



# Hurricane US&R Concept of Operations



## 1. Introduction

This document will provide a basic concept of operations for the deployment of urban search and rescue (US&R) assets to a hurricane response. This response will be at the direction of the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) to provide resources and manage search and rescue operations.

## 2. Execution

### a. Intent

To ensure a coordinated search and rescue effort between the coordinating, primary, and supporting agencies.

### b. Command and Management

Search and Rescue missions during disasters in Florida are coordinated by the Florida Division of the State Fire Marshal in its role as the lead agency for Emergency Support Function 9 (ESF 9) at the SEOC. The Division of the State Fire Marshal partners with several agencies, including the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association, Florida Association for Search and Rescue, Florida Forest Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, Florida National Guard and others to mobilize, deploy, and support the Task Forces, Strike Teams, and single resources that make up the Florida Urban Search and Rescue System.

The integration of Florida Urban Search and Rescue System to a local area of operation or mission involves multiple organizations. Joint operations of the Florida Urban Search and Rescue System;

- In-state Mutual Aid
- Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Urban Search and Rescue Task Forces
- Other State and Federal Support agencies

The assignment of all Search and Rescue assets must be coordinated in order to cover the greatest area in a catastrophic incident. All Search and Rescue resources operating outside their home jurisdictions, including FEMA and EMAC resources will operate under this US&R incident management team.

### c. Inter and Intra ESF Coordinating Structures

All primary agencies will participate in impending hurricane response dialogue with their counterparts within ESF9 as well as with other response leadership within the system.

### d. Phasing and Tasks

#### 1. Pre-Incident Response

##### 1a. Normal Operations (Normal Readiness Period)



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All US&R resources IMT, RNA, Recon, and task forces (TFs) routinely identify their state of readiness (Any resource can update a non – response status change at any time).

Technical Rescue Teams (TRTs) Type I (Heavy with 8 personnel) & II (Light with 6 personnel) are identified as local & regional assets that are deployable at a moment's notice. The TRT's can be attached to an Engine Strike Team (EST) acting as a force multiplier and will be effective in light construction and rural/urban interface areas of the wide area search operation. These resources are considered in an available status until a roll call determines otherwise.

The Florida Urban Search and Rescue Incident Management Team (FL-US&R IMT) personnel are staffed by FASAR, FWC, and the Florida Forest Service Incident Management Team. FASAR will provide a Task Force Leader to act as the IMT Operations Section Chief and a Plans Team Manager to act as an IMT Deputy Plans Section Chief. FWC shall provide a US&R Recon Group Supervisor/Branch Director to oversee the Recon Elements for the operation. Florida Forest Service shall provide one of the incident management teams and fill the additional needed staffing requirements of the IMT.

Florida US&R Recon Element **[Need FWC for the team make up and describe mission]** The Recon Team consists of 23 members from FWC, SFM and FASAR.

Florida US&R Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) team consisting of one US&R Task Force Leader, one Medical Specialist, One Hazardous Materials Specialist and a US&R Structures Specialist; will be deployed with the mission to conduct initial damage assessment and make contact with the effected county EOC's to determine immediate needs prior to engaging US&R assets. This team can be assigned as a standalone team or as an attachment to the Recon Element.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) officers shall be assigned to support the US&R Task Forces for force protection. Officers are staffed at



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the point of assembly of each US&R Task Force location and these Officers shall be assigned to the task force for the duration of the task forces mission. The following are the FWC officer assignment per task force typing; Type I and II (6 officers), Type III (5 officers), Type IV (4 officers).

## **1b. Elevated Threat**

FASAR Chair and Designees participate in conference calls and coordination meetings with the State Emergency Response Committee (SERC) Chair, SFM and participating agencies. FASAR Chair or designee issues advisory notices to FFS US&R IMT representative, FWC Recon Supervise representative and Force Protection Coordinator, Task Forces, and Regional ESF 9 Representatives.

