



# North Carolina Department of Public Safety

*Prevent. Protect. Prepare.*

Pat McCrory, Governor

Frank L. Perry, Secretary

## MEMORANDUM

To: Chairs of Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety  
Fiscal Research Division

From: Frank L. Perry, Secretary, NC DPS  
Gregory K. Baker, Commissioner of Law Enforcement, NC DPS  
Michael Sprayberry, Director, NCEM

SUBJECT: Urban Search and Rescue Program Report

Date: January 15, 2015

Pursuant to Section 5 of Session Law 2014-27, please find the enclosed report from the North Carolina Department of Public Safety on the projected costs of implementing the Urban Search and Rescue Program. Representatives from NCDPS-NCEM and the Fire Chiefs of the 7 municipalities (Charlotte, Asheville, Greenville, Fayetteville, Greensboro, & Raleigh) which host the current USAR Task Forces coordinated and performed a detailed cost study as required (See Attached).

In summary, the study determined that it would require \$4,630,900 per annum to sustain the 7 USAR Task Forces. The cost study recommended that the State provide roughly half of the funding (\$2,353,400) in recurring state appropriations and the municipalities hosting the Task Forces provide the remainder of the funding (\$2,277,500).

These Task Forces are extremely important to ensure the preparedness of North Carolina citizens against all hazards, to include hurricanes, flooding, explosive hazards, tornadoes, etc. Among other responses, they have been used during Hurricane Irene, the 2011 Tornadoes and frequently during structure collapses at the local level. They are available 24/7 to be deployed statewide. The partnership between State and Municipal governments is truly a model of good, efficient government.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information and for your support of preparedness in North Carolina. If there are any questions regarding this report, please contact the NC DPS Governmental Affairs office at 919-733-2126.

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# NC Urban Search & Rescue Program

## *Study on Programmatic Expenses*



Revised as of: 1/6/2015

Prepared by: NC Urban Search & Rescue - Technical Advisory Group

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## ***NC Urban Search & Rescue Program***

**Purpose:** The intent of the 2014 NC Urban Search and Rescue Program Cost Study is to capture complete programmatic expenses of both local and state partners and outline a recommended cost share to sustain the NC Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Program into the future.

**Background:** After the devastating impact of Hurricane Floyd in 1999, NC Emergency Management began to develop regional USAR taskforces to address gaps in capability. The NC USAR system is led through state and local partnerships in the NC USAR Technical Advisory Group (TAG). This body has representation from each state sponsored USAR taskforce as well as NC Emergency Management Senior Leadership and technical experts. The program has been funded mostly through federal grant dollars and sustained through local sponsoring agencies. As federal grant funding has declined, a more permanent solution is needed to maintain the regional USAR capability in the state.

While the federal government also established a federal USAR program, none of these teams are located in NC and past disasters have proven these teams will be unable to respond in a timely enough manner to be effective in meeting the need for a USAR response. While the NC program is loosely based on the federal system, the NC program focuses more on a regional concept, much like the regional hazmat teams, that are well versed to respond in an all hazards environment as well as provide technical support for complex incidents in their respective area of responsibility. This regional concept saves local governments across the state from having to build and maintain local USAR capability. NC USAR capability is focused around modular resource packaging that can support a wide array of disasters from collapsed buildings, flood response, communications and logistical support. The diversity of capability has proven invaluable in responding to disasters in North Carolina over the past 10 years. The NC USAR program is well respected across the nation as a model system in regional search and rescue response.

This document is meant to capture 100% of program costs. A recent cost study on the national USAR program by the International Association of Fire Fighters showed expenses for a Type I USAR program to be between \$1.7-\$2 million each. That estimate is for Urban Search and Rescue operations only and does not include any other capability. While NC USAR is not seeking to be equivalent to a FEMA team, the study does provide a good baseline. In North Carolina, the Urban Search and Rescue Program is adapted to focus on the prevalent hazards and designed to support response in an all-hazards environment to include flood rescue capability where none exists in the federal system. Cost savings are realized through strong working relationships, efficient operations, and experience in program development and maintenance. The complete study completed by the International Association of Fire Fighters can be found in the attached references along with the current funding and budget outline for the federal USAR system.

**Recommendation:** The NC USAR Technical Advisory Group recommends \$4,630,900 to be shared in the following manner: 50% from the state and 50% from the municipalities hosting the 7 Task Forces. This requires \$2,353,400.00 in recurring annual state appropriations. This amount will ensure current capability can be maintained well into the future. The local host agencies realize there is some advantage to being a host and that some cost share is expected. The local sponsoring agencies agree to support this program through cost share with a combination of in-kind and direct funding support.

