



FEMA

US&R PROGRAM DIRECTIVE – 2020-020

December 21, 2020

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 Program Directive 2020-020 – COVID-19 US&R Forward Plan, Phase Two

Implementation Date: December 21, 2020

Re-issue Date: September 30, 2023

This National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Response System (the System) Program Directive (PD) serves as Phase Two of the *COVID-19 US&R Forward Plan* and distributes a *Safety Stand Down*, a *COVID-19 Pandemic Blue Sheet*, and revised *COVID-19 Operational Guidance*.

The System's COVID-19 Priority Study Ad Hoc Group was tasked with development of an improved communications plan to ensure all System personnel understand and are familiar with System COVID-19 related policies, procedures, and guidance. The 2020 System responses during pandemic conditions led to the need for the attached *Safety Stand Down* and *Blue Sheet* in order to ensure that all critical lessons learned, best practices, and policies are understood and complied with by all System personnel.

The attached *COVID-19 Operational Guidance (Dec 2020)* (previous versions and all attachments distributed via General Memorandum 2020-032) has been revised and is the current version in effect as of this PD's implementation date. The revised *COVID-19 Operational Guidance* will be assigned to the System's Advisory Organization for the development of the appropriate document type (such as *Annex H – Pandemic Concept of Operations to the US&R Operations Manual*) however, this version (and any updated versions if necessary) will remain in effect until that work is completed.

REQUIRED ACTIONS

The issue is approved for FEMA National US&R Response System implementation.

All System personnel should refer to and be familiar with the *Safety Stand Down* instructions, *COVID-19 Pandemic Blue Sheet* and revised *COVID-19 Operational Guidance*.

Attachments (available electronically on www.responsesystem.org in the *Information / System Documentation / COVID-19 Documents* area):

US&R System Safety Stand Down

COVID-19 Pandemic Blue Sheet

COVID-19 Operational Guidance (Dec 2020), and all its attachments

cc:

US&R Strategic Group

US&R Advisory Group

US&R Branch Staff

FEMA Regional/Federal/International ESF #9 Representatives

