

**FEMA US&R RESPONSE SYSTEM**  
**Position Description**  
**HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SPECIALIST**

The Hazardous Materials Specialist is responsible for performing the various hazardous materials assessments for the task force during incident operations. The Hazardous Materials Specialist reports directly to the Technical Team Manager.

Description of Duties

The Hazardous Materials Specialist is responsible for:

- Providing ongoing monitoring of local environmental conditions during task force operations.
- Providing an initial and ongoing survey for and identification of the presence of hazardous materials at search and rescue sites.
- Implementing defensive mitigation practices when indicated.
- Directing emergency decontamination procedures for any task force member or victim.
- Providing assistance to medical personnel for information regarding chemical exposure and injuries.
- Documenting all related information.
- Adhering to all safety procedures.
- Accountability, maintenance, and minor repairs for all issued equipment.
- Performing additional tasks or duties as assigned during a mission.
- Ensuring MSDS are provided for all hazardous materials carried or used by the task force.
- Ensuring all specialized equipment is maintained and calibrated according to the manufacturers specifications.

Position Requirements and Criteria

Individuals who meet the following requirements and criteria will be eligible to become Hazardous Materials Specialists in the FEMA US&R Response System. The intent of these requirements is to select personnel fully capable of providing competent assessments and advice to task force personnel in the urban disaster environment. The requirements and criteria for the position are identified in the following categories:

Knowledge  
Skills  
Abilities

**Knowledge**

1. Currently certified as a Hazardous Materials Technician as per OSHA Standard 29 CFR 1910.120 Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response.
2. Knowledge of data collection techniques and documentation procedures in accordance with OSHA Standard 29 CFR 1910.120 Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response.
3. Current in a State-sanctioned Emergency Medical Technician - Basic certification or equivalent.

**Skills**

1. Ability to recognize and identify risks and hazards during aerial reconnaissance and document accordingly.
2. Ability to recognize and identify basic risks and hazards at the rescue site and document accordingly.

**Abilities** *(see general requirements)*