## **Cost Summary - NC Urban Search & Rescue Program**

### **Cost Summary - Recommended Funding Levels**

<i>Expense Category</i>	<i>Total Costs</i>	<i>State Share</i>	<i>Local Share</i>
Training	\$710,000.00	\$355,000.00	\$355,000.00
Exercise	\$450,000.00	\$225,000.00	\$225,000.00
Administration	\$1,575,000.00	\$787,500.00	\$787,500.00
Equipment Maintenance	\$1,820,000.00	\$910,000.00	\$910,000.00
State Programmatic Expenses	\$75,900.00	\$75,900.00	\$0.00

Total NC USAR Program Expense \$4,630,900.00

Total Recommended Annual State Funding Share \$2,353,400.00

Total Recommended Annual Local Funding Share \$2,277,500.00

### **Cost Summary by USAR Type**

<i>Expense Category</i>	<i>Type I</i>	<i>Type II</i>
Training	\$157,777.77	\$78,888.88
Exercise	\$100,000.00	\$50,000.00
Administration	\$360,000.00	\$171,000.00
Equipment Maintenance	\$355,000.00	\$222,000.00

Total Program Expense by Type \$972,777.77 \$521,888.88

Notes: The IAFF report calculates cost for Federal USAR. While NC USAR is not looking to be equivalent to a FEMA team, the study does provide a good baseline. NC USAR teams focus on the prevalent hazards in North Carolina adding flood rescue capability where none exists on the FEMA teams. Cost share is comparable to FEMA cost share with federal host agencies.

<i>NC Urban Search &amp; Rescue Teams</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Proposed Funding</i>
NCTF-2 - Buncombe County	II	\$260,944.44
NCTF-3 - City of Charlotte	I	\$486,388.89
NCTF-6 - City of Greensboro	II	\$260,944.44
NCTF-8 - City of Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill	I	\$486,388.89
NCTF-9 - City of Fayetteville, Lumberton Rescue	II	\$260,944.44
NCTF-10 - City of Greenville, New Bern	II	\$260,944.44
NCTF-11 - New Hanover County, Wilmington	II	\$260,944.44
NCEM Search & Rescue Program	N/A	\$75,900.00

## **Training Expenses - NC Urban Search & Rescue**

### **Urban Search & Rescue**

<i>Class</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Total Costs</i>	<i>Personnel Trained</i>
Basic Structural Collapse Technician	1	\$150,000.00	81
Specialty USAR Training (Rotating)	3	\$75,000.00	75
Communications Specialist	1	\$35,000.00	30

### **Swiftwater Search & Rescue**

<i>Class</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Total Costs</i>	<i>Personnel Trained</i>
Basic Boat Operator Training	4	\$140,000.00	72
Advanced Boat Operator Training	4	\$100,000.00	72
Boat Logistics Training	1	\$15,000.00	30

### **Specialty Search & Rescue**

<i>Class</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Total Costs</i>	<i>Personnel Trained</i>
Helicopter Search & Rescue	36	\$90,000.00	50
K9 Search & Rescue	5	\$20,000.00	75
Lost Person Incident Training	8	\$85,000.00	240

Total Annual Training Costs    \$710,000.00

Notes: Courses filled by petition to all 7 NC USAR Teams. Training costs include per diem expenses for students, materials, and instructor contracts. Where possible, North Carolina has developed an in house instructor cadre to realize cost savings.

## **Exercise Expenses - NC Urban Search & Rescue**

### **Urban Search & Rescue**

<i>Exercise</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Total Costs</i>	<i>Personnel Count</i>
Annual USAR Joint Exercise	1	\$450,000.00	300

Total Exercise Costs \$450,000.00

<i>Breakdown of Exercise Expenses</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Total Costs</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Meals at \$38 / person per day	300	\$30,000.00	
Lodging at \$35 / person per day	300	\$30,000.00	
Fuel at 150 gal / day times 7 teams	1050	\$15,000.00	
Expendables (Nails, Lumbers, Bits, etc)	N/A	\$25,000.00	
Salaries at \$200 / person per day	300	\$315,000.00	
Exercise Props (Concrete, Lumber, steel)	N/A	\$20,000.00	
Evaluators at \$400 / day for 12 evaluators	12	\$15,000.00	

Total Exercise Costs \$450,000.00

Note: The NC USAR Exercise plan is based on a two year rotation of NC USAR Taskforces at 300 personnel per exercise. Exercise cost estimates are derived from past exercise figures. Budgeted salaries are for backfill of personnel to allow exercise participants to participate in multiday exercise without impacting sponsoring agency's ability to perform day to day response mission.

