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I

Ice Search and Rescue Team (Water Rescue Team; Public Safety Dive Team)

Team locates and rescues individuals trapped under ice-capped water.

Illumination Unit (Lighting Plant)

A portable light-generating unit capable of providing three to six lights of 500 watts each with extension cords from 500 feet to 1,000 feet to provide specified level of illumination capacity.

Incident Management Team

A command team comprised of the Incident Commander (IC), appropriate command, and general staff personnel assigned to an incident. (Source: FIRESCOPE)

Incident Management Team, Animal Protection

An Animal Protection Incident Management Team, when deployed, will assess the emergency situation and determine the number of operational strike teams that will be required for rescuing, transporting, and sheltering of animals.

Incident Management Team, Firefighting

An Incident Management Team is an interagency organization under the auspices of NWCG composed of the Incident Commander (IC) and appropriate general and command staff personnel assigned to an incident, trained and certified to the Type I level. Type I level personnel possess the highest level of training available and are experienced in the management of complex incidents.

Individual Assistance Disaster Assessment Team

An Individual Assistance Disaster Assessment Team is responsible for providing expert assessments of the disaster situation pertaining to claims for individual assistance and other programs.

Individual Assistance Disaster Assessment Team Leader

An Individual Assistance Disaster Assessment Team Leader is the individual responsible for leading the individual assistance disaster assessment team and possesses an administrative knowledge of Individual Assistance areas. (See Individual Assistance Disaster Assessment Team.)

In-House

Assets or expertise specifically owned, possessed, directed, and/or controlled by the responding entity.

Instrument Flight Rules (IFRs)

Set of rules, guidelines, and procedures that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has established for pilots to operate aircraft in marginal weather conditions, usually defined as ceilings below 1,000 feet/visibility less than 3 miles.

Interagency Buying Team, Firefighting

The Interagency Wildland Fire Community supports a Buying Team. A National Buying Team supports the procurement efforts through the local administrative staff and is authorized to procure a wide range of services, supplies, and land and equipment rentals. In addition, the buying team leader has the responsibility of coordinating property accountability with the supply unit leader.

International Medical Surgical Response Team (IMSuRT), National Disaster Medical System (NDMS)

An IMSuRT is a volunteer group of medical and nonmedical individuals, usually from the same State or region of a State, that has formed a response team under the guidance of the NDMS and the State Department, and whose personnel and equipment give it deployable medical and surgical treatment capability, worldwide. It is the only NDMS medical team with surgical operating room capability. Full team consists of roughly 26 personnel, which is a mix of physicians, nurses, medical technicians, and allied personnel. ***See Annex A: Federal Response Teams for more detailed information on this Federal Resource.***

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L

Lattice Truck Cranes

This is the larger of the wheel cranes. Usually used for long-term applications where significant weights and reaches are a factor. Stabilizers include outriggers for stability. Several mobilization units will be required to transport boom units and counterweights. Set-up time can be accomplished with relative ease and speed once all components are available for assembly.

Law Enforcement Aviation – Fixed-Wing

Fixed-wing aircraft of various sizes used for surveillance, extraditions, personnel, and cargo transportation.

Law Enforcement Aviation – Helicopters – Patrol and Surveillance

Helicopters of various sizes to provide multifunction aerial support for ground operations.

Law Enforcement Canine Teams – Cadaver Detecting Dogs

Patrol dogs trained to find and passively alert on decaying human tissues, bones, and fluids.

Law Enforcement Canine Teams – Explosive Detecting Dogs

Patrol dogs trained to detect and passively alert on a variety of odors indicating the presence of explosive devices.

Law Enforcement Canine Teams – Narcotics Detecting Dogs

Patrol dogs capable of finding and alerting on cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamines, heroin, and their derivatives.

Law Enforcement Canine Teams – Patrol Dogs (K-9s)

Trained canine units providing law enforcement with a nonlethal means of apprehending dangerous criminal offenders; detecting intruders and alerting handlers to their presence; pursuing, attacking, and holding criminal offenders who resist apprehension; searching and clearing buildings and large open areas for criminals; tracking lost children or other persons; detecting the presence of certain narcotics, explosives, and tobacco products; locating deceased subjects, crime scenes, and minute physical evidence; and providing a strong psychological deterrent to certain types of criminal misconduct.

Law Enforcement Dive Teams – Evidence Recovery

Underwater teams used to recover evidence.

Law Enforcement Dive Teams – Recovery

Underwater teams used to recover drowning victims and lost vessels.

Liquid Splash-Protective Ensemble

Multiple elements designed to provide a degree of protection for emergency response personnel from adverse exposure to the inherent risks of liquid-chemical exposure occurring during hazardous materials (HazMat) emergencies and similar operations. The liquid splash-protective ensemble is either an encapsulating or nonencapsulating ensemble. (National Fire Protection Association [NFPA] Standard # 1992)



Low-Angle Rope Rescue (Rope Rescue)

Rescue in which the load is predominately supported by itself and not the rope rescue system.

