

## **National Urban Search and Rescue Response System – Code of Conduct**

National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Response System (the System) personnel are representatives of a well-organized, highly trained group of specialists who are assembled to help communities in need of assistance. The actions of these personnel are a direct reflection on FEMA, their Sponsoring Agency, their fellow System members, and themselves.

It is the responsibility of each System member to abide by this Code of Conduct during any System activity (to include response operations, meetings and other events), and accordingly they will:

- Keep constantly in mind the value of life and the welfare of survivors.
- Remain cognizant of considerations regarding race, religion, gender, and nationality.
- Demonstrate proper respect for other assigned personnel.
- Not possess or use alcohol, and/or drugs illegal under Federal law.
- Not possess or use firearms.
- Understand, respect and adhere to the established chain-of-command and follow its direction at all times.
- Procure equipment using established policies and guidelines, and will not utilize or remove property without official authorization.
- Demonstrate respect for public and private property.
- Maintain a state of readiness, even when unassigned.
- Adhere to the established dress code and requirements for personal protective equipment.
- Abide by Federal policies and regulations regarding the handling of sensitive information.
- Abide by FEMA directives on appropriate social media use.
- Not take, or threaten to take, actions in retaliation for whistleblowing actions as established by applicable laws and regulations.
- Adhere to ethics guidelines and not abuse authority and/or position.
- Project and embody professionalism at all times.

**Each System member is required to review, become familiar with, and acknowledge receipt of this Code of Conduct by signing it below.**

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Signature

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Date

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Name (please type or print legibly)