## **Administration Expenses - NC Urban Search & Rescue**

### **Urban Search & Rescue**

<b>Administration</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Per Team</b>	<b>Total Costs</b>
Type I	2 taskforces	\$360,000.00	\$720,000.00
Type II	5 taskforces	\$171,000.00	\$855,000.00

Total Administration Costs \$1,575,000.00

<b>Breakdown of Administration Expenses</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Cell Phone	7 taskforces	\$8,400.00	\$100 / month
Sat Phone	7 taskforces	\$8,400.00	\$100 / month
Mobile Data	7 taskforces	\$8,400.00	\$100 / month
Mobile Satellite Communications Data Service	7 taskforces	\$42,000.00	\$6,000 / year
Professional Memberships	7 taskforces	\$2,800.00	
Medical Evaluation, Fit Tests, Immunization	7 taskforces	\$160,000.00	
Warehouse - Type I	2 taskforces	\$420,000.00	30,000 sq. ft. at \$7 / sq. ft.
Warehouse - Type II	5 taskforces	\$525,000.00	15,000 sq. ft. at \$7 / sq. ft.
Team Management / Planning / Logistics - Type I	2 taskforces	\$200,000.00	CDL, Meetings, Seminars, Workers Comp
Team Management / Planning / Logistics - Type II	5 taskforces	\$200,000.00	CDL, Meetings, Seminars, Workers Comp

Total Administration Costs \$1,575,000.00

Notes: Team management includes day to day operations of USAR taskforce and taskforce administration. This includes inventory, day to day maintenance of equipment cache, records and training management, budget management, travel to meetings, commercial drivers licenses, and workers compensation coverage.

## ***Equipment Maintenance Expenses - NC Urban Search & Rescue***

### ***Urban Search & Rescue***

<i>Capital Expenses</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Per Team</i>	<i>Total Costs</i>
Type I - Fleet Replacement	2	\$160,000.00	\$320,000.00
Type II - Fleet Replacement	5	\$100,000.00	\$500,000.00
Type I - Specialized Equipment	2	\$100,000.00	\$200,000.00
Type II - Specialized Equipment	5	\$75,000.00	\$375,000.00
Total Capital Costs		\$1,395,000.00	

### ***Capital Leasing Expenses Include:***

Replacing equipment - Tractors, Trailers, Specialized Rescue Equipment, Communications, Respiratory Protection

<i>Maintenance Expenses</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Per Team</i>	<i>Total Costs</i>
Type I	2	\$95,000.00	\$190,000.00
Type II	5	\$47,000.00	\$235,000.00
Total Maintenance Costs		\$425,000.00	

### ***Maintenance Expenses Include:***

Maintaining equipment and vehicles - Tires, Oil, Fuel, Blades, Gas, Batteries, General Maintenance, Base of Operations, Uniforms, Food/Water Cache, Lumber

Total Equipment Maintenance      \$1,820,000.00

Notes: Equipment maintenance cost is calculated using average actual expenses from the NC USAR Taskforces. Unless specified by the manufacturer equipment is phase replaced on a 10 year replacement cycle.

### ***State SAR Program Administration Expenses***

#### ***Urban Search & Rescue***

NC Administration Expenses	Quantity	Total Costs	Notes
Full Time Employee	1	\$60,000.00	Salary & Benefits
SAR SUV	1	\$13,500.00	25,000 mi / year at DOA Rate of \$0.54 / mi
Cell Phone	1	\$1,200.00	\$100 / month
Mobile Data	1	\$1,200.00	\$100 / month
Total Administration Costs		\$75,900.00	

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2013

A

SESSION LAW 2014-27  
HOUSE BILL 698

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECKS FOR CURRENT VOLUNTEERS OR PAID FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL AND TO ESTABLISH THE URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE PROGRAM AND THE URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 114-19.12 reads as rewritten:

"§ 114-19.12. Criminal history record checks of applicants to and current members of fire departments and emergency medical services.

(a) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

...  
(3) Current member. – A person who serves in a paid or volunteer position with a fire department or an emergency medical service.