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An MST is a command and control team that provides support and liaison functions for other NDMS teams in the field. MSTs are usually staffed by a mix of Federal employees and are constituted on an ad-hoc, mission-specific basis. An MST (perhaps as small as one or two individuals) always accompanies an NDMS unit on a deployment. ***See Annex A: Federal Response Teams for more detailed information on this Federal Resource.***

Mine and Tunnel Search and Rescue Team

A specially trained and equipped team that searches for, rescues, and/or recovers individuals from working or abandoned mines and tunnels.

Mine Rescue Team (Confined Space Rescue)

Team locates and rescues individuals lost or trapped in active or abandoned mine shafts or other below-ground entrapments.

Mobile Communications Center (Mobile Emergency Operations Center [EOC]; Mobile Command Center; Continuity of Operations Vehicle)

A vehicle that serves as a self-sustaining mobile operations center capable of operating in an environment with little to no basic services, facilitating communications between multiple entities using an array of fixed and/or wireless communications equipment, providing appropriate work space for routine support functions, and providing basic services for personnel in short-term or long-term deployments.

Mobile Feeding Kitchen (Mobile Field Kitchen; Rapid Deployment Kitchen)

A containerized kitchen that can be positioned forward in fulfillment of Emergency Support Function (ESF) #11 – Food and Water. The units are used to support feeding operations at emergency incidents.

Mobile Field Force (Crowd Control Teams; Riot Dispersal Team)

Police units trained in handling large crowds and riot situations, including specialized training in crowd dispersal, tactics, and special weapons.

Mobile Kitchen Unit

A unit designed and constructed to dispense food for incident personnel providing a specified level of capacity.

Mountain Search and Rescue Team (Wilderness Rescue Team)

Team searches for and rescues people either above the timberline or in high-angle areas below the timberline, which can include glacier, crevasse, backcountry, alpine search and rescue, and other aspects of the environment.

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ISTs are components of [ERT-As](#) that provide Federal, State, and local officials with technical assistance in the acquisition and use of search and rescue resources through advice, Incident Command assistance, management, and coordination of [US&R task forces](#) and obtaining logistic support. **See [Annex A: Federal Response Teams](#) for more detailed information on this Federal Resource.**

National Strike Force, U.S. Coast Guard

The U.S. Coast Guard National Strike Force was created in 1973 as a Coast Guard special force under the National Contingency Plan (NCP/see 40 CFR 300.145) to respond to oil and hazardous chemical incidents. The NSF consists of three interoperable regionally based Strike Teams: Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific, and the Public Information Assist Team (PIAT). The NSF supports USCG and EPA Federal On-Scene Coordinators (FOSCs) to protect public health, welfare, and the environment. In recent years, the capabilities have been expanded to include response to weapons of mass destruction (WMD) incidents, as well as incident management assistance.

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Personnel with specific training in occupational safety and health and topics such as workplace assessment or occupational medicine. Occupational health and safety specialists and technicians help keep workplaces safe and workers in good health unscathed. They promote occupational health and safety within organizations by developing safer, healthier, and more efficient ways of working. They analyze work environments and design programs to control, eliminate, and prevent disease or injury caused by chemical, physical, and biological agents or ergonomic factors. They may conduct inspections and enforce adherence to laws, regulations, or employer policies governing worker health and safety.

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P

Paramedic

A practitioner credentialed by a State to function at the advanced life support (ALS) level in the State Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Equipment and clothing required to shield or isolate personnel from the chemical, physical, thermal, and biological hazards that may be encountered at a hazardous materials (HazMat) incident. (National Fire Protection Association [NFPA] Standard # 472)

Public Assistance Coordinator (PAC)

The Public Assistance Coordinator (PAC) is a subsection of the Public Assistance Team (PAT). The PAC is assigned to work with a Public Assistance (PA) applicant from declaration to funding approval. The PAC must possess an in-depth working knowledge of disaster relief laws, regulations, PA programs, and recovery roles of government and the private sector.

Public Safety Dive Team

Team assists with location and recovery of drowning victims, evidence in criminal cases, and abandoned vehicles and provides safety divers for special events.

Public Safety Dive Team, Law Enforcement (Dive Team)

A Law Enforcement Public Safety Dive Team is a group of law enforcement divers equipped and trained to perform a variety of functions, including evidence search and recovery.

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Teams use radio direction finding equipment to locate distress beacons (such as emergency locator transmitters, emergency position indicating radio beacons, and personal locator beacons). Beacons may be located in remote or populated areas, as teams can expect to work in varied localities, including airfields, marinas, and geographically secluded areas.

