



FEMA

National Urban Search and Rescue Response System

Canine Search Specialist Training

STUDENT MANUAL
CANINE SEARCH SPECIALIST TRAINING
UNIT 0: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Unit Objective N/A

Enabling Objectives N/A



[This page intentionally left blank]



I. Welcome and Introductions

The course coordinator will introduce the instructor cadre, hosting task force members, the FEMA US&R Program Office representative, and the staff from Eagle Systems.

The course coordinator will ask participants to identify themselves and their team, and also identify what the participant's personal expectations are from the course.

We will begin by looking at the class ground rules, and then take care of administrative details.

II. Ground Rules

Ground Rules

- Classes will begin on time each day.
- Attendance is mandatory at all sessions.
- There will be some evening sessions.
- 15-minute breaks will be provided roughly every two hours.
- No smoking is allowed in class or during exercises. Smoking is limited to breaks and meals, and only in designated areas.
- Presentations will be interactive.
- Questions and dialogue are encouraged.
- Questions on non-unit material will be addressed at the appropriate time.
- Notes should be taken in the student manual (SM).
- Dress throughout the course will be limited to task force uniform. All appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) will be worn during field exercises.

Administrative Details

- A participant sign-in sheet (class roster) will be circulated.
- All participants should include their full name (as they would like them to appear on their certificates of completion) and contact numbers.
- Each participant will receive a student manual containing the slide note pages for each unit.
- CD-ROM containing an electronic version of the student manual and other resources.
- FEMA Disaster Search Canine Readiness Evaluation Process (current edition).
- Training certificate.
- Contact information for course cadre and participants.



Other issues:

- Dining,
- Building security,
- Parking, and
- Transportation.
- Now, we will take a look at the course objectives and the reason we are here.

III. Course Objectives and Overview

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Function effectively as search specialists and canine teams in the disaster environment;
- Perform all the tasks, procedures and guidelines that are required of the Canine Search Specialist position;
- Network among the various task forces participating in the Canine Search Specialist training.
- Describe the DHS/FEMA US&R Canine Criteria and Search Team Evaluation process.

Course Overview

The course is five days long and consists of 15 instructional units, field exercises, and a final operational exercise. The course also provides a program update and review of the certification process, and a roundtable session.

IV. Evaluation of Instruction

Student evaluation of the course and its content is critical to the continued effectiveness and success of the course. During the course you will be asked to complete the following evaluations:

- Unit evaluations will be conducted at the end of each unit of instruction, and
- Course evaluation will be conducted at the completion of the course.

Next we have a brief review of basic safety issues all task force members need to be concerned with.



V. Safety Overview

Safety

SAFETY IS A TEAM EFFORT.

All personnel must understand and do their part to insure the health and safety of search and rescue resources, and victims.

Response Operations

Risks and hazards are a part of what we do. We need to focus on common hazards found at all emergency scenes.

Fitness for duty

Extended operations will reduce an individual's effectiveness over time. Being physically fit will alleviate many issues. Disaster environmental issues include:

- Weather extremes,
- Long hours,
- Poor work conditions,
- Poor sanitation conditions, and
- High levels of stress.

Safety equipment

The basic safety equipment everyone should possess includes:

- PPE,
- Safety boots,
- Respirator,
- Helmet/headlamp, and
- Protective clothing
- Radio.

Security

Civil disorder is likely during a major disaster. During a disaster FEMA may be a target for those who are displeased with the government's response effort. This also includes personnel working directly for, or with, FEMA, too. Be aware of your surroundings at all times. Also keep in mind that curfews will affect US&R operations.

Another area of concern is security in and around the Base of Operations (BoO). Be aware that you may have people enter the BoO area looking to capitalize on the situation, or victims may wander in looking for help. Stay alert and report any intrusions immediately.



Secondary explosions

There is always the potential for secondary explosions in a disaster site. The sources are:

- Gases,
- Fuels, and
- Dust (grain, coal).

During a terrorist attack response improvised explosive devices (IED) may be present. Remember, response personnel can be targets, too.

Earthquake aftershocks

Secondary collapses can occur due to earthquake aftershocks. If an aftershock occurs during search operations in a collapsed building, the resultant conditions (dust, secondary collapse, loss of light) can lead to confusion and loss of personnel accountability.

Air transportation

There are many safety issues related to air transportation, including:

- Proper loading,
- Safety restraints,
- Temperature,
- Noise and vibration, and
- Rotors and props.

Air operations in the vicinity

When there are air operations in the vicinity of a search or BoO you can expect the following:

- Noise, and
- Rotor wash.

A rotor can generate winds in excess of 40 mph, depending on the size of the helicopter. Rotor wash from helicopters will generate large amounts of dust and debris. The rotor wash will also blow away unsecured personnel, dogs, and any other items in the vicinity.

Ground transportation

You can expect movement of large trucks, forklifts, and gators around a BoO. In addition to this, personnel may be transported in pickups and gators during search operations.

Some good safety rules to follow include:

- Never transport personnel and equipment together in an open vehicle.
- Provide safe seating.
- Never drive and navigate at the same time.
- Cover tools and equipment.



- Familiarize team with vehicle.

Unfamiliar surroundings

During operations you are likely to encounter damaged or destroyed roadways and bridges. You can also expect access to be restricted, and traffic signs and other landmarks may be non-existent.

Injuries

Injury to TF members is a very serious concern for obvious reasons. It is important for everyone to take precautions to prevent and minimize injuries. There is always a possibility that medical care may not be readily available. It is not uncommon for the local medical infrastructure to be damaged and unavailable following a major event such as a hurricane or earthquake.

HazMat

Be aware of potential exposure to hazardous materials during a response. This includes:

- Direct exposure from an area that has been contaminated; and
- Indirect exposure from moving water or a vapor plume moving through, or beyond the impacted area.

Decontamination

Canine search teams must have ability to clean and decontaminate following a search mission. Decontamination needs to take place at the appropriate time and place, such as before:

- Entering vehicles, and
- Entering the BoO.

Contaminated air and water

Always be aware of potential contaminants in the:

- Air, and
- Water.

Food service

The danger of food poisoning is always present during a disaster response. The sources of food poisoning include:

- Spoiled food,
- Improperly prepared food, and
- Food donated by civilians with good intentions.



Electrical hazards

There are many actual or potential electrical hazards during a response. These include, but are not limited to:

- Re-energizing of power grids;
- Jury-rigged connective boxes in base camp; and
- Overloaded power circuits tapped into by US&R TFs.

Adverse weather

It is critical to have the appropriate weather gear and to be ready for varying conditions.

LCES

Everyone on a task force should be very familiar with the LCES concept.

- L-Lookouts
- C-Communications
- E-Escape Routes
- S-Safe Zones

Practice it!

Safety during this course

Safety principles will be adhered to at all times during this course.

Report all:

- Unsafe conditions,
- Injuries, and
- Any other safety concerns.



VI. Unit Summary and Evaluation

Unit Summary

In this unit we covered the following areas:

- Introductions,
- Ground rules and administrative details,
- Course objectives,
- Student evaluation,
- Course evaluation, and
- Safety overview.

Unit Evaluation

Please fill out the evaluation form for this unit.



[This page intentionally left blank]