

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
*FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY*

***NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE  
RESPONSE SYSTEM***



**2003-2004  
TASK FORCE EQUIPMENT CACHE LIST**

Approved: August 2003

# **DHS/FEMA NATIONAL US&R RESPONSE SYSTEM**

## **Task Force Equipment Cache**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The effective operation of the task force is predicated upon properly trained personnel, coupled with appropriate tools, equipment and support components. The elements of the task force equipment cache have been identified and are subdivided into six sub-sections; rescue, medical, technical, communications, logistics, and planning. In addition, separate appendices are included for WMD, Type III, water operations PPE and obsolete/deleted items lists. This revision of the Equipment Cache List improves standardization and interoperability. Significant consideration was given to enhancements to communication, cost, training, safety and operational capability.

The equipment cache development is geared toward supporting up to 80 positions [including the ground support positions when required] of a task force. The task force should be totally self-sufficient for at least the first 72 hours, capable of 24-hour operation, and have an estimated mission duration of up to 10 days. (The PPE sustainment for WMD operations is 36 hours.)

Separate and identical caches have been developed by each task force. Personal needs for task force personnel are addressed to include personal protective equipment, uniforms, etc. The equipment must be rugged and subject to use under adverse environmental and operational conditions. All equipment must meet nationally recognized safety standards such as ANSI, SI, CGA347, or NEMA, as specified for the item.

All purchased equipment should include maintenance and operating manuals with specification information, as required. Training for specialized equipment should be provided by the manufacturer or distributor. The sponsoring organization is responsible for the regular inventory, exercise and preventive maintenance of all cache tools, equipment and supplies. A Property Accountability and Resource Tracking System (refer to Annex H in the DHS/FEMA US&R Response System Operations Manual) must be utilized to assist in the management of the task force cache.

All equipment and supplies must be properly packaged in appropriate containers to facilitate shipping requirements and property accountability. Tools and equipment should be purchased with the manufacturer's shipping/storage container, if appropriate. Packaging weights and volumes must be considered within the overall gross limitations for air and ground transport (refer to Annex G - Cache Packaging/Shipping Requirements in the Operations Manual).

This edition of the Task Force Equipment List is the result of extensive work by the Logistics Working Group of the Advisory Committee for the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System. The Logistics Working Group collected technical input on each section of the list from all the applicable working groups of the Advisory Committee. In addition, the list has been reformatted to include unique item control numbers for major cache items, including decimal extensions for components of an item. In the cache list, no control numbers will be re-used for obsolete or deleted items. A status column has been added for each item and an explanation for each code is at the bottom of the page.

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#### Costing Information

The equipment cache list includes cost information (unit and total costs) for each item or group of items. Costs do not include tax, delivery, shipping, and handling charges. In addition, there is a cost cap of 5% of the unit price per item for purpose of obtaining DHS/FEMA reimbursement. These cost caps specify spending limits for National US&R Response System task forces that are purchasing equipment items under preparedness cooperative agreements (grants), as well as emergency procurements under their response cooperative agreements with DHS/FEMA. Cost information will be reviewed annually and adjusted, as appropriate, using the Producer Price Index (PPI) issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. [Cost adjustments can be made using US&R commodities (e.g. tools, medical equipment, communications, clothing, transportation etc) in the appropriate Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) – to be converted in January 2004 to North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) – within the BLS's PPI index.]

#### Format

Columns have been added to indicate manufacturers and part numbers. The eventual listing in each of these columns will be the result of a survey of the existing task forces to determine what standard the majority of task forces are using for significant cost items. This identification of the purchases by task forces nationwide will allow the Program Office to better deal with cache standardization issues for onsite operations and resupply.

These column listings are not intended to endorse any specific brand(s) but are included for illustrative and clarification purposes and are not intended to exclude other manufacturers or vendors. Any equivalent brand that meets the minimum capabilities and specifications outlined for an item should meet the requirements of this inventory. In general, "industrial quality" items should be procured when filling tools or equipment or specialty items in the cache due to their use under disaster response, emergency operations conditions.

This update of the equipment cache list will be valid for calendar 2003 and 2004 (and may be extended if required). This will allow the Logistics Work Group an appropriate period of time to address the next publication of the updated list.

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#### **Rescue Equipment Section**

The development of the Rescue Equipment Section is based upon supporting the 26 positions assigned to the task force Rescue Team. The personnel are organized into four Rescue Squads, each composed of an Officer and five Rescue Specialists, and capable of working 12-hour alternating shifts.

The tools and equipment specified in the rescue Section have been selected with the considerations of size, weight, maneuverability, and adaptability to a variety of rescue functions. The majority of rescue tools have been selected for the express purpose of penetrating reinforced concrete structures. Tools should be adaptable to a variety of power sources, when possible, in order to minimize dependency on a single power source.

Specialized items and consumable supplies (saw blades, filters, bulbs, etc.) will be cached in significant quantity to support potential mission duration of up to 10 days. All equipment should be relatively easy to maintain in the disaster environment with commonly available tools.