## **1c. Credible Threat (Specific Pre-incident Preparations)**

### **-120 hours (5 days) to – 96 hours (4 days): Alert Phase**

FASAR Chair or Designee participates in a Disaster Operations Re-Entry Planning for the affected region(s), participate in telephone conference to discuss the situation as scheduled. FASAR Chair or designee issues advisory/alert/activation notices to FFS US&R IMT representative, FWC Recon Supervise representative and Force Protection Coordinator, Task Forces, and Regional ESF 9 Representatives.

### **-96 hours (4 days) to -48 hours (2 days): Deployment Phase**

#### **ESF 4/9 Pre-planning cell**

**Missing: Provide pre-landfall and re-entry planning.**

**Staffing: Located at Florida Forestry Service Conner Blvd., Tallahassee. 48 – 72hrs pre-storm. FFS IMT C&G, DEM Planning and Logistics, ESF 4/9 Planning, FLUSAR Planning, FWC LNO, FNG LNO.**

FASAR Chair or Designee in coordination with the SEOC, SFM and SERC Chair makes determination of specific resources to be activated / mobilized and travel reporting time calculations.



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## US&R IMT

**Mission: provide command and control to US&R and SAR support resources to perform wide area search and rescue missions.**

**Staffing: FFS IMT positions, FFS AOBD, FLUSAR OSC, PSC, LSC, FWC UIC/LNO, FNG UIC/LNO, FNG Air Ops Planning element, USCG LNO, FEMA IST staff**

**Forestry IMT positions to build out the IMT positions beyond C&G staff. FLUSAR to provide OSC, PSC, LSC and safety position (2 per position will be required if the mission requires 24hr operations). Forestry provides a qualified AOBD for air operations mission. FWC provides an IC to support with command operations with recon and force protection. FNG will provide a LTCOL to act as a military LNO**

Pre-landfall staging location(s) selected in concert with the SEOC Logistics Management / billeting locked in for the identified number of personnel. Pre-landfall staging area billeting, feeding, fuel and ground support requirements set in place.

Activations orders developed (including a Mission #) and forwarded to assigned resources. Advisory emails made to the US&R Task Force Program Managers and system partners. Telephone conference conducted with the assigned FL - US&R IMT command personnel and TF Leaders of the activated TF's to address activation, mobilization and staging issues.

Approved allowable expenditures for Alert notifications are as follows;

Type I US&R Taskforce: \$10,000

Type II US&R Taskforce: \$10,000

Type III US&R Taskforce: \$5,000

Type IV US&R Taskforce: \$2,500

EST/TRT: \$2,500



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US&R Specialist(s) (Planner) will be assigned to the SEOC ESF4/9 Desk.

## **-48 hours (2days) to -0 hours: Staging Phase**

Activated resources on location / in place at assigned staging location. FL-US&R IMT members and TF Leaders establish communications and coordinate with respective SEOC ESF 4/9 as necessary. US&R Specialist (SEOC) determines the need for additional Planning support.

The staging site of US&R response resources is based on the following rationale:

1. Within a 3 hour response to the estimated impact area.
2. Interstate highways access.

## **Rapid Recon**

**Mission: provide continuous intelligence and situational awareness of the assigned areas. Critical infrastructure (County EOC's, Hospitals, City Hall's, Police and Fire Headquarters), Bridges and access routes and overall damage assessment.**

**Staffing: Field command staff (FWC commander, FNG commander, RNA Task Force Leader). Recon Squads (team leader (FWC), 5 FWC SOG Ofcs, 5 FNG CERF-P personnel (NCO, 2 tech rescue/HM, 1 medic, 1 comm) 4 RNA (1-TFL, 1 HTM, 1 StS, 1 MS) members, and 2 BFAI Ofcs.**

**Equipment: 4 wheel drive, ATVs, Boats, chain saws, come-alongs, tow straps, medical pack, HM meters, engineering kit, data collection tools**

**Support: Logistics for feeding, sheltering and supplies, ground support, GIS and mapping, communications.**

**Vehicles: 10-12 vehicles 4x4 preferred, 2 FWC boats, 3 FWC ATVs, 2 FNG boats, 1 FNG equip trlr, 1 bobcat**



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FL-US&R Recon Element shall stage and move just behind the storm to provide immediate intelligence and damage assessment reports. A Rapid Needs Assessment team should be attached as part of the Recon Element is activated or shall function in the absence of a Recon Element. The Recon Element or Rapid Needs Assessment gathers local initial damage assessment and make contact with the effected county EOC's to determine immediate needs prior to engaging US&R assets.