(b) When requested by a designated local Homeland Security ~~director~~ director, a local fire chief, ~~chief of a rated fire department~~, a county fire marshal, ~~or an emergency services director or director~~, or ~~when if~~ there is no designated local Homeland Security director, local fire chief, ~~chief of a rated fire department~~, county fire marshal, or emergency services director, when requested by a local law enforcement agency, the North Carolina Department of Justice may provide to the requesting director, chief, marshal, director, or agency an applicant's or current member's criminal history from the State and National Repositories of Criminal Histories. The local Homeland Security director, local fire chief, marshal, director, or local law enforcement agency shall provide to the North Carolina Department of Justice the fingerprints of the applicant to be checked, any additional information required by the Department of Justice, and a form signed by the applicant to be checked consenting to the check of the criminal record and to the use of fingerprints and other identifying information required by the State or National Repositories. The fingerprints of the individual shall be forwarded to the State Bureau of Investigation for a search of the State criminal history record file, and the State Bureau of Investigation shall forward a set of fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history record check. The local Homeland Security director, local fire chief, county fire marshal, emergency services director, or local law enforcement agency shall keep all information pursuant to this section confidential. The Department of Justice shall charge a reasonable fee for conducting the checks of the criminal history records authorized by this section.

...  
(d) If the applicant's or current member's verified criminal history record check reveals one or more convictions covered under subdivision (a)(2) of this section, then the conviction shall constitute just cause for not selecting the applicant for the position or for dismissing the ~~person~~ current member from a current position with the local fire department or emergency medical services. The conviction shall not automatically prohibit volunteering or employment; however, the following factors shall be considered by the local Homeland Security director, local fire chief, county fire marshal, emergency services director, or local law enforcement agency in determining whether the position shall be ~~denied~~ denied or the current member dismissed from a current position:

- (1) The level and seriousness of the crime;
- (2) The date of the crime;
- (3) The age of the person at the time of the conviction;



- (4) The circumstances surrounding the commission of the crime, if known;
- (5) The nexus between the criminal conduct of the person and the duties of the person;
- (6) The prison, jail, probation, parole, rehabilitation, and employment records of the person since the date the crime was committed; and
- (7) The subsequent commission by the person of a crime listed in subsection (a) of this section.

(e) The local fire department or emergency medical services may deny the applicant or current member the position or dismiss an applicant or current member who refuses to consent to a criminal history record check or use of fingerprints or other identifying information required by the State or National Repositories of Criminal Histories. This refusal constitutes just cause for the denial of the position or the dismissal from ~~the a current~~ position.

...  
(g) For purposes of this section, "local fire chief" shall include only fire chiefs who are paid employees of a city; the fire chief of any bona fide fire department certified to the Commissioner of Insurance with at least a Class 9S rating for insurance grading purposes; "county fire marshal" shall include only fire marshals who are paid employees of a county; and "emergency services director" shall include only emergency services directors who are paid employees of a city or county."

**SECTION 2.** The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety shall study the feasibility of having the Department of Insurance, under the direction of the North Carolina Fire and Rescue Commission, to provide the request for the criminal check and any required identifying information to the Department of Justice. The Committee shall report its findings to the 2015 General Assembly upon its convening.

**SECTION 3.** G.S. 166A-19.12 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 166A-19.12. Powers of the Division of Emergency Management.**

The Division of Emergency Management shall have the following powers and duties as delegated by the Governor and Secretary of Public Safety:

...  
(21) Maintenance of an effective statewide urban search and rescue program."

**SECTION 4.** Chapter 166A of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Article to read:

"Article 6.

"Urban Search and Rescue.

**"§ 166A-65. Definitions.**

The following definitions apply in this Article:

- (1) Urban search and rescue team. – A specialized team or group of teams, organized with capabilities equivalent to urban search and rescue teams established under the Federal Emergency Management Agency in order to assist in the removal of trapped victims during emergencies, including, but not limited to, collapsed structures, trench excavations, elevated locations, and in other technical rescue situations.
- (2) Specialty rescue team. – A specialized response team, organized to provide technical rescue assistance to first responders. The term includes, but is not limited to, a canine search and rescue or disaster response team, a cave search and rescue team, a collapse search and rescue team, a mine and tunnel search and rescue team, and a swift water or flood search and rescue team. A specialty rescue team shall be aligned with one or more of the search and rescue categories within the Federal Emergency Management Agency's national resource typing system.
- (3) Incident support team. – A team of trained emergency response personnel, organized to provide coordination between governmental agencies and nongovernmental organizations as well as technical and logistical support to urban search and rescue teams and specialty rescue teams.
- (4) Contract response team. – An urban search and rescue team, specialty rescue team, or incident support team.
- (5) Secretary. – The Secretary of the Department of Public Safety.

