



FEMA

US&R GENERAL MEMORANDUM – 2022-031

September 9, 2022

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

FROM: Fred Endrikat, Chief
Urban Search and Rescue Branch

SUBJECT: US&R General Memorandum 2022-031 – 21st Anniversary of September 11, 2001

My thoughts are again with all of you on the upcoming anniversary of September 11th, 2001. As I have expressed in previous General Memorandums on this anniversary date, the National Urban Search & Rescue Response System’s (the System) response to the collapsed structures at the Pentagon and the World Trade Center caused by the terrorist attack on that day have left a significant lasting mark on our System.

An article published by the Pew Research Center - *Two Decades Later, the Enduring Legacy of 9/11* (September 2, 2021) is an examination of how the United States changed in the two decades following the September 11th terrorist attacks and it is based on an analysis of past public opinion survey data from the Pew Research Center, news reports and other sources. Excerpts (below) from the article provide perspective:

Americans watched in horror as the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, left nearly 3,000 people dead in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

The enduring power of the Sept. 11 attacks is clear: An overwhelming share of Americans who are old enough to recall the day remember where they were and what they were doing when they heard the news. Yet an ever-growing number of Americans have no personal memory of that day, either because they were too young or not yet born.

A review of U.S. public opinion in the two decades since 9/11 reveals how a badly shaken nation came together, briefly, in a spirit of sadness and patriotism; how the public initially rallied behind the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, though support waned over time; and how Americans viewed the threat of terrorism at home and the steps the government took to combat it.

I would offer a few thoughts specific to the System in relation to the information presented in the article. I believe that not just the country, but FEMA too was changed by what happened that day. The magnitude of those incidents helped the agency determine the course that we’ve been on since that day and how we get better at helping people. There was a focus immediately after the attacks on being prepared and determining how we can improve, starting at the local level, the regional level, the state level, and the federal level, and how we interact together. And how we can train, equip, and sustain our type of capability. What hasn’t changed since that day is the core values of the 6,000 members of our System. Your dedication, your service, your passion, and your desire just to serve and to be ready are present and even stronger today.



For some members of the System who had deployed to a number of disasters prior to our response to the September 11th, 2001 attacks, there was a much different feeling 21 years ago (particularly in our operations at the World Trade Center in New York City). This response was different because of the type of incident that it was but also I think on a personal note, it was very different because a number of the people that were later determined to be lost at the World Trade Center were New York City firefighters who were personal friends of mine and yours. Many of those personal friends were members of New York Task Force One (NY-TF1). Some of us were responding to an incident where we personally knew some of the victims.

Please take some time on Sunday to reflect on the events of September 11, 2001 and honor the memory of all who perished in the attacks, with a special thought for those 51 members of our System from NY-TF1 (especially Chief Ray Downey, Fire Department of New York) who died in the line of duty.

**Members of NY-TF1 who died in the Line of Duty at the World Trade Center
on September 11th, 2001 while serving with the FDNY and NYPD**

Rank	Name		Rank	Name
Firefighter	Joseph Angelini		Firefighter	William Lake
Firefighter	John Bergin		Police Officer	Thomas Langone
Firefighter	Carl Bini		Firefighter	William Mahoney
Firefighter	Chris Blackwell		Lieutenant	Peter Martin
Sergeant	John Coughlin		Police Officer	Brian McDonnell
Lieutenant	John Crisci		Captain	William McGinn
Sergeant	Michael Curtin		Firefighter	Ray Meisenheimer
Police Officer	John D’Allara		Battalion Chief	Louis Modafferri
Police Officer	Vincent Danz		Lieutenant	Dennis Mojica
Police Officer	Jerome Dominguez		Firefighter	Michael Montesi
Lieutenant	Kevin Dowdell		Firefighter	Gerard Nevins
Deputy Chief	Raymond Downey		Firefighter	Patrick O’Keefe
Police Officer	Stephen Driscoll		Firefighter	Kevin O’Rourke
Captain	Michael Esposito		Deputy Chief	John Paolillo
Battalion Chief	John Fanning		Firefighter	Durrell Pearsall
Firefighter	Terence Farrell		Firefighter	Edward Rall
Firefighter	Michael Fiore		Firefighter	Donald Regan
Firefighter	Thomas Gardner		Lieutenant	Michael Russo
Firefighter	Gary Geidel		Firefighter	Dennis Scauso
Sergeant	Rodney Gillis		Firefighter	Kevin Smith
Battalion Chief	Terence Hatton		Police Officer	Paul Talty
Lieutenant	Michael Healy		Police Officer	Santos Valentin
Battalion Chief	Brian Hickey		Detective	Joseph Vigiano
Lieutenant	Timothy Higgins		Firefighter	Lawrence Virgilio
Deputy Chief	Charles Kasper		Police Officer	Walter Weaver
Police Officer	Ronald Kloepfer			

Please also keep in your thoughts the family members, friends, and co-workers of those members of NY-TF1. Additionally, your thoughts for those responders who have succumbed to or are battling serious illness as a result of their work at both the World Trade Center and the Pentagon would be valued.

As I communicated to you the last several years on the anniversary of the attacks, I don't think that my good friend Chief Ray Downey could have imagined the challenging time that our nation is enduring during this pandemic, but I am confident that he would not have been surprised at how this System has been able to adapt, to be well prepared, and to respond in the most professional manner to our calling during these interesting days.

As I wrote to you 17 years ago while serving as your National Task Force Leader Representative – the events of that day and their effect on the National Urban Search & Rescue Response System are still hard to comprehend. There is still a great deal of work left to do for our System and for the citizens that we serve, and there is no better way to honor the memory of those in our System who perished that day than to keep our focus forward and continue to strive to make this System the most effective that it can be.

Thank you for all of the work that each of you continue to do so selflessly for the National Urban Search & Rescue Response System. It demonstrates that we are capable of coming together, putting our resources, our talents, and our energies together to try to affect the common good. It reaffirms the strength of this System and honors the legacy of those who have gone before us. I assure you that your efforts, your service, and your dedication are not taken for granted. It continues to be a privilege to serve with you.

cc:

US&R Strategic Group
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