



Job Performance Review

Montgomery County Special Operations “USAR”

Individual Level Competency

JPR Title

Montgomery County Special Operations – Urban Search & Rescue “USAR”

JPR Number

JPR-TR-12

Reference

NFPA 1670 – Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Search and Rescue Incidents

NFPA 1006 – Standard for Technical Rescuer Professional Qualifications

IFSTA Essentials of Firefighting

Montgomery County Special Operations – Emergency Management Guidelines

ATFD Standards of Cover and Risk Analysis

Performance Criteria

Firefighter is able to articulate the organizational structure of the Montgomery County Special Operations – USAR group and the general resources associated with this unit.

Firefighter is able to effectively communicate how this unit would relate to the structure of the ATFD Special Operations group from an operational perspective.

Time Parameters

General communication based competency.

Safety Precautions

N/A

Montgomery County Special Operations – “USAR” Overview

The Montgomery County Urban Search and Rescue (MCUS&R) Team falls under the Operations section of Montgomery County Emergency Management. The Team is a county-wide resource for municipalities/departments to utilize for incidents that are more technical in nature.

Team Capabilities:

Montgomery County US&R is able to assist in structural collapse (breaching / breaking, shoring), technical search (visual, acoustic & wide area), heavy lifting, trench rescue, confined space rescue, specialized rope rescue, and flood / swift water incidents.

Team Training Levels:

All US&R members are trained to NFPA 1670 and most are at the NFPA 1006 or FEMA levels. Most members are also technician level in rope, confined space, trench, vehicle/machinery, structural collapse, and water.

Examples of advanced training levels:

FEMA Structural Collapse Specialist	FEMA Technical Search Specialist
FEMA Wide Area Search	FEMA Medical Specialist
FEMA Structure Specialist	Type III Planning Manager
Paratech Advanced Structural Collapse	Tower Rescue

Team Structure:

The Montgomery County USAR group consists of 15 local level emergency responders from jurisdictions throughout the County and organized as follows:

- Group Leader – Joe Dishler (USAR 1)
- Rescue Officer – Brian Sarver (USAR – 2)
- Rescue Officer – Dave Ellick (USAR – 3)
- Safety Officer – Don Lynch (USAR – 4)

Command Structure:

The MCUS&R Task Force Leader is responsible for managing all Task Force activities during an event, directs/supervises the Rescue Squad Officers (RSO) and works with the HazMat, Medical, and Logistics section leaders. MCUS&R operates within the established command structure of a local incident.

Levels of Response:

A municipality or department can request a US&R officer (24/7) to an incident for a consultation or to bring a specialized piece of equipment (example: technical search camera). If upon arrival it is deemed that more resources are needed, a full team dispatch will be executed. MCUS&R members will respond to the Montgomery County Fire Academy to staff apparatus while a TFL or RSO will respond directly to the local incident. MCUS&R can have 5-8 members on scene within 1 hour.

Equipment Cache:

The apparatus/equipment are stored at the Montgomery County Fire Academy on three pieces of apparatus: Rescue 20, Collapse 20, and Utility 20.

The team also maintains two water rescue boats, stored at Norriton Fire Company.

Examples of specialized equipment:

Assorted Air Bags up to 70 tons	(5) Search Camera 3000's w/IR Capabilities
Underwater Camera	(2) Night Vision Cameras
Cutting Torches	Concrete Cutting Chain Saws
Tower Rescue Rigging Kits	Confined Space Communications System
Delsar Acoustic Listing System	Hydraulic Cutting & Breaking Systems
Paratech US&R Gold Strut Systems	Paratech Gray Struts

Firehouse Software Evaluator Notes

Link to “General Training in the Rescue Section” of FHS

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