



Position Qualification for Environmental Response/Health and Safety
Animal Emergency Response

ANIMAL DECONTAMINATION SPECIALIST

RESOURCE CATEGORY	Animal Emergency Response
RESOURCE KIND	Personnel
OVERALL FUNCTION	The Animal Decontamination Specialist provides a range of decontamination operations for animals in one or more of the following competency areas: 1. Companion animals, including pets, service animals, and assistance animals 2. Livestock, including food or fiber animals and domesticated equine species 3. Wildlife animals, captive wildlife, and zoo animals 4. Laboratory animals
COMPOSITION AND ORDERING SPECIFICATIONS	1. This position can be ordered as a single resource or in conjunction with a NIMS typed team (Companion Animal Decontamination Team). 2. Discuss logistics for deploying this position, such as security, lodging, transportation, and meals, prior to deployment 3. This position typically works 12 hours per shift, is self-sustainable for 72 hours, and is deployable for up to 14 days 4. Requestor can order this resource to augment the human decontamination lines of hazardous materials teams 5. Requestor specifies competency areas necessary based on the animal population the position will serve

Each type of resource builds on the qualifications of the type below it. For example, Type 1 qualifications include the qualifications in Type 2, plus an increase in capability. Type 1 is the highest qualification level.

COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	NOTES
DESCRIPTION	Same as Type 2, PLUS: 1. Handles and decontaminates animals for animal decontamination operations in nuclear or radiological incidents, including: 2. Removing radiological contaminants in a nuclear/radiological incident response	The Animal Decontamination Specialist: 1. Is a certified NIMS typed Animal Care and Handling Specialist, Animal Control/Humane Officer, Veterinarian, or Veterinary Assistant 2. Handles and decontaminates animals for animal decontamination operations other than nuclear or radiological; tasks include: a. Removing blood, urine, and feces from working dogs, working horses, or service animals b. Removing riot control agents, such as pepper spray, from working dogs, working horses, or service animals c. Removing contaminants associated with floodwater—such as debris, industrial chemicals, petroleum products, and biological pathogens—from animals after a disaster d. Cleaning oiled birds, mammals, and other wildlife e. Cleaning search-and-rescue cadaver dogs working in a contaminated environment f. Removing chemical contaminants in a chemical incident response g. Removing biotoxins in a biotoxin incident response	Not Specified
EDUCATION	Not Specified	Not Specified	Not Specified



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COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	NOTES
TRAINING	Same as Type 2, PLUS: 1. Training in accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1910.1200: Hazard Communication Standard 2. Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ)-provided training in radiological responses and equipment use	Completion of the following: 1. Training for a NIMS typed Animal Care and Handling Specialist, Animal Control/Humane Officer, Veterinarian, or Veterinary Assistant 2. Training in accordance with the OSHA 29 CFR Part 1910.120: Hazardous Materials Awareness 3. AHJ-provided animal decontamination training	Not Specified
EXPERIENCE	Same as Type 2, PLUS: Participation in an animal radiological decontamination exercise	Participation in an animal decontamination exercise	Not Specified
PHYSICAL/MEDICAL FITNESS	Same as Type 2	1. Performs duties under arduous circumstances characterized by working consecutive 12-hour days under physical and emotional stress for sustained periods of time 2. Is able to work while wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) 3. Keeps immunizations up to date and commensurate with mission	PPE is mission specific and may vary by working environment; it includes protective footwear, protective clothing for skin exposure, eye and ear protection, respirators, gloves, and masks.
CURRENCY	Same as Type 2	Participates in an animal decontamination exercise at least once every two years	Not Specified
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS	Not Specified	Not Specified	Not Specified



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NOTES

Nationally typed resources represent the minimum criteria for the associated component and capability.

REFERENCES

1. FEMA, NIMS 508: Companion Animal Decontamination Team
2. FEMA, NIMS 509: Animal Care and Handling Specialist
3. FEMA, NIMS 509: Animal Control/Humane Officer
4. FEMA, NIMS 509: Veterinarian
5. FEMA, NIMS 509: Veterinary Assistant
6. FEMA, NIMS Guideline for the National Qualification System, November 2017
7. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1910.120: Hazardous Materials Awareness, latest edition adopted
8. OSHA 29 CFR Part 1910.1200: Hazard Communication Standard, latest edition adopted