



Kentucky's Urban Search and Rescue Initiative 2022

History



Since 2010 it is estimated that over 180 firefighters have received this highly skilled certification. These firefighters stretched from across the state. These include cities from Paducah to Ashland, and Louisville to Campbellsville.

A committee was formed and tried for 5 years(2012-2017) to make this much needed statewide team a reality. As everyone agreed that these teams were needed, however they were unable to produce them.

In the last 12 months Kentucky has had 2 historic disasters that were the largest tornado in Kentucky's history killing 80 and a 1000 year flood killing 38

The State of Kentucky desperately needs to have a USAR response system and teams. This would allow the Governor, KY Emergency Management, local Emergency Managers, and others to call upon when disasters strike.

The time is now to prepare, equip, and train our first responders to respond to Kentucky's next disaster. A Kentucky USAR program is the right choice.



For More Information Contact:



Captain Ryan Hogsten

hogstenr@lexingtonky.gov

(859) 494-2504

Lieutenant Doug Hargreaves

hargread@lexingtonky.gov

(859) 983-1716



What Is Urban Search and Rescue In 2022

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Urban search and rescue is a type of technical rescue operation that involves the highly trained and organized teams.

These teams can locate, extricate, and provide initial medical stabilization of victims trapped in an urban and rural areas.

Once described as mainly a team for structural collapses due to natural disasters, war, terrorism or accidents. Teams today are used for all type of disasters.

They are known as an organized All-Hazards Team that follows FEMA guidelines

What are the capabilities of a task force?

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- Physical search and rescue operations in damaged/collapsed structures
- Emergency medical care for entrapped survivors, task force personnel and search canines
- Reconnaissance to assess damage and needs, and provide feedback to local, state, tribal, territorial and federal officials.
- Assessment/shut-off of utilities to houses and other buildings
- Hazardous materials surveys/evaluations
- Structural/hazard evaluations of buildings needed for immediate occupancy to support disaster relief operations
- Stabilizing damaged structures, including shoring and cribbing operations on damaged buildings
- Hazardous Materials Equipment Push Packages for operations in a contaminated environment
- Search and rescue operations in a water environment

How would a USAR program work in Kentucky

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(I) Type 1 FEMA equivalent USAR Team

- Able to work 24 hours and self sustaining for 72 hours
- KY-TF1

(II) Type 3 FEMA equivalent USAR Team

- Able to work 12 hours and self sustaining for 72 hours
- KY-TF2

(III) Regional Teams

- Type 2 Swiftwater Team and Type 1 Heavy Rescue Team