

***HEMS MCA***  
**System Protocol**  
**Urban Search and Rescue Medical Response Team**  
**Medical Control Policy**

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Section: 12-3

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### **USAR Medical Control Policy**

Purpose: due to the unique aspects, complexity, special knowledge and training necessary for these calls, there is need for a distinction between when to contact online medical control through the local MCA-approved medical control facility or the USAR Team Physician.

For USAR responses, online medical control will be with the USAR Team Physician, preferentially, for any USAR protocol.

USAR Team Physicians are approved by HEMS MCA to operate as medical control for this team during the response period.

1. When the USAR team is dispatched, the USAR Team Physician will receive the same page as the team.
2. The USAR Medical Specialist Paramedic or USAR team leader will also make initial contact via cell phone with the USAR Team Physician about the incident and what may be needed.
3. The USAR Team Physician will make the decision to either respond to the scene or maintain contact via cell phone for additional orders or questions.

#### Training for the USAR Team Physician

1. Strongly encouraged to complete the FEMA Medical Specialist Course
2. Required to make entry into the hot zone per OSHA regulations:
  - a. Collapse Awareness, Operations, level training
  - b. Trench Awareness, Operations, level training
  - c. Rope Awareness, Operations, level training
  - d. Confined space Awareness, Operations, level training
  - e. HAZMAT Awareness, Operations, level training
  - f. If the physician does not complete these courses, then all effort will be made to get the physician as close to the scene as possible so they can observe treatment and assist with decision making.