

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Oregon Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 1 (OR-TF1) is to provide highly specialized technical rescue services to local jurisdictions that are overwhelmed by natural and man-made disasters.

ABOUT OREGON OR-TF1

OR-TF1 is a multi-jurisdictional team that provides assistance at structural collapse and technical rescue incidents statewide, when requested by the Governor. The task force is organized into regional teams based on geographical areas. Currently there are two regions; north and south teams.

OR-TF1 is a regional task force, which can provide up to a Type 1 capability with full incident support and hazardous materials elements added to the deployment of the task force. These elements can easily be included in any mobilization through the State's Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team program and the State Fire Marshal's Incident Management Teams.

The primary purpose of establishing OR-TF1 is to provide highly trained personnel and specialized equipment for response to large scale catastrophic events involving structural collapse. The task force, comprised of teams, is coordinated and activated through Oregon Emergency Management and The Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM). The teams are comprised of fire department members who reside in those geographical area, and who have applied and been accepted to the team.

The task force is intended to work for a minimum of two operational periods of 12 hours each, until the incident is terminated or a federal US&R team arrives. For extended incidents, provisions may be made to integrate the Oregon task force with federal task forces.

The objective of the advance team members is deployment within 30 minutes from the time of notification. The objective for a full task force or components of a task force including cache trailer(s) is two hours from the time of notification. The deployment of nine team members in specific positions (including the Transportation Specialist) is considered to be the minimum for an approved OR-TF1 activation. The maximum number for a task force would be 37 members. By providing this first response capability in the initial hours, the probability of civilian survival is greatly improved.

AUTHORITY TO RESPOND

ORS 401.638

This legislation allows the Governor to approve mobilization of local resources for the purpose of responding to structural collapse across jurisdictional boundaries and authorizes the OSFM to direct, command, and control these resources. Mobilization of OR-TF1 requires approval by the Governor at the request of the OSFM.

ORS 190.010- 190.110

Under the authority granted to the parties by their respective charters and/or ORS 190.010 – 190.110 which authorizes units of local government to enter into written agreements with any other units of local government for the purpose of any and all functions and activities that the parties to the agreement, its officers or agencies, have authority to perform. Agencies participating in the Oregon Urban Search and Rescue Task Force Mutual Aid Agreement may cooperate under the terms of the approved activation of the Task Force under the 190 Agreement by policy – Gubernatorial action is not required. Deployment under the terms of the 190 Agreement is only authorized when assistance and aid is provided amongst the parties to the agreement.

EMERGENCY CONFLAGRATION ACT

ORS 476.510 – 476.610 provides that the Governor may assign fire-fighting resources across jurisdictional boundaries when a significant reduction in available fire-fighting resources occurs.

STATE OF EMERGENCY

OR-TF1 may be mobilized under the power of the Governor, and at the Governors direction through the provisions of ORS 401.055 to 401.155. The Office of Emergency Management has the authority to establish priorities for the assignment and use of resources on a statewide basis in cases of emergency (ORS 401.260 to 401.535)

INTERSTATE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) adopted by legislative action and codified in ORS 401.045 is a national program that provides for mutual assistance between participating states. Currently all fifty (50) states and two territories participate in EMAC. OR-TF1 may be activated across state line through an EMAC request. Under this agreement, the Director of Oregon Emergency Management Director confirms with the OSFM that OR-TF1 is available for response. The request is then forwarded to the Governor for approval. The OSFM is advised of the Governor's decision and responds accordingly.

OREGON US&R CAPABILITIES

The capabilities of OR-TF1 include:

- Triage of damaged structures, and reconnaissance duties; mark and identify streets and buildings
- Assist in stabilization of damaged structures, including shoring and cribbing
- Ability to lift, cut, and breach wood, steel, URM, and reinforced concrete
- Ability to conduct physical/electronic search and rescue in damaged/collapsed structures
- Self sufficiency for 72 hrs, with possible extended operations with OSFM Incident Management Team support.
- Bring equipment cache(s) in trailer(s) to support task force operations