**"§ 166A-66. Urban Search and Rescue Program.**

(a) The Secretary shall adopt rules establishing a program for urban search and rescue that relies on contracts with contract response teams. The program shall be administered by the Division of Emergency Management. To the extent possible, the program shall be coordinated with other emergency planning activities of the State. The program shall include contract response teams located strategically across the State that are available to provide 24-hour dispatch from the Division of Emergency Management Operations Center. The rules for the program shall include:

- (1) Standards, including training, equipment, and personnel standards required to operate a contract response team.
- (2) Guidelines for the dispatch of a contract response team to an urban search and rescue team or specialty rescue team mission.
- (3) Guidelines for the on-site operations of a contract response team.
- (4) Standards for administration of a contract response team, including procedures for reimbursement of response costs.
- (5) Refresher and specialist training for members of contract response teams.
- (6) Procedures for recovering the costs of an urban search and rescue team or specialty rescue team mission.
- (7) Procedures for bidding and contracting for urban search and rescue team and specialty rescue team missions.
- (8) Criteria for evaluating bids for urban search and rescue team and specialty rescue team missions.
- (9) Delineation of the roles of the contract response team, local public safety personnel, the Division of Emergency Management's area coordinator, and other State agency personnel participating in an urban search and rescue team or specialty rescue team mission.
- (10) Procedures for the Division of Emergency Management to audit the contract response teams to ensure compliance with State and federal guidelines.

(b) Within available appropriations, the Division of Emergency Management shall spend the necessary funds for training, equipment, and other items necessary to support the operations of contract response teams. The Division of Emergency Management may also administer any grants of other funds made available for contract response teams, in accordance with applicable rules and regulations approved by the Director of the State Budget.

(c) In developing the Urban Search and Rescue Program and adopting the rules required by this section, the Secretary shall consult with the Urban Search and Rescue Team Advisory Committee established pursuant to G.S. 166A-69.

"§ 166A-67. Contracts; equipment loans.

(a) The Secretary may contract with any unit or units of local government for the provision of a contract response team to implement the Urban Search and Rescue Program. Contracts are to be let consistent with the bidding and contract standards and procedures adopted pursuant to G.S. 166A-66(a)(7) and G.S. 166A-66(a)(8). In entering into contracts with units of local government, the Secretary may agree to provide any of the following:

- (1) A loan of equipment.
- (2) Reimbursement of personnel costs, including the cost of callback personnel, when a contract response team is authorized by the Department to respond to urban search and rescue team and specialty rescue team missions.
- (3) Reimbursement for use of equipment and vehicles owned by the contract response team.
- (4) Replacement of disposable materials and damaged equipment.
- (5) Training expenses.
- (6) Anything else agreed to by the Secretary and the contract response team.

(b) The Secretary shall not agree to provide reimbursement for standby time.

(c) Any contract entered into between the Secretary and a unit of local government for the provision of a contract response team shall specify that the members of the contract response team, when performing under the contract, shall not be employees of the State and shall not be entitled to benefits under the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System or for the payment by the State of federal Social Security, employment insurance, or workers' compensation.

(d) Contract response teams that have the use of a State vehicle may use the vehicle for local purposes. Where a State vehicle is used for purposes other than authorized contract

response to an urban search and rescue team and specialty rescue team mission, the contract response team shall be liable for repairs or replacements directly attributable to that use.

**"§ 166A-68. Immunity of contract response team personnel.**

Members of a contract response team shall be protected from liability under the provisions of G.S. 166A-19.60(a) while on an urban search and rescue team or specialty rescue team mission pursuant to authorization from the Division of Emergency Management.

**"§ 166A-69. Urban Search and Rescue Team Advisory Committee.**

(a) The Urban Search and Rescue Team Advisory Committee is created. The Secretary shall appoint the members of the Committee and shall designate the Director or Deputy Director of the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management as the chair. In making appointments, the Secretary shall take into consideration the expertise of the appointees in the management of urban search and rescue or specialty response team missions. The Secretary shall appoint one representative from each of the following:

- (1) The Division of North Carolina Emergency Management, who shall be the Director or Deputy Director of the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management and who shall serve as the chair.
- (2) Each state USAR regional contract response team's Chief or Deputy Chief.
- (3) The North Carolina Office of State Fire Marshal.
- (4) The North Carolina Highway Patrol.
- (5) The North Carolina National Guard.
- (6) The North Carolina Association of Rescue and E.M.S., Inc.
- (7) The North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs.
- (8) The North Carolina State Firemen's Association.
- (9) The North Carolina Emergency Management Association.

(b) The Advisory Committee shall meet on the call of the chair, or at the request of the Secretary, provided that the Committee shall meet no less than once every year. The Department of Public Safety shall provide space for the Advisory Committee to meet. The Department shall also provide the Advisory Committee with necessary support staff and supplies to enable the Committee to carry out its duties in an effective manner.

