



FEMA

US&R GENERAL MEMORANDUM – 2017-076a

August 9, 2017

FOR: National Urban Search & Rescue Response System
Task Force Representatives

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

SUBJECT: US&R General Memorandum 2017-076a – (Revised) US&R Structural Collapse
Specialist Instructor Update Announcement

This amended GM provides logistics information for each Divisional SCS Course update.

The newly completed and renamed National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Response System's (the System) Structural Collapse Specialist (SCS) Course underwent a pilot delivery at TEEX in February 2017. Because of substantive changes to the curriculum, an initial pilot delivery was purposely directed to experienced System SCT instructors, followed by additional vetting of the course through a subsequent delivery to first time System students. System oversight was provided by the Rescue Subgroup subject matter expert that conducted the course rewrite.

On behalf of the System and the Rescue Subgroup, we are pleased to announce that instructor and curriculum updates for the SCS v4.0 (formally Structural Collapse Technician) will be conducted in each of the three US&R Divisions. The Eastern Division update will be hosted by Virginia Task Force Two (VA-TF2) in Virginia Beach, VA; the Central Division update will be hosted by TEEX Emergency Services Training Institute (ESTI) at Disaster City in College Station, TX; and the Western Division update will be hosted by California Task Force One (CA-TF1) in Los Angeles, CA. Please refer to the appropriate Division logistics letter when issued for additional information.

The delivery dates are as follows:

East Division:	September 12-13, 2017
Central Division:	November 14-15, 2017
West Division:	October 11-12, 2017

The SCS Instructor Update is composed of two parts. The SCS Instructor Lead Training (ILT) update is 16.0 hours in length. Students are also required to complete the 8.0 hour computer Based Training (CBT) portion prior to the start of the ILT Class, and are directed to bring their CBT certificate of completion to class as verification. The intent of these updates is to orient current instructors to the new curriculum. Attendance will not circumvent the established process to move from adjunct instructor to lead instructor status.

**US&R General Memorandum - 2017-076a – (Revised) US&R SCS Instructor Update
Announcement**

Page 2

Task force management MUST register students via the LMS. Additional students may be registered by providing task force priorities/needs in the comments section. TEEX will review the comments to ensure that any remaining seats are filled in consideration of task force needs. Each class can accommodate up to 56 credentialed SCT instructors. After completing the CBT and ILT training, instructors will return home credentialed to instruct the new SCS v4.0 curriculum as well as update existing SCS instructors who may be unable to attend these sessions.

Due to hotel contracts and finalization of planning efforts beyond our control and, in consideration of the travel policies of some Sponsoring Agencies, the logistics letters for each Divisional offering are forthcoming and will be issued through revisions of this General Memorandum. However, all System task forces are currently able to register their members in the LMS.

Task Force Representatives are asked to coordinate this information as appropriate with their Task Force Training Managers to ensure their personnel register in a timely basis.

Any questions concerning the course should be addressed to Joe Hiponia at joe.hiponia@fema.dhs.gov or Mr. Paul Gunnels at paul.gunnels@teex.tamu.edu.

cc:

- US&R Strategic Group
- US&R Advisory Group
- US&R Branch Staff
- FEMA Regional/International ESF #9 Representatives
- US&R Rescue Subgroup
- US&R Training Subgroup
- Mr. Paul Gunnels, TEEX

Structural Collapse Specialist Instructor Update Logistics Information



The Instructor update for the new US&R Structural Collapse Specialist (9P2632) course will be regionally offered by Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX). This document provides hotels and other information that will be useful in setting up your arrangements for this training.

This course will be offered regionally at the following areas:

- East Coast (VA-TF2) – (Sept., 12-13, 2017) Virginia Beach, Virginia
- West Coast (CA-TF1) – (Oct., 11-12, 2017) Los Angeles, California
- Central (TEEX) – (Nov., 14-15, 2017) College Station, Texas

Please feel free to sign up for any of the three classes on the FEMA US&R Training Portal (www.esf9training.org).

If you have questions about the course you will be attending please call Paul Gunnels at the TEEX US&R Training Office at 979-458-5636 or email (paul.gunnels@teex.tamu.edu).

On the first day students will need to bring a copy of their Certificate of Completion for the Structural Collapse Specialist Computer-Based Training (Course Code: 9P2630).

East Coast (VA-TF2) – Sept. 12-13, 2017

Course Information:

- Travel to Virginia Beach, Virginia
Monday, Sept 11, 2017
- Class begins at 0800 on
Tuesday, Sept 12, 2017
- Class ends at 17:00 on
Wednesday, Sept 13, 2017
- Return travel should be scheduled on:
Thursday, Sept 14, 2017

Hotel Information:

Main Hotel:

Doubletree Virginia Beach,
1900 Pavillion Drive,
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Structural Collapse Specialist Instructor Update Logistics Information



Hotel Reservation Line: (757) 422-8900
The Gov't rate is \$99.00 + tax and rooms are blocked out as **SCS Instructor Class**.

Other Hotel:

Fairfield Inn and Suites,
1901 Atlantic Ave,
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451
Phone: 757-383-6065

The Gov't rate is \$99.00 + tax and the contact is Brittany Nosay, Director of Sales,
757.383.6071

Just make reference to the **SCS Training** at the Fire Training Center for
September 11th to 14th.

