



**FEMA**

## **US&R GENERAL MEMORANDUM – 2016-038**

May 3, 2016

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

**FROM:** Dean Scott, Chief  
Operations Section  
Urban Search and Rescue Branch

**SUBJECT:** US&R General Memorandum 2016-038 – USACE Western Division StS  
Regional Training

**COURSE #: SP2016-002**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on behalf of the National Urban Search & Rescue (US&R) Response System (the System) is presenting Structural Team Specialist (StS) Regional Training for the System's Western Division.

This training opportunity will be conducted September 24-25, 2016 at the Riverside Fire Department (CA-TF6) Training Facility, 3085 St Lawrence St. Riverside, CA 92504

Please see the attached logistics information and registration form.

For additional information, contact Mr. Tom Niedernhofer at (415) 503-6616 or [thomas.r.niedernhofer@usace.army.mil](mailto:thomas.r.niedernhofer@usace.army.mil).

Task Force Representatives are asked to coordinate this information as appropriate with their Task Force Training Managers.

Attachments:

Western RT Logistics and Registration Letter

cc:

US&R Strategic Group  
US&R Advisory Group  
US&R Branch Staff  
FEMA Regional/International ESF #9 Representatives  
USACE – Tom Niedernhofer



FEMA

**TO:** National US&R Response System  
Task Force Program Managers/Training Managers

**FROM:** Tom Niedernhofer, P.E. - USACE US&R Program Manager

**DATE:** February 8, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Regional Training for Structures Specialists, Western Division - Course Announcement

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Response System, in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), has scheduled a Structures Specialist (StS) "Regional Training" (RT) Course to be held September 24, 25 2016, at the at the Riverside Fire Department (CA-TF6) Training Site . The curriculum for this course has been updated and changed from the previous series of StS RT classes prior to 2016. **This will be the 2nd delivery of this new curriculum.** This training course is offered to Task Force StS who need initial or refresher training in Damaged Building Assessment, Crane Chart use, Shoring Size-up/Design, review of potential Geotechnical issues during an US&R response, Cold Weather Operations for the StS, an introduction into "Iron Sights" for the GPS, and Advanced Total Station Monitoring. Students who completed StS1 training and any previous RT training are encouraged to attend this RT "skills enhancement" session. StS that have the support of their Task Force may apply for this training. This training will give the student the aforementioned training knowledge to enhance the Task Force capabilities and readiness. This is a new curriculum for 2016 and 2017.

The Regional Training sessions are intended to be for Structures Specialists in the "region". This basically reduces or eliminates the impacts to one's daily job as little or no (or limited) off-duty time should be required. While the training is for the "region", it does not preclude other StS from outside the region from attending. These "weekend" courses will consist of short review lectures, tabletops, and field exercises. The StS will be using the StS "Forms" for the tabletop, monitoring training and field exercise portions of the class. The StS will also be using "Unit Logs". The end result is for the StS to be as prepared as possible for a deployment.

Any Task Force will be allowed to send at least two students. However, if space is available more students will be accepted. (The host Task Force should encourage all of its Structures Specialists to attend). The Western Division Task Forces in the near area are encouraged to send as many of their StS as feasible due to the proximity of the training. Students will be responsible for transportation from their hotel to the training location.

Names and applications should be submitted to Tom Niedernhofer at [Thomas.R.Niedernhofer@usace.army.mil](mailto:Thomas.R.Niedernhofer@usace.army.mil) and Alan Fisher, P.E. at [afisher@cianbro.com](mailto:afisher@cianbro.com) by September 9th. Task Forces should fill out the attached application form and e-mail as directed on the form, or fill out an application on **DisasterEngineer.org** (see "Training Applications"). A schedule is available on the website "Library". After September 9th students will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis according to the waiting list. A maximum of 32 students are targeted to participate. The training is provided at no charge to the student however; travel, hotel, and per diem costs will be the responsibility of the student's Task Force using authorized training funds. This new curriculum is based on the feedback from the Structures Specialists within and in support of the FEMA National US&R Response System. Under ESF#9, and by Interagency Agreement, the "Corps" is directed to provide and facilitate training for StS. Task Force StS are required to bring one Task Force Total Station and a tripod for each one or two StS they send to the RT training class. Each StS sent is encouraged to bring a Garmin GPS (62 or 64 version, preferred).

## TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENT

**TO:** National US&R Task Force Program Managers,  
National US&R Task Force Leaders

Course Logistical Information:

Time: Saturday 0730 thru 1800 (1/2 hour lunch period (box lunches with a drink will be available for no more than \$10) and Sunday 0800 thru 1300 (no lunch). Schedule established to permit late evening arrival Friday and late afternoon departure Sunday.