(c) Members of the Advisory Committee shall serve without pay, but shall receive travel allowance, lodging, subsistence, and per diem as provided by G.S. 138-5.

(d) The Contract Response Team Advisory Committee shall advise the Secretary on the establishment of the Urban Search and Rescue Program. The Committee shall also evaluate and advise the Secretary of the need for additional contract response teams to serve the State."

**SECTION 5.** Prior to implementation of the Urban Search and Rescue Program established by Section 4 of this act, the Department of Public Safety shall study the costs of implementing the program, including the apportionment of costs between State and local government entities. The Department shall report the results of its study to the Joint Legislative Justice and Public Safety Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division on or before January 15, 2015.

**SECTION 6.** Section 1 of this act becomes effective January 1, 2015. Section 4 of this act becomes effective July 1, 2014. The remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 19<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2014.

s/ Daniel J. Forest  
President of the Senate

s/ Thom Tillis  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

s/ Pat McCrory  
Governor

Approved 12:10 p.m. this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2014

## Politics & Legislation

### **IAFF LEGISLATIVE FACT SHEET**

**[Click Here for Key Points](#)**

### **FUNDING FOR THE URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM**

*The IAFF supports increased funding for the Urban Search and Rescue Response System and urges Members of Congress to provide additional funding for the program.*

#### **BACKGROUND**

The National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Response System was originally established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in 1989 to provide adequate search and rescue capacity in the event of an earthquake. Since then, the US&R System has evolved into an invaluable federal, state and local resource capable of responding to both natural and manmade disasters, including earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, hazardous materials spills, acts of terrorism and catastrophic structure collapses. Most recently, teams were deployed in response to the Joplin tornado and the Haiti earthquake.

Today, the US&R System comprises 28 national task forces consisting of highly trained, equipped and exercised emergency response personnel, including many IAFF members.

In 2006, FEMA estimated the average cost to maintain a national US&R team at \$1.7 million. Today, in many jurisdictions the cost exceeds \$2 million. Annual appropriations through the Department of Homeland Security provide funding for training, exercises, communications and personal protective equipment, and medical monitoring for responder safety and health. Unfortunately, the federal government has historically underfunded the program, leaving the local governments that sponsor the 28 task forces responsible for filling the gap. With many localities facing budget shortfalls, sponsoring US&R teams has become a burden they are unable to afford. Congress provided \$35.18 million for US&R in Fiscal Year 2014, but this amount only covers a portion of the necessary costs.

#### **CURRENT LEGISLATION**

**U.S. House:** **H.R. 4903, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2015**  
Sponsor: Representative John Carter (R-TX)

**Summary:** H.R. 4903 provides funding for the Department of Homeland Security and its programs in Fiscal Year 2015. As approved, the bill provides \$27.513 million for US&R.

**U.S. Senate:** **S. 2534, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2015**  
Sponsor: Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA)

**Summary:** S. 2534 provides funding for the Department of Homeland Security and its programs in Fiscal Year 2015. As approved, the bill provides \$35.18 million for US&R.

#### **CONGRESSIONAL ACTION**

On March 4, 2014, the Administration released its budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2015. The proposal includes \$27.513 million for US&R.

On June 19, 2014, the House Committee on Appropriations approved H.R. 4903, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2015. As approved, the Act includes \$27.513 million for US&R.

On June 26, 2014, the Senate Committee on Appropriations approved S. 2534, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2015. As approved, the Act includes \$35.18 million for US&R.

