



## URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE INCIDENT SUPPORT TEAM

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| <b>DESCRIPTION</b>                             | The Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Incident Support Team (IST) augments incident management efforts by providing subject matter expertise to existing command and control operations during incidents or events that could require large-scale search and rescue resources   |
| <b>RESOURCE CATEGORY</b>                       | Search and Rescue  |
| <b>RESOURCE KIND</b>                           | Team   |
| <b>OVERALL FUNCTION</b>                        | <p>The US&amp;R IST:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Deploys to supplement the management and application of search and rescue resources in emergency response operations, incidents, or planned events requiring large-scale search and rescue operations</li> <li>2. Supports a local Incident Commander (IC), Unified Command, Incident Management Team (IMT), or Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in managing an incident or event</li> <li>3. Plans for, manages, and tracks tactical resources that the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) and other supporting organizations provide</li> <li>4. Performs Command, Operations, Planning, Logistics, Finance/Administration, Safety, Public Information, and Liaison functions as the incident requires, in support of the AHJ's existing response enterprise</li> <li>5. Coordinates with IMT(s), EOC personnel, AHJ, and agency administrators regarding incident management objectives and support</li> <li>6. Has short-team and long-team configurations; long-team configurations incorporate additional positions and capabilities to meet incident needs based on the results of a complexity analysis that includes such factors as number of resources, area of operations, and complexity of operations</li> </ol>                |
| <b>COMPOSITION AND ORDERING SPECIFICATIONS</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discuss logistics for deploying this team, such as working conditions, communications, length of deployment, security, lodging, transportation, and meals, prior to deployment</li> <li>2. Discuss team relief/replacement and team member overlap to ensure smooth operational transitions</li> <li>3. Discuss staffing and equipment needs based on incident complexity, such as the need for deputies and assistants or the need to provide 24-hour coverage</li> <li>4. Discuss team responsibilities and authority throughout the incident</li> <li>5. Discuss existing incident command structures and other coordinating entities—such as Federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, IMTs, EOCs, Multiagency Coordination Groups (MAC Groups), and Joint Information Systems (JIS)—that this team will support</li> <li>6. Discuss the need to include trainees on this team</li> <li>7. Discuss the process and expectations for documentation; ordering, tracking, and managing resources; tracking and managing personnel hours; ensuring adequate personnel accountability; ensuring personnel safety and welfare; managing contracts and Memorandums of Understanding (MOU); and managing communications processes and equipment</li> </ol> |

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                             | TYPE 3         | TYPE 4                             | NOTES  |
|--|--|------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>MINIMUM PERSONNEL PER TEAM</b>                  | 30   | 15                                 | 12             | 8                                  | Not Specified  |
| <b>MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT PERSONNEL PER TEAM</b> | Same as Type 2, PLUS:<br>1 - National Incident Management System (NIMS)<br>Type 1 Incident Commander | 1 - NIMS Type 2 Incident Commander | Same as Type 4 | 1 - NIMS Type 3 Incident Commander | An additional IC (Type 1, 2, or 3) can fill the role of deputy IC if the IC or requesting jurisdiction/entity specifies. |



Resource Typing Definition for Mass Search and Rescue Operations  
Search and Rescue

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|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| <b>SUPPORT PERSONNEL PER TEAM</b>                 | Same as Type 2, PLUS:<br>1 - NIMS Type 1 Public Information Officer<br>1 - NIMS Type 1 Safety Officer<br>1 - NIMS Type 1 Liaison Officer<br>2 - NIMS Type 1 Operations Section Chief<br>1 - NIMS Type 1 Planning Section Chief<br>1 - NIMS Type 1 Logistics Section Chief<br>1 - NIMS Type 1 Finance/Administration Section Chief<br>1 - NIMS Type 1 Air Operations Branch Director<br>1 - NIMS Type 1 Communications Unit Leader<br>1 - NIMS Type 1 Situation Unit Leader<br>1 - NIMS Type 1 Resources Unit Leader<br>1 - NIMS Type 1 Geographic Information Systems Specialist<br>1 - Computer technical specialist | 1 - NIMS Type 2 Public Information Officer<br>1 - NIMS Type 2 Safety Officer<br>1 - NIMS Type 2 Liaison Officer<br>2 - NIMS Type 2 Operations Section Chief<br>1 - NIMS Type 2 Planning Section Chief<br>1 - NIMS Type 2 Logistics Section Chief<br>1 - NIMS Type 2 Finance/Administration Section Chief<br>1 - NIMS Type 1 Air Operations Branch Director<br>1 - NIMS Type 2 Communications Unit Leader<br>1 - NIMS Type 1 Situation Unit Leader<br>1 - NIMS Type 1 Resources Unit Leader<br>1 - NIMS Type 1 Geographic Information Systems Specialist<br>1 - Computer technical specialist | Same as Type 4, PLUS:<br>1 - NIMS Type 3 Communications Unit Leader<br>1 - NIMS Type 1 Situation Unit Leader<br>1 - NIMS Type 1 Resources Unit Leader | 1 - NIMS Type 3 Public Information Officer<br>1 - NIMS Type 3 Safety Officer<br>1 - NIMS Type 3 Liaison Officer<br>1 - NIMS Type 3 Operations Section Chief<br>1 - NIMS Type 3 Planning Section Chief<br>1 - NIMS Type 3 Logistics Section Chief<br>1 - NIMS Type 3 Finance/Administration Section Chief | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An IST of a different complexity type may manage or support the incident until an appropriately typed IST can deploy.</li> <li>For Types 1-3, Command and General Staff type should match the IST type, though subordinate positions, such as Unit Leaders, are not tied to incident complexity and may be of a single type.</li> <li>Personnel meet the minimum qualifications indicated in the relevant position qualification system, such as the National Qualification System (NQS). Position typing schemes may vary depending on the qualification system the AHJ uses.</li> <li>For Types 1-3, teams include two or more Operations Section Chiefs, who may serve as deputy, as Operations Section Chief for different operational periods, or as a planning assistant.</li> <li>Teams may include additional positions, such as US&amp;R Technical Specialist or other IMT unit-level or specialist positions.</li> <li>The computer technical specialist is not a NIMS typed position.</li> </ol> |
| <b>PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES PER TEAM</b> | Typically manages more than 500 personnel   | Typically manages up to 500 personnel  | Typically manages up to 200 personnel   | Typically manages up to 80 personnel   | Personnel criteria are flexible parameters for identifying the necessary incident management capabilities.   |
| <b>ELECTRONICS AND OFFICE EQUIPMENT PER TEAM</b>  | Same as Type 2  | Same as Type 3   | Same as Type 4  | Electronic and office equipment commensurate with the mission assignment   | Refer to FEMA US&R/State Urban Search and Rescue (SUSAR) cache lists for detailed equipment guidelines.  |