Lodging: target hotel is- The Mission Inn [www.missioninn.com](http://www.missioninn.com)  
3649 Mission Inn Ave.  
Riverside, CA, 92501  
(951) 784-0300 or (800) 843-7755 (approx. 35 rooms held for "Group")  
Group name is "FEMA US&R Training"

Federal Government Rate for this area is \$123.00/night (tax excluded).

- The FEMA US&R StS Position Description recommends that Task Force StS complete this training every two years. This is continuing education, the first scheduled training for this curriculum.
- Training focused on StS "Forms" use, Damaged Building Assessment, Crane Chart Review, Cold Weather Operations for the StS, Geotechnical and Subsurface issues for the StS, Advanced Total Station Monitoring, and an Advanced Shoring Tabletop Exercise (TTX). An introduction to the FEMA US&R icons "Iron Sights" will be made. There will be 1 Case Study.
- Training mission is to provide two days (15-hours) of individual intensive hands-on training.
- Space will be limited to maximize hands-on field training and ensure mission success.
- Class tuition is free (meals, lodging & travel must be covered by Task Force, Agency, or students).
- Travel/transport from Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport to the targeted hotel is 2 miles.
- Travel from the aforementioned hotels to the training site is approximately 6 miles.

**Training location:** City of Riverside Fire Dept. / CA-TF6  
3085 Saint Lawrence St  
Riverside, CA, 92504  
(951) 826-5827

**Shipping location:** same as above

(Note: Riverside Fire Dept. personnel will ensure your equipment is secured at the training location. Individuals are responsible for packing and shipping their equipment to and from the training site. Return shipping must be 100% ready, packed, and include your shipping form/account. Provide your own shipping material, supplies and tape please. Instructors are not responsible for packing/funding shipment of total stations or tripods.)

### **Required Equipment:**

- Laptop computer, hand held calculator, notebook, tape measure, Crosby User's Guide, FOG booklet (8<sup>th</sup> edition).
- Nikon NPL-352 or Nikon Nivo total station & tripod (1 per each StS or team of two StS from each Task Force).
- One set minimum of the StS "Forms" from [www.disasterengineer.org](http://www.disasterengineer.org).
- Attire is official Task Force BDUs and/or Task Force t-shirt as well as standard PPE (helmet, boots, gloves, eye & ear protection, knee pads, sun block, rain gear, etc.).

### **To Register for Training or for Additional Information contact:**

Primary: Tom Niedernhofer, P.E. (415) 503-6616 w (415) 286-6086 c [Thomas.R.Niedernhofer@usace.army.mil](mailto:Thomas.R.Niedernhofer@usace.army.mil)  
Alternate: Alan Fisher. (MA-TF1) (207) 415-7558 c [afisher@cianbro.com](mailto:afisher@cianbro.com)



## **TRAINING APPLICATION**

Send completed form to [Thomas.R.Niedernhofer@usace.army.mil](mailto:Thomas.R.Niedernhofer@usace.army.mil) with copy to [afisher@cianbro.com](mailto:afisher@cianbro.com). Add TF designation to file name. Example: **“RT Application from AZ-TF1, John Doe”**.

Application may also be made on [www.DisasterEngineer.org](http://www.DisasterEngineer.org) (see “Training Applications”).

Prospective Task Force students must request and receive approval from their Task Force prior to attending the class.

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STUDENT’S NAME:

CELL PHONE:

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

TASK FORCE/AGENCY AFFILIATION:

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2<sup>nd</sup> STUDENT’S NAME:

CELL PHONE:

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

TASK FORCE/AGENCY AFFILIATION:

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3<sup>rd</sup> STUDENT’S NAME:

CELL PHONE:

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

TASK FORCE/AGENCY AFFILIATION:

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
1455 MARKET STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94103-1399

Office of Counsel

January 4, 2016

City of Riverside, CA  
3900 Main Street  
Riverside, CA 92522

SUBJECT: United States is Self-Insured

Dear City of Riverside, California:

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) South Pacific Division is grateful that you will be hosting the FEMA/USACE Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Structures Specialist Regional Training class to be conducted at the City of Riverside Fire Department / FEMA California Task Force 6 (CA-TF6) training facility, 3085 Saint Lawrence St., Riverside, CA 92504. The training is scheduled for the weekend of 24-25 September, 2016, with the 23<sup>rd</sup> as a setup day. The FEMA training announcement is attached for reference. The training will be primarily classroom based but will include some field activities on Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup>. In accordance with an annual Interagency Agreement with FEMA, USACE conducts training for the engineering component of the National US&R Response System.

The United States is self-insured with respect to its activities at the training facility. Accordingly, unlike private contractors or other non-Federal entities, the United States is exempt from providing "Certificates of Liability Insurance." As such, this letter constitutes evidence of the liability coverage of the United States for purposes of the USACE's activities at the Riverside Fire Department's training facility.

If there are any questions, please contact the undersigned at 415-503-6633.

Sincerely,

Annette B. Kuz  
Assistant Chief Counsel/Division Counsel