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## Politics & Legislation

### KEY POINTS

#### **FUNDING FOR THE URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM**

- The National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Response System provides a significant national resource for search and rescue assistance in the wake of a major disaster or structural collapse. A typical US&R task force will conduct physical search and rescue operations, provide emergency medical care to trapped victims, assess and control hazards such as ruptured gas and electric lines, and evaluate and stabilize damaged structures.
- Due to the critical, life-saving nature of their mission, US&R task forces must be prepared to deploy within six hours of notification, and must be self-sufficient for the first seventy-two hours.
- US&R teams have been deployed in response to the Japanese and Haiti earthquakes, Hurricane Katrina, the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, the Oklahoma City bombing, the grain elevator explosion in Wichita, Kansas, and many other foreign and domestic disasters.
- Each of the twenty-eight US&R task forces consists of two teams of thirty-one or more persons, including fire fighters, engineers, medical professionals, hazardous materials specialists and others with special expertise. To ensure a full team can deploy to an emergency, a typical task force has more than 130 members.
- In addition to personnel, each task force includes four canines and a comprehensive equipment cache to support its operations. A typical US&R cache includes tools, heavy rescue equipment, medical supplies, hazardous materials support equipment, canine support equipment, and communications equipment.
- In 2006, the Federal Emergency Management Agency estimated the annual and recurring cost for each task force to be approximately \$1.7 million. Today, in many jurisdictions the cost exceeds \$2 million. In addition to program management costs, this estimate includes expenses for training, exercises, medical monitoring of personnel, and equipment maintenance and storage.
- Current federal funding for the nation's US&R teams only provides a fraction of the funds necessary to maintain each task force, leaving local government sponsors to pick up the remainder of the cost.
- Even if legislation authorizing additional funding for the US&R system is enacted, Congress must provide additional funding through appropriations to deliver such funds to local US&R teams.
- Tight local budgets due to the recent recession have left many local government sponsors unable to subsidize crucial US&R functions such as training, significantly straining task forces' readiness and capabilities.
- Subsidizing US&R task forces at the local level also has a negative impact on community preparedness by diverting funds from local emergency services budgets.

- The recent earthquake in Haiti and the subsequent response underscore the importance of the national search and rescue capability. Increasing federal funding for the Urban Search and Rescue Response System will help ensure that highly skilled teams are available to respond to major emergencies without jeopardizing local emergency services.

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## FY 14 USAR HSGP FUNDING

Revised as of: 7/21/14

FY14	TF2	TF3	TF6	TF8	TF9	TF10	TF11
USAR - Training	\$51,429.00	\$51,429.00	\$51,429.00	\$51,429.00	\$51,429.00	\$51,429.00	\$51,429.00
USAR - Equipment	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$37,000.00	\$37,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$25,000.00
HART - Training	\$1,978.00	\$27,692.00	\$0.00	\$23,736.00	\$0.00	\$3,956.00	\$0.00
HART - Equipment	\$1,727.00	\$24,178.00	\$0.00	\$20,742.00	\$0.00	\$3,454.00	\$0.00
Total FY14	\$67,134.00	\$115,299.00	\$63,429.00	\$132,907.00	\$88,429.00	\$70,839.00	\$76,429.00
Period of Performance Begins 9/14							

### Notes:

USAR Training includes planned position specific training as well as boat training during the next calendar year. This training need was developed as part of the USAR strategic plan by the USAR TAG.

USAR Equipment expenses are a continuation from a request for Unfunded Requests from the SAR Coordinator to each Taskforce, a working list was compiled and priorities established based on need and ability to get the most capability out of funding. Also included is the purchase of Night Vision devices for swiftwater teams to align with latest federal guidance.

Also included in equipment is Air Bag Replacement for TF 8, 9, and 11. This completes the air bag replacement project.

HART Training represents a division of training cost based on the number of HART techs per taskforce

HART Equipment represents a division of equipment costs to replace old dry suits and flight suits based on the number of HART techs per taskforce

