



FEMA

US&R GENERAL MEMORANDUM – 2016-002

January 11, 2016

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

FROM: Fred Endrikat, Chief
Urban Search and Rescue Branch

SUBJECT: US&R General Memorandum 2016-002 – Appeal Decision on Removal of NM-TF1 from the National US&R Response System

This General Memorandum is to share with the National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Response System (the System) the appeal decision that FEMA sent to the New Mexico Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management today. FEMA has affirmed its original decision to remove New Mexico Task Force One (NM-TF1) from the System and not provide US&R Readiness Cooperative Agreement funding for Fiscal Year 2015.

As stated in GM 2015-095 – *Removal of New Mexico Task Force One from the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System*, on September 16, 2015 FEMA informed the New Mexico Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management outlining the decision to remove NM-TF1 from the System. The State of New Mexico, as the sponsoring agency for the task force, had 30 days to appeal the decision, which they did on October 16, 2015. This appeal determination is the agency's final decision.

As we have previously communicated, the System will now move forward with the review and assessment process for New Jersey Task Force One (NJ-TF1). In order to be officially appointed and capable of deploying, NJ-TF1 must pass an on-site FEMA Readiness Assessment Evaluation. The replacement task force sponsoring agency must be able to meet requirements set forth in the System's *Sponsoring Agency Selection Plan* and sign a *Memorandum of Agreement* with FEMA.

Once appointed, the replacement task force will be included in the FY2016 Readiness Cooperative Agreement Application process if the required FY2016 deadlines can be met. The Strategic Group reviewed potential replacement Task Forces and unanimously recommended NJ-TF1 as the potential replacement task force. The Strategic Group considered a number of factors to include experience, population density, critical infrastructure, the number and age of structures in proximity to the team's base location, geographic coverage and threat assessment.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

cc:

US&R Sponsoring Agency Chiefs
US&R Strategic Group
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