



FEMA

**US&R GENERAL MEMORANDUM – 2020-025**

March 1, 2020

**FOR:** National Urban Search & Rescue Response System  
Task Force Representatives and Program Managers

**FROM:** Dean Scott, Chief  
Operations Section  
Urban Search and Rescue Branch 

**SUBJECT:** US&R General Memorandum 2020-025 – Death of Retired FEMA Region VIII  
Employee Peter J. Bakersky

It is with deep regret that I need to inform the National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Response System (the System) of the death early this morning of retired FEMA Region VIII employee Peter (Pete) J. Bakersky.

Pete had cardiac surgery on Wednesday, 12, Feb 2020 and because his heart wouldn't restart post-surgery he'd remained on a heart-lung machine in critical condition since that time. Pete had made incremental gains over the past two and a half weeks and was responding to verbal stimuli with hand squeezing and eye movement. Unfortunately, his heart was not able to regain enough strength and at approximately 06:30 EST this morning Pete passed away.

Pete retired from FEMA in 2016 after serving the Nation with over 50 years of combined Federal service and words cannot adequately express our appreciation for his many years of dedication and service. During his career Pete's vast deployment experience included most all the System's significant domestic responses, including deploying to New York City as the Emergency Support Function # 9 (search & rescue) Group Supervisor during the response to the September 11, 2001 World Trade Center attacks. As part of FEMA, Pete's personal dedication and tireless efforts supporting the System's Incident Support Teams provided pivotal leadership and ensured efficient operations to significant emergency responses. Even after retiring from FEMA Pete remained involved with the System through training development and input to the Advisory Organization. He leaves a legacy of continual dedication and service to both the System and those in need.

Pete was also a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, outdoorsman, and hunter who will be missed deeply by his family and friends. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they go through this difficult time.

Information on Pete's funeral services and where condolences can be sent will be forthcoming when arrangements are finalized by his family.

cc:

US&R Strategic Group  
US&R Advisory Group  
US&R Branch Staff  
FEMA Regional/Federal/International ESF #9 Representatives