Aerial Recon Mission Ready Package (MRP) will be vital to assist ground reconnaissance to assess specific areas identified by the wide area aerial recon.

## **Air Operations Mission Pre-Scripted Missions:**

- Recon (rotor wing)**
- Squad movement (rotor wing)**
- Medi-Evac (rotor wing)**
- QRF heavy lift (2 squad package) (rotor wing)**
- Logistical movement (rotor/fixed wing)**
- Heavy lift movement (fixed wing)**

US&R resource requirements by the projected hurricane category (rule of thumb, adjusted as needed).

## **US&R Force Protection**

**Mission: provide force protection for US&R personnel and site security for base of operations.**

**Staffing: US&R Task Forces requires an FWC SOG officer per rescue squad. The US&R Task Force provides all support to the assigned officers to the task force (Shelter, food and support). The base of operations requires 2 state officers to handle 24 hr security (this position does not require a SOG Officer).**

- Type I: 4 FWC SOG 2 State Officers**
- Type II: 4 FWC SOG 2 State Officers**
- Type III: 3 FWC SOG 2 State Officers**
- Type IV: 2 FWC SOG 2 State Officers**



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All missions are identified for up to a 14 day mission

Resource	24 Hour Cost	14 Day Mission Cost
ESF 9 Planner	\$720.00	\$10,080.00
RNA Team	\$2,880.00	\$40,320.00
EST/TRT	\$25,000.00	\$350,000.00
US&R IMT	\$30,000.00	\$420,000.00
Swift water Type I	\$30,000.00	\$420,000.00
Type IV US&R	\$25,000.00	\$350,000.00
Type III US&R	\$50,000.00	\$700,000.00
Type II US&R	\$100,000.00	\$1,400,000.00
Type I US&R	\$100,000.00	\$1,400,000.00

**Category 1 Hurricane = (\$1,400,000.00 14 days):**

- Two (2) ESF9 Planners
- One (1) RNA Team
- One (1) Aerial Recon (MRP)
- Two (2) EST/TRT
- One (1) Type III US&R (Closest TF)

**Category 2 Hurricane = (\$4,300,000.00 14 days):**

- Two (2) ESF9 Planners
- One (1) RNA Team
- One (1) Aerial Recon (MRP)
- Four (4) EST/TRT
- One (1) Type II US&R
- Two (2) Type III US&R

**Category 3 Hurricane = (\$16,600,000.00 14 days):**

- One (1) Type I US&R IMT
- Two (2) RNA Team/Recon Element
- One (1) Aerial Recon (MRP)
- Six (6) EST/TRT
- Three (3) Type II US&R



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Three (3) Type III US&R  
Two (2) Type IV US&R  
Federal and EMAC resources are not included in  
over all costs  
One (1) US&R IST Federal/EMAC Response  
Five (5) Type II US&R Federal/EMAC Response  
Aerial Operations MRPs

### **Category 4 Hurricane = (\$21,500,000.00 14 days):**

One (1) Type I US&R IMT  
Two (2) RNA Team  
One (1) Aerial Recon (MRP)  
Eight (8) EST/TRT  
Three (3) Type II US&R  
Three (3) Type III US&R  
Two (2) Type IV US&R  
Two (2) US&R IST Federal/EMAC Response  
Eight (8) Type II US&R Federal/EMAC Response  
Aerial Operations MRPs

### **Category 5 Hurricane = (\$25,300,000.00 14 days):**

One (1) Type I US&R IMT  
Two (2) RNA Team  
One (1) Aerial Recon (MRP)  
Ten (10) EST/TRT  
Three (3) Type II US&R  
Three (3) Type III US&R  
Two (2) Type IV US&R  
Two (2) US&R IST Federal/EMAC Response  
Ten (10) Type II US&R Federal/EMAC Response  
Aerial Operations MRPs

