

US&R Capabilities

The task force is a 37-person Type 1 Collapse Search and Rescue team capable of working a minimum of two operational periods of 12 hours each, or when a federal US&R team arrives. For extended incidents, provisions may be made to integrate the Oregon task force with federal task forces.

- Triage of damaged structures, and reconnaissance duties; mark and identify streets and buildings
- Assist in stabilization of damaged structures, including shoring and cribbing
- Ability to lift, cut, and breach wood, steel, unreinforced masonry, and reinforced concrete
- Ability to conduct physical/electronic search and rescue in damaged/collapsed structures
- Self sufficiency for 72 hrs, with possible extended operations with OSFM Incident Management Team support.



US&R Response

The state US&R Task Force may be mobilized by the Office of State Fire Marshal to assist an agency in meeting the technical requirements of a rescue incident where life safety is imminently threatened or to assist in recovery efforts.

When in the judgment of the local Fire Chief and the County Fire Defense Board Chief, the local and mutual aid resources are not capable of meeting the technical requirements of the rescue incident; OR-TF1 resources may be mobilized. Incidents which may exhaust the technical capability of local resources include:

- Structural collapse with trapped victims
- Collapse of excavations or trenching with entrapment of victims
- Significant collapse of industrial or other equipment with entrapment, which requires special tools and technical expertise.
- Trapped victims requiring high angle rescue techniques.
- Entrapment of victims in confined spaces.

Oregon Emergency Response System

OERS 800-452-0311

Office of State Fire Marshal
4760 Portland Rd NE
Salem OR 97305
503-373-1540



For more information about Oregon's Urban Search and Rescue program, contact:
Program Coordinator, Tina Toney ext. 212
Program Manager, Mariana Ruiz-Temple ext. 238

Cover photo courtesy of the Prints and Photographs Division. Library of Congress

OREGON

URBAN SEARCH & RESCUE

US&R



OREGON URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE

Mission Statement

The mission of Oregon Urban Search and Rescue is to provide highly specialized technical rescue services to local jurisdictions that are overwhelmed by natural and man-made disaster.

About Oregon US&R

The impetus for assembling the task force stemmed from the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Soon afterward, the Office of State Fire Marshal assembled a state-wide urban search and rescue team.

Oregon Urban Search and Rescue was formed in 2001, with the endorsement of the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association and a proposal by then State Fire Marshal Bob Garrison. Initial discussions led to an ORS 190 intergovernmental agreement among fire departments and technical rescue expertise. The primary purpose of establishing the task force is to provide highly trained personnel and specialized equipment for response to large scale catastrophic events involving structural collapse.

US&R history began when the federal government, recognizing the need for mass casualty response to collapsed buildings, established 28 federal teams responsible for responding to a



presidential declared disaster. Oregon was not selected, but continued to develop a state response team. Oregon's US&R task force is able to immediately respond during critical early hours of an incident. The task force is coordinated and activated through the Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM).

Participating agencies include: Salem Fire Dept., Albany Fire Dept., Corvallis Fire Dept., Springfield Fire and Life Safety, Eugene Fire and EMS, Hillsboro Fire Dept., Gresham Fire, Clackamas County Fire District No.1, Portland Fire and Rescue, and Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue.

Other agencies involved are Oregon Department of Transportation, Oregon Emergency Management, Department of Safety and Standards, Oregon State Police and the Oregon Sheriff's Association.

Why US&R?

Structural collapse can occur in any fire jurisdiction at any time for a number of reasons. Because the cause of structural collapse are so varied – earthquake, wind, floods, snow, heavy rain, construction accidents, natural gas explosions, structural decay, fire, transportation accidents, and terrorism – structural collapse situations can happen in any location. The first 12 hours are the most critical for the successful rescue of trapped victims.



Technical Training

All team members must complete an 80-hour Structural Collapse Technician training. This high-level training meets and exceeds the NFPA1670 and 1006 standards, and is based on the exact course outline of the FEMA US&R course taught to the national task forces. The team is comprised of specialized personnel and equipment that include:

- **Structural Specialists** – training in rescue extrication operations
- **Medical Specialists** – Provides medical assessment, intervention, stabilization of entrapped victims and care of the team members
- **Heavy Equipment and Rigging Specialists** – acting as liaison between rescuers and heavy equipment operators
- **Victim-locating devices** – Electronic devices used to sense any movement, acoustic listening devices, fiberoptic cameras, and thermal imaging (infrared) devices

