



FEMA

US&R GENERAL MEMORANDUM – 2016-044

June 3, 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 2016-044 – Appointment of NJ-TF1

This General Memorandum is issued to notify the National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Response System (the System) that effective June 3, 2016, New Jersey Task Force One (NJ-TF1) is appointed to fill the System vacancy created by the removal of New Mexico Task Force One (NM-TF1).

The System's Strategic Group met on September 3, 2015, discussed the situation of NM-TF1, and unanimously voted to recommend to FEMA senior leadership that NM-TF1 be removed from the System.

FEMA leadership decided that the immediate identification of a replacement task force, rather than a national solicitation, was the best path forward to ensure that the System was fully capable of responding to incidents across the country. Based on that decision, and using specific operational criteria along with the consideration of the recent US&R Readiness Assessment initiative for both Federal and non-Federal resources, the Strategic Group unanimously recommended that NJ-TF1 be evaluated to potentially become the 28th task force in the System. Prior to being officially entered into the System, NJ-TF1 was required to undergo an on-site FEMA Administrative Readiness Evaluation, which the Sponsoring Agency and the task force successfully passed on May 26, 2016, and to fully execute a Memorandum of Agreement with FEMA.

Today, a fully executed Memorandum of Agreement between FEMA and the State of New Jersey Office of Emergency Management was delivered to NJ-TF1 making this task force the 28th task force in the National US&R Response System. NJ-TF1's geographic location in the System's East Division between major metropolitan areas makes it uniquely situated to rapidly respond to no-notice events along the northeast corridor.

We welcome this new task force into our System and look forward to working with their Sponsoring Agency. System documentation will be changed to reflect NJ-TF1's appointment into the System as future updates occur.

cc: US&R Strategic Group
US&R Advisory Group
US&R Branch Staff
FEMA Regional/Federal/International ESF #9 Representatives