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**TO:** National US&R Response System  
Task Force Program Managers/Training Managers

**DATE:** July 31, 2020

**FROM:** Jeff Qunell, P.E. - USACE US&R Program Manager

**SUBJECT:** VIRTUAL Advanced Structures Specialists Training - Course Announcement

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Response System, in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), has scheduled a second VIRTUAL Advanced Structures Specialist Course to be held Oct 23-25, 2020 via Zoom video conferencing application. This second session is being offered to Structures Specialist (StS) candidates due to demand in light of current COVID-19 restrictions.

This course will consist of a series of tabletop scenarios and lectures that will challenge students to exercise disaster engineering judgment and make the type of decisions that are required at an actual rescue response site. In addition, demonstrations will be presented on subjects such as wireless monitoring equipment, shore failure testing and confined space operations. There will also be case study presentations of past and recent incidents in order to focus on the lessons learned from the Structures Specialist standpoint.

Each Task Force will be allowed to register at least one Structures Specialist. However, there is usually space for some Task Forces to send more than one. Priority for acceptance of multiple students will be on a first-come, first-served basis. The class will be limited to a maximum 25 students and a waiting list may be necessary.

To ensure that your Task Force has the opportunity to participate in this valuable training please submit your applications via [www.disasterengineer.org](http://www.disasterengineer.org) by October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 (*select "Training Applications" from the top menu and click on the desired training course*). All students and their Task Forces will be notified of acceptance. The training is provided at no charge to the student.

If there are any questions, please contact Jeff Qunell, USACE US&R Program Manager at: (415) 503-6616, or by email at: [Jeffrey.J.Qunell@usace.army.mil](mailto:Jeffrey.J.Qunell@usace.army.mil).

Alternate contacts: Pete Keating, [p-keating@tamu.edu](mailto:p-keating@tamu.edu) and Dave Hammond, [djhammond@sbcglobal.net](mailto:djhammond@sbcglobal.net).

## **VIRTUAL ADVANCED StS TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENT**

Course Logistical Information:

Dates: 23-25 October 2020 (Friday through Sunday)

Time: 0800 thru 1700 CENTRAL STANDARD TIME (to include lunch and breaks) daily  
A more detailed schedule will be provided following registration.

Training Source: Live Zoom Video Conferencing

Zoom meeting invitations will be sent to the email provided by students @ registration.

### **Requirements for Attendance:**

- The course will be on-line using Zoom hosted by Michael Barker at the University of Wyoming.
- You will need a computer with the Zoom application, a webcam and audio (speakers & microphone) for class interactions and discussions.
- Several will be asked to volunteer and show exercise results. So, a scanner to PDF or phone picture and uploading for discussions will be effective (as long as several have this capability).
- Download student handouts prior to attendance. A link will be provided to the email provided by students during their registration
- A Zoom invitation link will be sent to you via Michael Barker's email/meeting invitation.
  - Follow the instructions for registering for the Zoom meeting.
  - When you log into Zoom, enter your full name and email for RT Certificate & discussion identification.
  - Log in a little early to work out any issues – Zoom meeting will open at 7:30 am CST.
- Additional instructions and details will be provided in advance of the class.

### **To Register for Training:**

Complete the online application at [www.DisasterEngineer.org](http://www.DisasterEngineer.org). On the top menu bar, select "Training Applications" then click on the desired training course to open the proper online application. After completing the application, click "SUBMIT."

### **Additional Information contact:**

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