



**FEMA**

## **US&R PROGRAM DIRECTIVE – 2015-003**

April 30, 2015

**FOR:** National Urban Search & Rescue Response System  
Task Force Representatives

**FROM:** Fred Endrikat, Chief  
Urban Search and Rescue Branch

**SUBJECT:** US&R Program Directive 2015-003 – US&R Enhanced Operations in the  
Contaminated Environment Course on the US&R Learning Management System

**Implementation Date:** May 1, 2015 ; **Re-issue Date:** May 1, 2018

The National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Response System's (the System) Learning Management System (LMS) was released for task force use in February 2015.

As part of the release, the newly updated *US&R Enhanced Operations in the Contaminated Environment* (EOCE) course is hosted on the LMS as a blended learning course. The old course material has been removed from the Central Division website and is no longer valid for training.

The US&R EOCE course is a General Training Requirement for all US&R task force members and is a three part program that includes:

- 1) An online AWR-160, WMD Awareness Level Training found at: [TEEX WMD/Terrorism Awareness for Emergency Responders Course](#)
- 2) An online US&R EOCE portion of the class (8.0 hour self-paced training on the LMS)
- 3) A hands-on skills session (4.0 hours) and checklist, designed to be delivered at the task force level by established instructors pursuant to *GM 2015-001, 2015 US&R Instructor List*

The course is available online and system task forces and qualified instructors are permitted to begin delivering the hands-on portion of the US&R EOCE course according to the General Training Requirements for task force membership.

### **REQUIRED ACTIONS**

The issue is approved for FEMA National US&R Response System implementation.

By March 31, 2017, all task forces members shall have a completed record of the online AWR-160 in their training records.

Additionally, this US&R EOCE course replaces the System's old WMD Enhanced Operations in a Contaminated Environment course and is now a requirement for all task force members. By March 31, 2017, all task force members shall have record of completing this new curriculum, either through classroom or online delivery. As part of this requirement there is a continuing

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education requirement where no AWR-160 course certificate or the US&R EOCE training shall be older than five years. Accordingly, the System's Training Program Administrative Manual shall be updated to reflect these changes.

Costs associated with this initiative are allowable under current US&R Readiness Cooperative Agreements, provided that this type of expense is within the task force's budget plan.

Any questions regarding this Program Directive shall be directed to Mr. Joe Hiponia in the US&R Branch at [joe.hiponia@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:joe.hiponia@fema.dhs.gov), or (202) 212-3511. Any questions regarding the course curriculum may be directed to Hazmat Subgroup Leader Mark Hundley at: [mhundley@vbgov.com](mailto:mhundley@vbgov.com).

Questions regarding the use of the LMS should be directed to Mr. Brian Smith at: [brian.smith@teex.tmau.edu](mailto:brian.smith@teex.tmau.edu), or (979) 458-5636.

cc:

- US&R Strategic Group
- US&R Advisory Group
- US&R Branch Staff
- FEMA Regional/Federal/International ESF #9 Representatives
- Hazmat Subgroup