



FEMA

US&R PROGRAM DIRECTIVE – 2016-008

August 30, 2016

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

FROM: Fred Endrikat, Chief
Urban Search and Rescue Branch

SUBJECT: US&R Program Directive 2016-008 – FY2015 US&R Readiness Cooperative Agreement – Possible Supplemental Funding

Implementation Date: TBD ; **Re-issue / Expiration Date:** 09/30/2018

The 28 National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Response System (“the System”) task forces may have an opportunity to receive supplemental funding within their FY2015 US&R Readiness Cooperative Agreements.

This potential funding begins to address the finding identified in the last Government Accountability Office (GAO) Audit, which highlighted the System’s need to *develop a comprehensive plan to prioritize and finance the replacement of equipment for the Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) task forces*. Specifically, this funding (if received) will allow the System to begin re-capitalization of the communications capability for individual task force equipment caches. Further direction and instruction pertaining to the purchase of specific equipment, along with corresponding specifications and quantities will be provided in subsequent US&R Program Directives after receipt of any funding.

Since this action will need to be completed by the end of the fiscal year, September 30, 2016, the System needs to be prepared to receive the funding as soon as it is available. To this end, all task forces will need to initiate and submit a cost amendment request in NDGrants by September 12th so the supplemental can be awarded if and when the funding is received.

REQUIRED ACTIONS

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

All task forces are to submit a cost amendment request in NDGrants no later than September 12th. Because it is unclear as to the amount of funding (if any) that would be provided, each task force should leave the dollar amount blank and this will be filled in once the dollar amount is known. In the “narrative” field, include the following: *“This funding will be used to begin the re-capitalization of communications capability of the task force equipment cache. Communication equipment includes items such as portable radios, repeaters, hardware, and satellite communications systems.”*

Attached for reference is the current Grant Recipient User Guide for instruction on how to submit this amendment (see pages 52 – 56).

US&R Program Directive 2016-008 – FY2015 US&R Readiness Cooperative Agreement – Possible Supplemental Funding

Page 2

Attachments:

Grant Recipient User Guide 2016

cc:

US&R Strategic Group

US&R Advisory Group

US&R Branch Staff

FEMA Regional/Federal/International ESF #9 Representatives

US&R Task Force Grant Managers

Tawana Mack, Grant Programs Directorate