## **1d. Pre-Landfall Staging Period**

**Deployment Strategy**  
**48-72hrs pre-storm Pre-planning cell**  
**24-48hrs IMT forward staging activation**



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**12-24hrs US&R TF/FWC FP, US&R Rapid Recon alert and activation**  
**0-+4hrs Deploy Rapid Recon**  
**+4 – 8hrs Deploy US&R TF/FWC FP, BoO security details to area of operations and BoO set up**

Activated resources arrive on location / in place at assigned staging location 48 hours to 12hours in advance of the storm landing. Staging area logistics including staging manager, ground support and support staff are to be established prior to US&R taskforces arrival to include fuel station, food and water, determination of facility to house resources overnight or a temporary staging location (no longer than 12 hours).

FL- US&R IMT ensures the reception of logistical support resources (trailers of meals, water and supplies).

The FL- US&R IMT and / or ESF 4/9 US&R Specialist assigns US&R Specialist Liaisons to all locations / entities as requested.

## **2. Incident Response**

The FL - US&R IMT and TFs move forward to their assigned location(s) in accordance with Aerial and ground Recon Element/RNA teams and command assignments.

The FL - US&R IMT identifies and reports to the local incident command post / Incident Commander of the affected jurisdiction. As directed, the FL- US&R IMT and TFs will integrate into or establish a US&R Branch in the Operations Section of the ICS structure and operate as assigned.

The FL - US&R IMT Leader will ensure the effective coordination, interaction and reporting through the Operations Section throughout the course of the mission.

The FL - US&R IMT will encourage and help initiate Unified Command for tactical operations as required.

The FL - US&R IMT Leader will coordinate regular scheduled telephone conferences with ESF #9 Desk.



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The FL - US&R IMT Leader will coordinate closely with the sponsoring agencies Chiefs usually by way of scheduled teleconferences to keep them apprised of the current incident situation.

The FL - US&R IMT will review and develop the need for additional tactical resources or support requirements as required for incident operations. Requests will be filled by the SEOC ESF 9 and / or the IMT Logistics Section.

The FL - US&R IMT will review and conduct demobilization planning for assigned resources.

### **3. Post Incident Demobilization**

The FL - US&R IMT will review and conduct demobilization planning for assigned resources. Demobilization orders will be filled by the FL- US&R IMT and reported to the SEOC ESF 9 desk.

The FL - US&R IMT will work with the TF sponsoring agencies on demobilization travel and associated issues involved with the return to home base of demobilized resources.

US&R TFs will conclude operations, address demobilization activities and return to home base in accordance with demobilization orders.

FL - US&R IMT will conduct an exit interview / demobilization agreement with the local incident commander / staff at the conclusion of all US&R operations. The FL - US&R IMT will conclude operations, address demobilization activities and return to home base in accordance with demobilization orders.

### **4. Post Incident Rest and Rehabilitation**

US&R TFs will conduct personnel rest periods, cache rehab and other return-to-readiness activities as outlined in their respective demobilization orders. Rehab allowances are negotiated and are based on the following recommendations:

Cache Rehabilitation Staff Time:

Heavy rescue operations = 400hrs.

Light to medium rescue operations = 240hrs.



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## Basic Personnel Rehabilitation Time:

Starts once they reach home base and released from the mission.

Task force operations = 12 to 48hrs.

12hrs. if demobilized while en-route to an area

24hrs. arrival at area and staged only

48hrs. Moderate to heavy rescue work

US&R TFs will develop a detailed mission reimbursement submission within 90 days of return to home base.

FL-US&R IMT, FL- US&R Recon Element and US&R TFs will conduct post-mission operation (After Action Report) reviews to identify issues for future operational improvements and forward to the FASAR Chair within 45 days of return to home base. The FASAR Chair will submit to ESF 4/9 desk within two weeks of receipt of report.

US&R TFs will advise the FASAR Chair as soon as their TF has returned to a full readiness status.