

§ 208.3

Federated States of Micronesia or the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Support Specialist means a person participating in the System who assists the Task Force with administrative or other support during mobilization, ground transportation and demobilization as directed.

System or *National US&R Response System* means the national US&R response capability administered by DHS.

System Member means any Task Force Member, JMT Member, Technical Specialist, Support Specialist or Disaster Search Canine Team.

Task Force means an integrated US&R organization of multi-disciplinary resources with common communications and a leader, organized and administered by a Sponsoring Agency and meeting DHS standards.

Task Force Member means a person occupying a position on a Task Force.

Technical Specialist means a person participating in the System contributing technical knowledge and skill who may be placed on Alert or Activated as a single resource and not as a part of a JMT or a Task Force.

US&R means urban search and rescue, the process of searching for, extricating, and providing for the immediate medical stabilization of victims who are entrapped in collapsed structures.

(b) *Additional definitions.* Definitions for certain terms that apply only to individual subparts of this part are located in those subparts.

§ 208.3 Authority for the National US&R Response System.

(a) *Enabling legislation.* The Federal Emergency Management Agency established and operated the System under the authority of §§ 303, 306(a), 306(b), 403(a)(3)(B) and 621(c) of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. 5144, 5149(a), 5149(b), 5170b(a)(3)(B) and 5197(c), respectively. Section 503 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, 6 U.S.C. 313, transferred the functions of the Director of FEMA to the Secretary of Homeland Security. The President redelegate to the Secretary of Homeland Security in Executive Order 13286 those authorities of the President under the Stafford Act that had been delegated previously to

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the Director of FEMA under Executive Order 12148.

(b) *Implementing plan.* The National Response Plan identifies DHS as the primary Federal agency with responsibility for Emergency Support Function 9, Urban Search and Rescue.

§ 208.4 Purpose for System.

It is DHS policy to develop and provide a national system of standardized US&R resources to respond to Emergencies and Major Disasters that are beyond the capabilities of affected State and Local Governments.

§ 208.5 Authority of the Director of the Response Division (Director).

(a) *Participation in activities of the System.* The Director is responsible for determining participation in the System and any activity thereof, including but not limited to whether a System resource is operationally ready for Activation.

(b) *Standards for and measurement of System efficiency and effectiveness.* In addition to the authority provided in § 206.13 of this chapter, the Director may establish performance standards and assess the efficiency and effectiveness of System resources.

§ 208.6 System resource reports.

(a) *Reports to Director.* The Director may request reports from any System resource relating to its activities as part of the System.

(b) *Reports to FEMA Regional Directors.* Any FEMA Regional Director may request through the Director reports from any System resource used within or based within the Regional Director's jurisdiction.

(c) *Audits, investigations, studies and evaluations.* DHS and the General Accounting Office may conduct audits, investigations, studies, and evaluations as necessary. Sponsoring Agencies, Participating Agencies and System Members are expected to cooperate fully in such audits, investigations, studies and evaluations.

§ 208.7 Enforcement.

(a) *Remedies for noncompliance.* In accordance with the provisions of 44 CFR 13.43, if a Sponsoring Agency, Participating Agency, Affiliated Personnel or

other System Member materially fails to comply with a term of a Cooperative Agreement, Memorandum of Agreement, System directive or other Program Directive, the Director may take one or more of the actions provided in 44 CFR 13.43(a)(1) through (5). Any such enforcement action taken by the Director will be subject to the hearings, appeals, and effects of suspension and termination provisions of 44 CFR 13.43(b) and (c).

(b) The enforcement remedies identified in this section, including suspension and termination, do not preclude a Sponsoring Agency, Participating Agency, Affiliated Personnel or other System Member from being subject to "Debarment and Suspension" under E.O. 12549, as amended, in accordance with 44 CFR 13.43(d).

(c) *Other authority for sanctions.* Nothing in this section limits or precludes the application of other authority to impose civil or criminal sanctions, including 42 U.S.C. 5156.

§ 208.8 Code of conduct.

The Director will develop and implement a code of conduct for System Members acting under DHS's direction and control. Nothing in this section or the DHS code of conduct will limit the authority of a Sponsoring Agency, Participating Agency or Cooperating Agency to apply its own code of conduct to its System Members or employees. If the DHS code is more restrictive, it controls.

§ 208.9 Agreements between Sponsoring Agencies and Participating Agencies.

Every agreement between a Sponsoring Agency and a Participating Agency regarding the System must include a provision making this part applicable to the Participating Agency and its employees who engage in System activities.

§ 208.10 Other regulations.

The following provisions of title 44 CFR, Chapter I also apply to the program in this part:

(a) Section 206.9, which deals with the non-liability of DHS in certain circumstances.

(b) Section 206.11, which prescribes nondiscrimination in the provision of disaster assistance.

(c) Section 206.14, which deals with criminal and civil penalties.

(d) Section 206.15, which permits recovery of assistance by DHS.

§ 208.11 Federal status of System Members.

The Director will appoint all Activated System Members as temporary excepted Federal volunteers. The Director may appoint a System Member who participates in Alert activities as such a Federal volunteer. The Director may also appoint each System Member who participates in DHS-sanctioned preparedness activities as a temporary excepted Federal volunteer. DHS intends these appointments to secure protection for such volunteers under the Federal Employees Compensation Act and the Federal Tort Claims Act and do not intend to interfere with any preexisting employment relationship between a System Member and a Sponsoring Agency, Cooperating Agency or Participating Agency. System Members whom DHS appoints as temporary excepted Federal volunteers will not receive any compensation or employee benefit directly from the United States of America for their service, but will be compensated through their Sponsoring Agency.

§ 208.12 Maximum Pay Rate Table.

(a) *Purpose.* This section establishes the process for creating and updating the Maximum Pay Rate Table (Table), and the Table's use to reimburse Affiliated Personnel (Task Force Physicians, Task Force Engineers, and Canine Handlers) and Backfill for Activated System Members employed by or otherwise associated with a for-profit Participating Agency. Section 208.32 defines the "Maximum Pay Rate Table" as "the DHS-issued table that identifies the maximum pay rates for selected System positions that may be used for reimbursement of Affiliated Personnel compensation and Backfill for Activated System Members employed by or otherwise associated with a for-profit Participating Agency." In that same section, the term "Affiliated Personnel" is defined as "individuals