

**DEPARTMENT of
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**PUBLIC
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Newark Department of Public Safety Hosts Regional Urban Search and Rescue Training

Newark Public Safety Director Brian A. O'Hara reports that yesterday concluded a weeklong regional urban search and rescue training conducted by the Newark Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

“In light of the tragedy that occurred in the Surfside Community of Miami Beach on Thursday, I'm grateful that our Urban Search and Rescue training team here in Newark serves not only our city, but supports first responders throughout the entire region,” Director O'Hara said. “Regional training was established in Newark following the terrorist attack against the World Trade Center on September 11th, 2001. That incident showed us that there was a tremendous need for first responders who knew exactly what to do in the event of another catastrophic building collapse on this side of the Hudson River.”

The 5-day training involved 11 agencies, known as the Metro Urban Search and Rescue Strike Team, comprising firefighters from the counties of Essex, Bergen, Hudson, Union, Middlesex and Morris. Members of the Port Authority Police Department also participated in the training, which focused on trench rescues, involving freeing individuals trapped inside manholes or other underground structures. Participants were required to complete two weeks of structural collapse training as a pre-requisite to trench training, which includes drills, operation of various rescue apparatus and maintenance of rescue tools and rescue trucks.

“This fall, 500 additional first responders will participate in Urban Search and Rescue training involving various drills at our facility,” Director O'Hara added. “The drills are being designed by members of Newark's Office of Emergency Management to help the Metro Urban Search and Rescue Strike Team rescue individuals entrapped under concrete following a building collapse, vehicles that are submerged in water, overturned tractor trailers and more. This ongoing training is invaluable towards ensuring that our first responders are both well-equipped and well-prepared to assist in any rescue emergency that occurs throughout our region.”



June 24, 2021 - Newark Office of Emergency Management Metro Urban Strike Team Trench Training