

TX-TF1 CONDUCT SEARCH OPERATIONS IN GARZA COUNTY



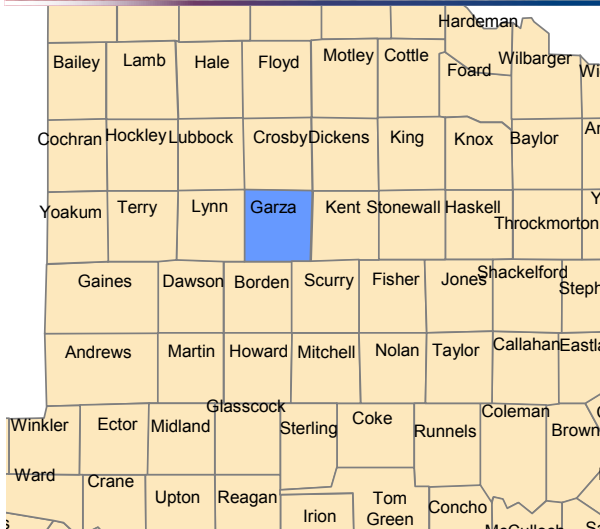
On May 3rd, 2005, the Governor's Division of Emergency Management (GDEM) received a call from Garza County officials requesting assistance. A Garza County resident had been involved in a boating accident on Lake Alan Henry and was missing. Lake Alan Henry is 45 miles south of Lubbock and 4 miles east of Justiceburg on the Brazos River. GDEM sent a TX-TF1 search management team to assist local officials. Additionally, Garza County officials had requested a local human remains (HR) detection canine group to provide canine HR search teams to assist and work under the direction of TX-TF1.



Working with the local incident commander, TX-TF1 formulated a plan to assist local officials to locate the missing boater. Local officials, with support from TX-TF1 determined the most appropriate areas of the lake to search. Additionally, the TX-TF1 search team manager began analyzing maps of the lake and began to identify potential recovery locations for the missing boater.

At approximately noon on May 3rd, TX-TF1 personnel were notified that an abandoned vehicle was also discovered close to the same lake and the driver was missing. The driver of the vehicle had been missing for several days and the two incidents were at the same lake but unrelated. TX-TF1 then organized a land and water based search for the missing driver. TX-TF1 personnel identified a possible location for the missing driver and advised the incident commander. Due to the large trees and scrubs along the shoreline, there was a high potential for drowning victims to become trapped below the waterline. TX-TF1 personnel advised the local incident commander that a scuba diver was the only way to fully search an area for a missing person.

By the evening of May 3rd, the TX-TF1 personnel had identified and advised the local incident commander of potential locations for both the missing boater and the missing driver. Search operations were ceased after sunset for safety reasons and because the local incident commander did not require any more assistance with the search operations, released the task force personnel.



Deployment Statistics

• