




FEMA

US&R GENERAL MEMORANDUM – 2020-041

May 21, 2020

**FOR:** National Urban Search & Rescue Response System  
Task Force Representatives and Program Managers

**FROM:** Dean Scott, Chief  
Operations Section  
Urban Search and Rescue Branch 

**SUBJECT:** US&R General Memorandum 2020-041 – FEMA Announces Operational  
Guidance for the 2020 Hurricane Season

This General Memorandum (GM) informs the National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Response System (the System) that yesterday FEMA released the *COVID-19 Pandemic Operational Guidance for the 2020 Hurricane Season* in preparation for, and to address the challenges of managing disaster response and recovery efforts during, the 2020 hurricane season.

This guidance is intended to help emergency managers and public health officials best prepare for disasters, while continuing to respond to and recover from coronavirus (COVID-19). The information presented in this document regarding FEMA’s operating posture provides actionable guidance to State, Local, Tribal & Territorial (SLTT) officials as that should serve as a baseline as they prepare for response and recovery operations and encourages personal preparedness measures amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic response efforts.

While this document focuses on hurricane season preparedness, most planning considerations can also be applied to any disaster operation in the COVID-19 environment. FEMA will continue to operate under the framework of locally executed, state managed, and federal supported incident response. By creating a shared understanding of expectations among FEMA and SLTT partners prior to hurricane season, the nation will be better positioned to achieve operational outcomes in disaster response and recovery efforts.

The FEMA *COVID-19 Pandemic Operational Guidance for the 2020 Hurricane Season* will also serve as a parent document to System COVID-19 operational guidance. The System operational guidance issued by GM 2020-032a is currently under review, and any revisions or updates to that based on current COVID-19 recommendations will be provided to the System.

Any questions related to this GM should be directed to Dean Scott at: [dean.scott@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:dean.scott@fema.dhs.gov).

Attachments (available electronically):

COVID-19 Pandemic Operational Guidance for the 2020 Hurricane Season –  
<https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/188203>

cc:

US&R Strategic Group  
US&R Advisory Group  
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