit, track, ship and dispose of items in the cache.

This system includes:

- 1) Support maintenance, replacement, certification, and upgrade of cache items;
- 2) Report usage and support periodic physical inventory accounting and reconciliation;
- 3) Provide property tracking and recording and accurate SA and/or AHJ reporting;
- 4) Established methodology to show different categories of cache equipment;
- 5) Provide access control and physical security for cache items;
- 6) Identify hazardous materials;
- 7) Track the history of assets and equipment including the funding source, ownership, and maintenance through disposition; and
- 8) Manage and maintain inventories, and/or agreements to obtain medical and pharmaceutical cache for human and canine.

Standard 3.7.2.3

The US&R Resource shall have a documented process for identifying shortfalls against the US&R resource type Equipment and Commodities list, and prioritizing and addressing identified deficiencies through a variety of initiatives.

Standard 3.7.3

The US&R Resource's communications systems and equipment have been designed for the requirements of an all hazards environment and include redundancy to provide alternate means of communications in case of failure in primary system(s) and are maintained at a state of readiness for response.

Standard 3.7.3.1

The US&R Resource shall ensure that the Communications capability for resource type (satellite, radio, cellular and information technology systems) is maintained in a state of readiness. Service agreements, as required, shall be in place for immediate use of equipment upon activation.

Standard 3.7.4

Primary and alternate communications systems are regularly tested on an established schedule. Repair, maintenance, and testing logs are maintained on a retention schedule established by the US&R Resource.

Standard 3.7.5

The US&R Resource shall have access to transportation resources capable of deploying all available personnel, caches, and assets during both routine and emergency situations.

Standard 3.7.5.1

The US&R Resource shall provide documentation that outlines processes or systems for determining that:

- 1) All vehicles are maintained and insured in accordance with enabling authorities requirements;
- 2) All vehicles are stored in a safe, secure environment; and
- 3) Transportation plans and cache load plans have been developed for all possible deployment configurations.
- 4) The US&R Resource has trained drivers required through the enabling authority.
- 5) The US&R Resource meets applicable laws, regulations and standards for the proper transportation for personnel and resources.

Standard 3.7.6

The US&R Resource shall have storage facilities capable of managing the equipment cache in a safe, secure, and controlled condition adequate to support the maintenance and inventory of all equipment and in a manner necessary to meet the mobilization requirements.

Chapter 4: US&R Position Descriptions

The Office of the State Fire Marshal has adopted the position descriptions contained in the National US&R Standard with slight modifications as necessary to fit the State of Kansas. *Slight modifications to the original standard, including the position descriptions, have been made to customize the standard to the State of Kansas, but in most cases, those modifications exceed the requirements of the national standard.* Current position descriptions, along with general requirements for all members, are posted on the OSFM website.

Chapter 5: US&R Resource Mission Capability Requirements

The US&R Resource shall have an equipment cache demonstrating the capability to meet the requirements specified for core capabilities outlined below and consistent with those found in Standard 3.7.2.

SEARCH

The Search section is based upon supporting the wide area, technical and canine search components of the operations. This equipment will provide the US&R Resource with the capability to perform reconnaissance, HASTY, primary, and secondary search functions necessary to the location and identification of victims and site conditions. Equipment identified in the section should be capable of providing search identification functions utilizing multiple sensory methods. Equipment in this section should also be capable of providing GPS location identification, mapping, and photographic documentation necessary to support rescue operations and situational reporting. Equipment required for the conduct of wide area, technical and canine search. All equipment must be capable of field calibration and adjustment.

The equipment needs include provisions for:

- Acoustic
- Optic Equipment
- Thermal Identification Equipment
- Mapping and Tracking
- Canine Search Equipment
- Marking and Identification Equipment/Supplies

RESCUE

Equipment requirements are based upon supporting the typed Resource, applicable work schedule and location(s). Rescue operations may occur in multiple locations simultaneously to support this capability will require duplication of tools kits and multiple power sources.

The Resource shall have equipment to perform all the elements specified in US&R Resource mission, including the ability to conduct operations safely and effectively in:

- Flooded environments (*some state teams may not be typed for water rescue operations*);
- Structural collapse to include all applicable types of construction;
- Confined Spaces;
- Trench and Excavation;
- Rope Rescue; and
- Vehicle and Machinery Extrication.

