



**ARCADIA FIRE DEPARTMENT
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE**

U S & R RESPONSES

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PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for all Arcadia Fire Personnel who may respond to Urban Search and Rescue incidents. These may include, but not limited to, trench rescue, confined space, building collapse, rope rescue, and other technical rescue emergencies. The following is to be used as a guideline when dealing with any US&R related incident, but not to replace good judgment and experience when dealing with these situations.

SCOPE

It is the goal of the Arcadia Fire Department to train and certify each member in US&R procedures.

PROCEDURE

The following are the required courses to become US&R certified:

- Rescue System 1 - 40 hour course that instructs low and high angle rope rescue systems and wood frame structure shoring.
- Rescue System 2 - 40 hour course that instructs breaching, shoring, lifting heavy objects and victim removal from collapsed buildings and heavy objects.
- Confined Space Rescue - 40 hour course that instructs victim removal from under ground vaults, confined and concealed spaces.
- Trench Rescue - 24 hour course that instructs safe removal of victims from collapsed trenches.
- Hazmat First Responder - 40 hour. course that instructs safe and effective response to hazardous material incidents and weapons of mass destruction.
- Emergency Medical Technician.
- After June 2008, members will be required to attend a 24-hour State Certified Low Angle Rescue class to obtain their US&R certification.

All US&R responses are to be manned by three Arcadia Fire members and three Monrovia Fire Department personnel, as outlined in the MOU between the Arcadia and Monrovia Fire Departments establishing a joint US&R program. US&R responses may include local jurisdiction, Area C and Regional Task Force (CA-RTF-4) responses.

Local and Area C Response

Local and Area C responses do not require the above certifications, however they are highly recommended. A dedicated Engine crew will staff the US&R for local and Area C responses. Upon dispatch for a US&R related incident within Area C, Engine crew members will take the Engine out of service with Verdugo then man and respond in the USAR. Personnel shall leave the Engine in quarters and respond to the incident on the USAR. It shall be the responsibility of the Captain assigned to the USAR to ensure that Monrovia Fire Department, Truck 101, along with its three members are dispatched and attached to the USAR response. The USAR unit will respond to the dispatched location and team up with Truck 101 personnel. If the dedicated Engine is unavailable for response, it will be left to the discretion of the on duty Battalion Chief as to which AFD engine will respond in its place.

Regional Task Force Response, CA-RTF-4

Incidents outside Area C, which may be requested by OES, will require certified members for response. It shall be the responsibility of the on duty Battalion Chief, along with shift personnel, to identify certified members each morning and report to Verdugo Dispatch, which certified members would respond to US&R related incidents. Upon dispatch of a US&R response outside Area C, the identified AFD members will staff the US&R unit. The certified Monrovia personnel will respond to Fire Station that houses the USAR Unit and together with the AFD members, man and respond in USAR unit.