Non-reusable shoring material (timber, steel pipe, etc.) that is required for urban search and rescue operations will need to be found on site or obtained locally. This edition of the cache list includes re-usable shoring devices.

#### **Medical Equipment Section**

The development of the Medical Equipment Section is based upon providing sophisticated medical treatment for victims entrapped in collapsed structures, as well as up to 80 task force members, including limited treatment of disaster search canines. The quantity of equipment and pharmaceuticals in the cache is based upon research and past experience, and is established at anticipating, as an average, the following injuries during the mission:

- 10 critical cases.
- 15 moderate cases.
- 25 minor cases.

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#### **Medical Equipment Section (continued)**

It is expected that task force "durable" medical equipment (i.e., defibrillators, monitors, ventilators, etc.) will not leave the rescue site with the patients but will be maintained for the continued protection of the task force members. The local organization responsible for follow up care must be prepared to provide such equipment, if needed, for patient transfer from the rescue site.

All medical equipment must have a self-contained power source where applicable, be intrinsically-safe if possible, portable (light weight), have an adequate life expectancy, and conform to current medical standards and practices. The Medical Equipment Section has been developed on the basis of providing support for two task force physicians and four Medical Specialists.

Unit and extended costs for some individual items such as pharmaceutical drugs, medications, supplies, immunizations etc are not listed in the cache list. Such items shall be obtained to the maximum extent, by a task force through a local hospital or other medical supplier at the time of activation. Prices of Fixed Asset items such as defibrillators, or other items purchased directly by the task force are listed in the cache list.

#### **Technical Equipment Section**

The development of the Technical Equipment Section is based upon supporting the technical specialist positions in the task force Technical Team as well as the requirements of the Technical Search Specialist position in the Search Team.

All listed electric technical equipment must be capable of battery operation using rechargeable batteries, or have an adequate supply of disposable batteries. All equipment must be capable of field repair, calibration and adjustment, and should be user-friendly and easy to operate.

In this current edition, GPS hardware and mapping software have been specifically identified by brand name and model to ensure standardized interagency interoperability, uniform training and safety.

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#### Communications Equipment Section

The development of the Communications Equipment Section is based upon supporting the overall communications requirements of the entire task force. Appropriate task force personnel will be issued portable radios at the point of departure (POD) and will be responsible for them throughout the mission, until they are returned to the Communications Specialist upon return to the POD. The cache is of sufficient quantity to support:

- Effective communications between identified task force members.
- Communications from the Task Force Leader to the Incident Support Team and local authorities.
- Replacement of radios that malfunction or other unexpected occurrences.
- Long-haul communications to State and Federal government command and coordination centers.

The communications system must be capable of covering multiple work sites (geographic spread) in the assigned locale. The communications system must have multi-channel capability and the radio frequencies must be capable of penetrating structures or below grade environments. DHS/FEMA will obtain operational frequencies for US&R task force operations. Frequencies must be available in the 403-430 MHz range. All task force communications systems will be standardized and frequency-compatible.

The operation and maintenance of the on-site communications system is the responsibility of the task force Communications Specialists. Radios and repeaters must be field-programmable (not user programmable). Communications equipment will not normally be repaired on site.

All items associated with lap top computers are intended to support the information management, planning, communications, logistics and medical requirements of the entire task force. They must conform with current DHS/FEMA standards suite of software (Microsoft Office).

**NOTE: The following items of communications equipment are not currently approved for purchase by task forces pending a standards determination by the DHS/FEMA Response Division: all portable radios, telecommunications systems, repeaters, accessories and batteries. These items are denoted by gray shading on the cache list.** Prices for these items are not listed. Task forces will be allowed to make purchases of these items when a final standard has been established by the Response Division. Small tools can be procured locally by task forces.

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### **Logistics Equipment Section**

The development of the Logistics Equipment Section is based upon supporting any of the dietary, shelter, personal protection, administrative or other requirements of the task force not listed in the preceding task force cache Section listings. The quantities denoted should meet the requirements of the task force for at least the first 72 hours of self-sufficiency.

A listing of personal support items is included for individual use during a mission assignment, taking weather extremes into account. This includes those items that offer personal protection for task force members. In addition, the list includes specific uniform standards for a variety of operating environments likely to be encountered by task force members.

A 65-pound weight restriction is imposed on the personal gear requirements of each task force member. All administrative items required by the task force will be included in two administrative support kits.

### **Conclusion**

This consolidated equipment list is intended to standardize and make the development, organization and maintenance of a task force equipment cache a more efficient and effective process. This list, while maintained at DHS/FEMA Headquarters, should also be carried by the Incident Support Team as well as any activated task force on a mission response. This will allow for faster and more accurate resupply during mission operations. As such, task forces must channel any order requests through the Incident Support Team using appropriate order/request forms during a mission.

The Logistics Working Group has developed an annual revision process that will result in an annual recommendation to DHS/FEMA for changes to this list.

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- Obsolete/Deleted Item Cache List — No Repurchase Allowed — for Maintenance of Existing Items and Subsequent Audit Trail