Radiological Material

Any material that spontaneously emits ionizing radiation. (National Fire Protection Association [NFPA] Standard # 472)

Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) Team

Team provides a rapid assessment capability immediately following a major disaster or emergency. The RNA Team will collect and provide information to determine requirements for critical resources needed to support emergency response activities. The RNA Team is responsible for assessing both overall impact of a disaster event and determining Federal and/or State immediate response requirements.

Release

Any spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, discharging, injecting, escaping, leaching, dumping, or disposing into the environment (including the abandonment or discharging of barrels, containers, and other closed receptacles containing any hazardous substance or pollutant or contaminant). (Section 101[22] [CERCLA](#))

Rescue

To access, stabilize, and evacuate distressed or injured individuals by whatever means necessary to ensure their timely transfer to appropriate care or to a place of safety.

Rope Rescue (High-Angle Rescue; Low-Angle Rescue; Technical Rescue)

To rescue through the use of rigging techniques, anchor systems, belays, mechanical advantages, subject extrication techniques, and low- and high-angle rescue techniques.

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S

Search

To locate an overdue or missing individual, individuals, or objects.

Search Suit

Suit made of Kevlar® and Nomex 3, often used by, but not limited to, bomb squad personnel, significantly lighter than bomb suits; allows user to conduct search with increased mobility.

Shelter Management Team

Team provides managerial and operational support for a shelter during an emergency. Responsibilities of the team may include all or some of the following: operating the shelter; establishing security; ensuring the availability of adequate care, food, sanitation, and first aid; selecting and training personnel to perform operational tasks; monitoring contamination; performing decontamination; establishing exposure control and monitoring; monitoring overpressure and filtration systems; performing post-event reconnaissance; and directing egress.

Sheltering Team, Large Animal, Animal Protection

An Animal Protection Large Animal Sheltering Team will deploy for a minimum of 7 days and will be responsible for advising and supporting local efforts in setting up a large animal shelter.

Sheltering Team, Small Animal, Animal Protection

An Animal Protection Small Animal Sheltering Team will deploy for a minimum of 7 days and will be responsible for advising and supporting local efforts in setting up a small animal shelter.

Special-Needs Shelter

A refuge specifically designed to accommodate individuals with special medical needs who are not ill enough to require hospitalization. These shelters are supported by volunteer doctors and nurses and often have backup electric capability to support those with medical equipment reliant on electricity.

Sustainability

Ability to continue response operations for the prescribed duration necessary.

Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT)/Tactical Teams

SWAT teams are specially trained to handle high-risk situations and specialized tactical needs. Team members have advanced skills beyond that of typical patrol officers.

Strike Team, Large Animal Rescue, Animal Protection

An Animal Protection Large Animal Rescue Strike Team is a six-member team capable of completing an average of one rescue every 30 minutes in a suburban setting and one rescue every hour in rural settings.

Strike Team, Small Animal Rescue, Animal Protection

An Animal Protection Small Animal Rescue Strike Team is a six-member team capable of completing an average of one rescue every 30 minutes in a suburban setting and one rescue every hour in rural settings.



Swift Water Search and Rescue Team (Flood Search and Rescue; Water Rescue Team)

Team conducts surface search and rescue operations on waterways where the water is moving fast enough to produce sufficient force to present a life and safety hazard to a person entering it.

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The apparatus used to mix concentrate with water to make solution, pump, and mix air and solution to make foam, and transport and apply foam.

Tender, Fuel (Fuel Tender)

Any vehicle capable of supplying fuel to ground or airborne equipment.

Tender, Helicopter (Helicopter Tender)

A ground service vehicle capable of supplying fuel and support equipment to helicopters.

Total Containment Vessel (TCV)

A TCV is designed to transport explosive or chemical devices, fully enclosed. Used for explosive and hazardous materials (HazMat).

Tractor Trailer

Truck with a trailer attachment used for mobilization of various goods, supplies, and equipment. Predominately used for moving equipment, either long distances, overweight and over-width equipment, or equipment not permitted for over the road purposes, including track equipment. Trailers are either fifth-wheel mounted or tow behinds, depending on the size of the load. Also used for long- and short-haul needs, including smaller equipment. Loading and off-loading can be accomplished from either the front or the rear. Usually the rear loading will require ramps. If loading is done from the front, the trailer will be detached from the truck allowing use of the small ramps for loading purposes. Front-end loading using a detachable trailer is usually used for oversized equipment. Payloads can be as much as 80,000 pounds and more if permitted.

Transport Team, Large Animal, Animal Protection

An Animal Protection Large Animal Transport Team will deploy for a minimum of 5 days and will be responsible for transporting large animals from a disaster site. All required vehicles will accompany team.