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|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|---|--|
| <b>PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) PER TEAM MEMBER</b> | Same as Type 2 | Same as Type 3 | Same as Type 4 | Appropriate PPE, if necessary   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. PPE requirements depend on the position, the nature of the incident, and the environmental conditions experienced or expected. Not all positions require PPE.</li> <li>2. PPE is mission specific and may vary by work environment; it includes protective footwear, protective clothing for skin exposure, eye and ear protection, respirators, gloves, and masks.</li> </ol> |
| <b>COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT PER TEAM</b>                   | Same as Type 2 | Same as Type 3 | Same as Type 4 | Communications equipment commensurate with the mission assignment   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Refer to FEMA US&amp;R/SUSAR cache lists for detailed equipment guidelines.</li> <li>2. The team arrives with or can order portable radios, repeaters, portable cellular towers, mobile communications units, mobile command posts, and other communications support equipment as necessary to provide communications for the incident.</li> </ol>                             |
| <b>ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SUPPLIES PER TEAM</b>            | Same as Type 2 | Same as Type 3 | Same as Type 4 | Basic office supplies and electronics equipment necessary to support development and distribution of plans, maps, and other mission needs for 72 hours of continuous operations | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Refer to FEMA US&amp;R/SUSAR cache lists for detailed equipment guidelines.</li> </ol>   |



## NOTES

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1. Nationally typed resources represent the minimum criteria for the associated component and capability.
2. This document contains references to non-Federal resources and materials. Such references do not constitute an endorsement by the U.S. government, or any of its employees, of the information or content which a non-Federal resource or material provides.

## REFERENCES

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1. FEMA, NIMS 509: Air Operations Branch Director
2. FEMA, NIMS 509: Air Support Group Supervisor
3. FEMA, NIMS 509: Air Tactical Group Supervisor
4. FEMA, NIMS 509: Communications Technician
5. FEMA, NIMS 509: Communications Unit Leader
6. FEMA, NIMS 509: Compensation/Claims Unit Leader
7. FEMA, NIMS 509: Cost Unit Leader
8. FEMA, NIMS 509: Demobilization Unit Leader
9. FEMA, NIMS 509: Documentation Unit Leader
10. FEMA, NIMS 509: Facilities Unit Leader
11. FEMA, NIMS 509: Finance/Administration Section Chief
12. FEMA, NIMS 509: Food Unit Leader
13. FEMA, NIMS 509: Geographic Information Systems Analyst
14. FEMA, NIMS 509: Geographic Information Systems Specialist
15. FEMA, NIMS 509: Ground Support Unit Leader
16. FEMA, NIMS 509: Incident Commander
17. FEMA, NIMS 509: Liaison Officer
18. FEMA, NIMS 509: Logistics Section Chief
19. FEMA, NIMS 509: Medical Unit Leader
20. FEMA, NIMS 509: Operations Section Chief
21. FEMA, NIMS 509: Ordering Team Leader
22. FEMA, NIMS 509: Planning Section Chief
23. FEMA, NIMS 509: Procurement Unit Leader
24. FEMA, NIMS 509: Public Information Officer
25. FEMA, NIMS 509: Resources Unit Leader
26. FEMA, NIMS 509: Safety Officer