

HEAVY EQUIPMENT AND RIGGING SPECIALIST

August 29, 2003

a. Position Description

The Heavy Equipment and Rigging Specialist is responsible for performing various assessments and construction-related liaison for the Task Force during incident operations. The Heavy Equipment and Rigging Specialist reports directly to the Rescue Team Manager.

The Heavy Equipment and Rigging Specialist is responsible for:

- Assessing the need for and capabilities of various construction-related equipment to assist Task Force personnel in US&R activities;
- Identifying various rigging techniques to assist in the rescue of victims or stabilization of collapsed buildings. Including the development of rigging plans and procedures;
- Interacting with and coordinating efforts between the Task Force personnel and heavy equipment and crane operators;
- Adhering to all safety procedures;
- Providing accountability, maintenance, and minor repairs for all issued equipment; and
- Performing additional tasks or duties as assigned during a mission.

b. Position Requirements and Criteria:

Individuals who meet the following requirements and criteria will be eligible to become Heavy Equipment and Rigging Specialists in the DHS/FEMA US&R Response System. The intent of these requirements is to select personnel fully capable of providing competent assessments and advice to Task Force personnel in the urban disaster environment. The requirements and criteria for the position are identified in the following categories:

- Knowledge
- Skills
- Abilities.

Knowledge:

The Heavy Equipment and Rigging Specialist must have:

- Knowledge of the operational characteristics and capabilities of light and heavy construction equipment;
- An understanding of the methods of construction and demolition of structures;
- Knowledge of construction materials;
- Knowledge of heavy rigging operations, to include:
 - ◇ Use and application of rigging tools;

- ◇ Knowledge of lift capacity assessment;
- ◇ Knowledge of lift engineering applications;
- ◇ Knowledge of equipment maintenance and inspection procedures; and
- ◇ Knowledge in the use of anchor systems;
- Knowledge of shoring methods and materials; and
- Knowledge of universal hand signals for heavy equipment.

Skills:

The Heavy Equipment and Rigging Specialist must be:

- Experienced in heavy construction field, such as heavy equipment operator, crane operator, iron worker, rigger, or other applicable field; and
- Proficient in the use of cutting torches and related welding equipment.

Abilities:

See general requirements.

c. Operational Checklist

The purpose of this checklist is to define the duties and responsibilities of the Heavy Equipment and Rigging Specialist during a mission assignment. The list is intended to be a general summary of actions. It should be understood that:

- Some required actions may not be listed, but must be identified and assumed by this position;
- Some actions may be the primary responsibility of another Task Force position, but may require assistance and coordination from this position; and
- The actions are listed in a general chronological order, but may require deviation.

(1) Upon Activation/At Task Force Assembly Point:

See general operational checklist.

(2) At Point of Departure:

See general operational checklist.

(3) In Transit:

See general operational checklist.

(4) Arrival at Mobilization Center:

See general operational checklist.

(5) On-Site Operations:

- Conduct an on site assessment of the need for cranes and heavy equipment and make recommendations to the Rescue Team Manager;
- Brief heavy equipment operators and construction officials regarding the Task Force capabilities, limitations, operational procedures, and objectives;
- Ensure that heavy equipment operators are briefed on rescue site safety considerations and emergency signaling procedures;
- Provide technical support and advice during rescue operations; and
- Keep the Rescue Team Manager apprised of any tactical accomplishments.

(6) Reassignment/Demobilization:

- Notify the assigned supervisor of the loss or potential maintenance requirements of any assigned tools and equipment.