The equipment needs of the typed resource to meet this capability include provisions for:

- Powered (Pneumatic, Electric, Hydraulic, and Gasoline) Tools
- Miscellaneous Tools and Hand Tools
- Heavy Rigging Support Equipment
- Technical Rope Rescue Equipment
- Structural Specialist Equipment
- Water Operations Equipment (*if typed for water rescue operations*)

MEDICAL

Medical equipment requirements are based upon the typed Resource. Provisions for the medical treatment, including advanced life support for survivors, US&R Resource members, and disaster search canines is required. The quantity of equipment, supplies and pharmaceuticals are based upon the capabilities of the Resource and mission.

The equipment needs of the typed resource to meet this capability include provisions for:

- Pharmaceuticals
- Medical Equipment
- Canine Support
- Airway Management
- Intravenous Access/Administration
- General Patient Assessment Care
- Patient Immobilization/Extrication Equipment
- Patient Personal Protection
- Patient Monitoring
- Skeletal and Wound Care

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

This section was developed for US&R Resources to allow capability to identify and/or operate safely within a contaminated environment. Resources are capable of performing limited operations in a contaminated environment subject to the type and concentration of contamination. The US&R Resource capabilities would include presumptive site characterization; performance of reconnaissance, search and rescue within a contaminated environment; and decontamination of personnel and a limited number of survivors. A contaminated environment may include, but is not limited to, incidents involving the intentional or accidental release of any hazardous materials. Type I Resources are required to maintain capabilities for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, or Explosive (CBRNE) incidents. Resources are expected to have the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities to develop a risk management plan that provides the highest level of services without putting members at unreasonable risk.

The equipment needs to meet this capability include:

- Hazmat Detection
- Hazmat Radiation Detection Equipment
- Hazmat Personal Protective Equipment
- Level B and C PPE based on the Resource type in quantities sufficient to support a 12-hour operational period.
- Hazmat Decontamination

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications equipment requirements are based upon supporting the overall communications requirements of the entire task force or team.

The Resource is capable of supporting the following:

- Voice communications for all members and attached personnel (force protection, liaisons, etc.).
- Voice and Data communications between management, coordination, response elements and other agencies.
- Ongoing sustainment and maintenance of the communications cache
- Wide-area communications to meet operational requirements based on resource type.

Voice Communications Performance:

- Portable ~1.5 mile
- Mobile ~3 miles
- Repeater ~3-5 miles
- Satellite ~Continental USA
- Cellular ~Continental USA
- (Data bandwidth per second)

Communications/Satellite:

- VSAT @ 5Mbs down; or
- BGAN @ 256Kbs down

Other:

- Cellular @ 1-10Mbs down
- WiFi @ 54Mbs

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

LOGISTICS

This section is based upon supporting and sustaining dietary, shelter, personnel support/protection, administrative, transportation or other requirements of the Resource. Components include those required for the Base of Operations. Quantities necessary meet the requirements of the Resource for a minimum of the first 72 hours of self-sufficiency. Personal protective equipment, uniform standards, and support items for individual use during a mission assignment, taking weather extremes into account, are required.

The equipment needs of the type Resource to meet this capability include provisions for:

- Shelter
- Food and water
- Sanitation Control
- Cache Transport and Support
- Base of Operation Support
- Planning Section, Technical Information, and Structural Specialist Support
- Personnel Gear and Protective Equipment
- Safety Equipment to include various forms respiratory protection
- Equipment Support and Maintenance
- Resource Support

GENERAL

PACKAGING and CONTAINERS

All equipment and supplies shall be properly packaged to facilitate transportation requirements and property accountability/protection. When used, containers should be constructed of durable materials, watertight and stackable. Packaging weights and cube volumes must be considered within the overall gross limitations for air and/or ground transport and should address the “worst-case” scenario of having to move, load, and unload the cache by hand or with simple hand operated material handling equipment. Hazardous materials shall be properly prepared, marked, labeled, and documented to meet requirements for various modes of ground and airlift transport. *Some elements apply strictly to federal US&R task forces, which must be deployable by air or ground.*

Task forces and/or teams in Kansas will utilize equipment that is consistent with other regional, state, and federal US&R Resources whenever possible. Utilization of the most recent, FEMA approved US&R Equipment Cache List available is recommended. Equipment Cache List is available at the hyperlink provided: <http://www.responsesystem.org/logistics>