Transport Team, Small Animal, Animal Protection

An Animal Protection Small Animal Transport Team will deploy for a minimum of 5 days and will be responsible for transporting large animals from a disaster site. All required vehicles will accompany team.

Tub Grinder

Specialized equipment designed to grind heavy brush, pallets, demolition material, land-clearing debris, and yard waste. Units are equipped with hammermills ranging from 26 inches to 36 inches that serve as steel fixed hammers or doubled-edged cutting tools. Tub grinders possess hydraulic tub tilt to provide safe access to the hammermill during maintenance, and have a horsepower range from 157 to 1,050. Tub grinders shrink space requirement by a ratio of 10:1 yards. Feeding the equipment requires either a front-end loader or other hydraulic equipment such as an excavator with a thumb attachment or cherry-picker. Processed materials can be stockpiled using conveyor systems or with stockpiled using a front-end loader. Depending on the size of the equipment's processing capabilities, it may be possible to feed and stockpile with one front-end loader. Equipment operations and controls are remotely managed, usually away from any potential flying debris. Mobilization is required, either with a tractor-trailer hook-up, fifth-wheel only, or pindle-hook option. The processing area should be firm soil with sufficient room for stockpiling pre- and post-products; however, track tub grinders are available for special processing needs. Over-width escort services would be used for wide loads.

Tug Boat

Tug boats are commercial water vessels that move or assist in the movement of propelled and non-propelled water vessels, primarily with ship docking and barge towing. Ship-assist tugs are generally port or harbor related, while barge towing tugs are typically port-to-port transporters up and down rivers, inlets, and the coastline. With different sizes and modifications for varying tasks, tug boats require specially trained operators or captains licensed and subject to jurisdiction of the U.S. Coast Guard, and are also subject to random drug and alcohol testing procedures. Crew manifests generally range from 2 to 6+ individuals, including a captain and an inland waterways river pilot, required by law, who serves as servant to the vessel master. Docking pilots (specialists) should be used where possible, as they serve to enhance communications between the assisted ship and the tug boat in “unfamiliar waters.” These crew members will, at times, live on the tug itself or on-call from nearby homes, and have a varying schedule dependent on the tug company. Tug boats also consist of model bows or pointed bows for towing while push tugs have square bows. Specially equipped tug boats can be specialized to serve as spray boats or firefighting boats for the purposes of emergency situations. Tug boats strongly rely on the need for communication as many assisted ships either originate in foreign countries or are unfamiliar with inland or harbor waters. In emergencies, the U.S. Coast Guard houses a master list of tug boats that can be contacted for assistance. Most tug boat owners and operators may belong to their trade association, the American Waterways Operators (AWO).

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U

Urban Search and Rescue (US&R)

US&R involves the location, rescue (extrication), and initial medical stabilization of victims trapped in confined spaces.

Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Task Force (US&R Team)

Federal asset that conducts physical search and rescue in collapsed buildings; provides emergency medical care to trapped victims; assesses and controls gas, electrical services, and hazardous materials (HazMat); and evaluates and stabilizes damaged structures. ***See Annex A: Federal Response Teams for more detailed information on this Federal Resource.***

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A vapor protective ensemble or garment that is intended for use in an unknown threat atmosphere or for known high health risk atmospheres is vapor tight, and is in compliance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard # 1991, “Standard on Vapor-Protective Ensembles for Hazardous Materials Emergencies.”

Veterinary Epidemiologist

A practitioner who studies factors influencing existence and spread of diseases among humans and animals, particularly those diseases transmissible from animals to humans. Required to hold degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.

Veterinary Medical Assistance Team (VMAT), National Disaster Medical System (NDMS)

VMATs are volunteer teams of veterinarians, technicians, and support personnel, usually from the same region, that have organized a response team under the guidance of the American Veterinary Medical Association and the NDMS, and whose personnel have specific training in responding to animal casualties and/or animal disease outbreaks during a disaster. They help assess medical needs of animals, and conduct animal disease surveillance, hazard mitigation, biological and chemical terrorism surveillance, and animal decontamination. Usually includes a mix of veterinarians, veterinary technicians, support personnel, microbiologists, epidemiologists, and veterinary pathologists. ***See Annex A: Federal Response Teams for more detailed information on this Federal Resource.***

Visual Flight Rules (VFRs)

Set of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) rules, guidelines, and procedures that apply to aircraft when a pilot is conducting flight with visual reference to the ground.

Volcano Search and Rescue Team (Wilderness Rescue Team)

Team provides technical rescue, avalanche rescue, and other aspects of mountain rescue services applicable for search and rescue operations in and around the surface of a volcano.

Volunteer Agency Liaison (VAL)

The Volunteer Agency Liaison serves as the central point between government entities and volunteer organizations in the coordination of information and activities of VOADs (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters) responding in times of disaster.

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