This eight day course is designed for rescue team members and their respective agencies in order to function as an Urban Search and Rescue Specialist especially in response to a structural collapse as the result of a catastrophic event. The course provides the knowledge and skills necessary in order to effectively enter a collapsed structure caused by either natural disasters or incidents involving acts of terrorism. Topics presented include: Principles of Construction, Load Patterns, Collapse Patterns, Hazard Identification, Principles of Concrete, and Awareness of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

The overall goal of this course is to help emergency response personnel understand how to operate at the rescue technician level and as a member of a Rescue Team at a structural collapse incident that could include the use of a CBRNE agent. The course will consist of classroom instruction as well as practical applications. A large portion of the class will involve hands-on training in eight consecutive 10-hour days. This course fulfills selected objectives of NFPA 1006, 1500 and 1670, in addition to the FEMA USAR training guidelines.

We strive to provide our students with the opportunity to learn and put into practice the most recent NFPA and FEMA guidelines. We have been fortunate enough to acquire full-time and contract instructors who make student proficiency their first priority. At least one instructor per course has a certificate of successful completion of a train-the-trainer course designed around the FEMA curriculum, the course is in compliance with the ODP conditions for DHS funding of the courses.