Air & Ground Transportation

Rental cars are available at all airports listed above. Students are responsible for transportation from the airport to the hotel and to class each day. Task Forces are encouraged to coordinate and cooperate with each other and share rides in the rental car.

Course Locations:

Virginia Beach Fire and Rescue Training Center
927 S. Birdneck Road
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451

West Coast (CA-TF1) - Oct 11-12, 2017

Course Information:

- Travel to the CA-TF1 Training Center:
Tuesday, October 10, 2017
- Class begins at 0800 on
Wednesday, October 11, 2017
- Class end at 1700 on
Thursday, October 12, 2017
- Return travel should be scheduled on:
Friday, October 13, 2017

Structural Collapse Specialist Instructor Update Logistics Information



Hotel Information:

Hotel arrangements and payment are the responsibility of the student. The per diem rate of \$158 per night (excluding local taxes) has been pre-negotiated for a block of rooms at:

Hampton Inn & Suites
5638 N. Sepulveda Blvd.
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

Hotel Reservation Line: (818) 785-2211 Group Code: **LACFD**

Reservation Due Date: Students have until **September 12, 2017** to book your reservations under this discounted group block.

Airline Travel:

All major Airlines fly in to both Airport Locations.

The following airports are also within driving distance of Sherman Oaks:

Hollywood Burbank Airport

(Airport Code BUR): 30 Mins

Los Angeles World Airport

(Airport Code LAX): 45 Mins

Ground Transportation

Rental cars are available at all airports listed above. Students are responsible for transportation from the airport to the hotel and to class each day. Task Forces are encouraged to coordinate and cooperate with each other and share rides in the rental car.

Course Location:

CA-TF1 Training Center:
5101 N. Sepulveda Blvd.
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

Central (TEEX) – Nov., 14-15, 2017

Course Information:

- Travel to College Station:
Monday, Nov. 13, 2017
- Class begins at 0800 on

Structural Collapse Specialist Instructor Update Logistics Information



Tuesday, Nov., 14, 2017

- Class ends at 17:00 on
Wednesday, Nov., 15, 2017
- Return travel should be scheduled on: Thursday, Nov., 16, 2017

Hotel Information:

Hyatt Place College Station

Address: 1100 University Dr E,
College Station, TX 77840
Phone: (979) 846-9800

\$110 per night plus applicable taxes (*Must book prior to Oct 15, 2017*)

Booking by phone:

Your guests call **1-888-591-1234** and use the group code **G-TEUS** or mention the group name **TEEX Urban Search and Rescue** to book.

Booking online:

Your guests can follow the web link below:

http://collegestation.place.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html?corp_id=G-TEUS

This link will take you directly to the booking page. Just select the dates of your stay and the discounted rate will appear pre-loaded for you!

Airline Travel:

United Airlines and American Airlines fly to the College Station - Easterwood Airport (Airport Code CLL).

The following airports are also within driving distance of College Station:

[Austin Bergstrom International](#) – (Airport Code AUS): 2 hrs

[Houston George Bush Intercontinental](#) (Airport Code IAH): 1.5 hrs

[Houston Hobby Airport](#) (Airport Code HOU): 2 hrs

Ground Transportation:

Rental cars are available at all airports listed above. Students are responsible for transportation from the airport to the hotel and to class each day. Task Forces are encouraged to coordinate and cooperate with each other and share rides in the rental car.

Structural Collapse Specialist Instructor Update Logistics Information



Ground transportation is also available from the College Station, TX Airport is available by Taxi.

Course Locations:

TEEX-ESTI at Disaster City®
Rescue Building # 137
1595 Nuclear Science Road
College Station, Texas 77845

Each student will receive an informational email before class begins with a driving map, the specific classroom and building number and any last minute information.

Class Requirements:

Students must bring the following with them to the course:

Students should bring one **laptop computer** loaded with software that can read PDF files and access Microsoft Power Points.

Students should bring the following **Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE)** to class:

1. Safety-toe Boots
2. Rescue helmet with chin strap
3. Googles/Safety Glasses
4. Work Gloves
5. Long sleeve shirts and pants suitable for a US&R environment
6. Foul weather gear
7. Hearing protection

Additional PPE Information:

Rescue helmet

The helmet must be ANSI rated Z89.1-1997 Type 1. The helmet should be designed for urban search and rescue work and have a chin strap. It is recommended you bring the same helmet used by your department. Safety-toe safety boots The boots must be steel-toe or safety toe and must meet ANSI Z41 PT99 M1/75C/75

Structural Collapse Specialist Instructor Update Logistics Information



Eye protection

The eye protection must meet the standard ANSI Z-87.1

Standard work/duty clothing

All shirts must be long sleeve and enough for 2 days of training. Long pants are required at all times in the training area and shorts are not allowed at any time. This course requires significant training outside so bring a work jacket if the weather conditions warrant.

Raingear suitable for search and rescue operations

Training is conducted rain or shine.

Work gloves

We recommend rescue or construction gloves with full palm and finger protection.