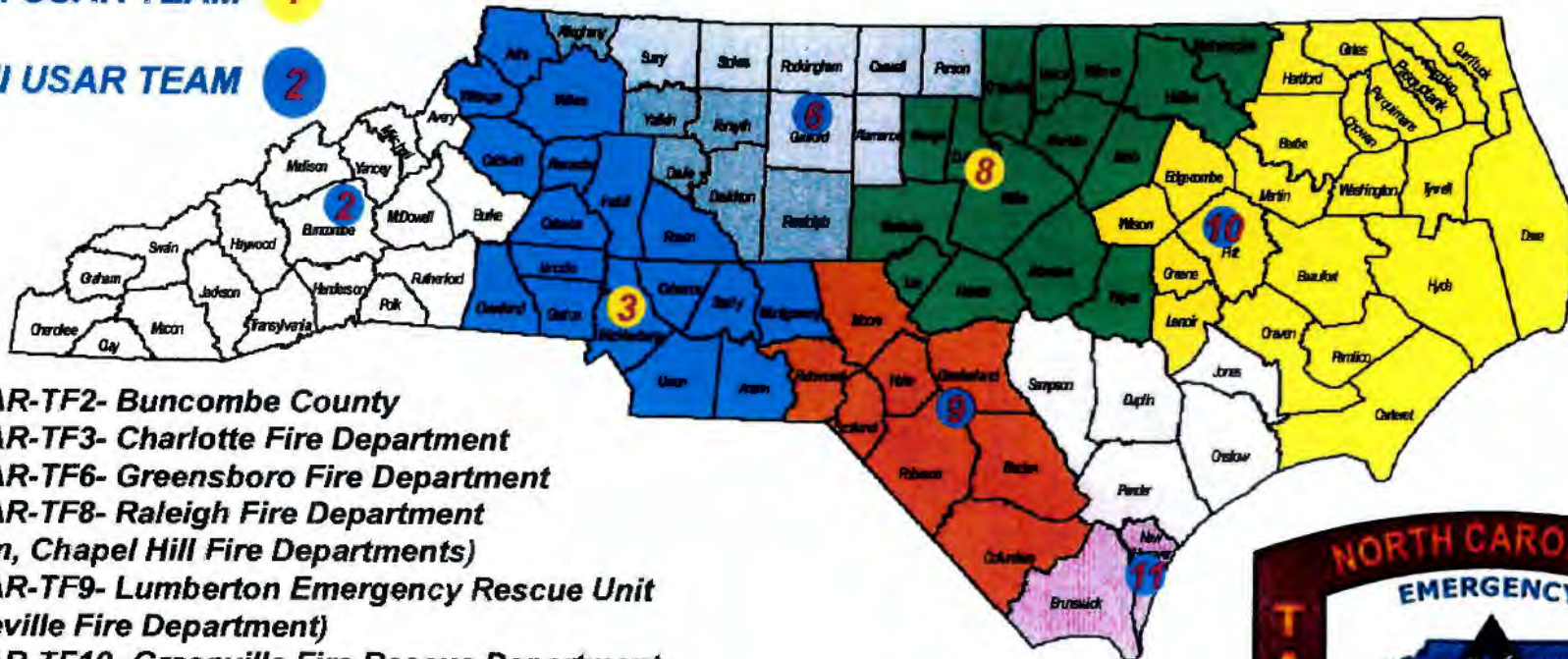
D

# NC USAR Team Locations

E

TYPE I USAR TEAM 1

TYPE II USAR TEAM 2



- NC-USAR-TF2- Buncombe County
- NC-USAR-TF3- Charlotte Fire Department
- NC-USAR-TF6- Greensboro Fire Department
- NC-USAR-TF8- Raleigh Fire Department  
(Durham, Chapel Hill Fire Departments)
- NC-USAR-TF9- Lumberton Emergency Rescue Unit  
(Fayetteville Fire Department)
- NC-USAR-TF10- Greenville Fire Rescue Department  
(New Bern Fire Department)
- NC-USAR-TF11- New Hanover County  
(Wilmington Fire Department)



\*Colored Areas on Map reflect Primary Response Area

\*\* Each USAR Team Serves as a hub to support resources in region, allowing cost effective and timely response to any mission large or small across the state



North Carolina Emergency Management



**Federal Emergency Management Agency  
National Urban Search & Rescue Response System**



**2014 SUSAR Annual Meeting – Virginia Beach, VA**

**November 11 – 13, 2014**

F

**FEMA US&R BRANCH UPDATE**

- **FY 14 Budget**
  - "Baseline" Readiness Cooperative Agreement funding amount for each TF (\$1.15M to each of the 28 TFs for program management, medical screening, training, exercises, travel, cache / equipment purchase and maintenance, vehicle lifecycle management, storage and maintenance, etc.)
  - National Training Delivery Course Hosting by TFs (11 courses / \$450K total)
  - Training – Learning Management System sustainment
  - Potential continued investment in curriculum updates and conversion to blended /distance learning platform
  - Incident Support Team Continuing Education Workshop and S-420 Course Hosting
  - Readiness Assessment Program sustainment
  - Canine Search Certification Process (9 events @ \$32,500 each)
  - Hazmat Equipment Push Package sustainment / maintenance (7 TFs @ \$25,000 each)
  - Incident Support Team Equipment Cache sustainment / maintenance (3 TFs @ \$40,000 each)
  - Stipends for System leadership positions
  - Meeting hosting
  - US&R Branch Staff travel
  - Direct Support to TFs (USACE Inter-Agency Agreement, Incident Support Team equipment and fleet use and maintenance, Security Clearances for leadership positions, National Training Contract and Learning Management System development /sustainment, etc.)
- **FY2015 Budget Process / Spend Plan Development**
  - Continuing Resolution status
    - \$27.5M OMB recommendation
    - House and Senate Appropriations Committee preliminary recommendations
  - Capital investment considerations
    - SCBA replacement - potential course(s) of action
    - Potential replacement of all TF portable radios (by 2020) - \$800,000 per TF
    - IST Vehicles
    - National Training Contract