

INFORMATION NOTE

July 2011

Urban Search and Rescue (USAR)

Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) is the location of trapped persons in collapsed structures and other entrapments using specialized search personnel, dogs, and equipment.

In Canada USAR is categorized into three distinct groups; light, medium and heavy. There are numerous light and medium teams located across the country. The Canadian Heavy USAR (HUSAR) Team is comprised of five Task Forces which are strategically located in Vancouver, Calgary, Manitoba, Toronto and Halifax. The federal government, through the Preparedness and Recovery Directorate at Public Safety Canada provides management of the federal government component of the USAR Program.

\$3 million annually is provided for USAR and while USAR utilizes the JEPP mechanism for the disbursement of funds, it is important to note that there are several key differences between USAR JEPP funds and regular JEPP funds:

- In order to be eligible for USAR funding, all project proposals must conform to the requirements outlined in the Canadian Urban and Search and Rescue Classification Guide for light, medium or heavy only. No further 'typing' of resources is recognized. The Classification Guide can be found at <http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/prg/em/usar/usar-guide-eng.aspx>.
- All USAR applicants are asked to discuss details of self identification and ongoing availability of USAR resources with their Provincial Emergency Management Organization for purpose of strategic planning and preparedness.
- Heavy USAR applications are restricted to the Task Forces identified above.
- Quotes must accompany all USAR applications and all invoices/proof of purchase must accompany the final claim.
- All capital projects must be for equipment that will be dedicated to USAR – equipment intended for multiple purposes related to routine responsibilities of first responders will not be recommended for approval.
- The cost sharing ratio for Heavy and Medium USAR is 75% federal and 25% provincial.
- The cost sharing for Light USAR is 50% federal and 50% provincial.
- HUSAR Task Force funding now includes one third Operations and Maintenance (O&M) costs. The USAR Secretariat within the PS National Exercises Division at HQ should be consulted prior to submission of application to ensure project meets established guidelines. See attached Annex A for clarification as to O&M versus Capital expenditures.
- Proposal must be submitted within the deadlines established for all other JEPP proposals.
- All Task Forces are to be reminded that JEPP applications must adhere to provincial guidelines and timelines for submission.
- PS may undertake an audit of USAR inventory specific to JEPP funded equipment and training.

Annex A

HUSAR O&M Vs. Capital Expenditures – to serve as a guide only. For detailed list and specifications please refer to HUSAR Equipment list.

O&M	Capital
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provincial/Territorial salaries for a specific project (<i>NOTE: not for ongoing core services</i>) ▪ Consultant fees ▪ Out-of-pocket expenses directly tied to approved JEPP project ▪ Rental/leasing of facilities (e.g. storage, training, etc.) ▪ Utilities ▪ Travel (including Task Force Leaders travel to Ottawa 2x/year for Task Force Leader meetings), training, exercises, hospitality (only during training and field exercises) and accommodations ▪ Aircraft pallets ▪ Medical supply rotation (e.g. items with an expiry date) ▪ Canine costs (e.g. housing, veterinarian costs, etc.) ▪ Food and ration rotations ▪ Consumables (e.g. fuel) ▪ Equipment maintenance ▪ Vehicle leases ▪ Licensing/permits ▪ Training specific to HUSAR ▪ Bursaries ▪ Exercise development & conduct expenses ▪ Base camp support equipment and personal protective gear under \$5K ▪ Additional vehicle equipment under \$5K (e.g. lettering, lights, radios) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Equipment for Search and Rescue Operations, (e.g. tools, generators, Incident Command Post equipment, telecommunications etc.) ▪ Base camp support equipment and personal protective gear over \$5K (tents, generators, medical supplies, encasement, etc.) ▪ Construction of facilities, building extensions (\$1M per TF) ▪ Construction of permanent training sites ▪ Laptop computers and software ▪ Vehicles (cab & chassis) to a maximum of \$40K only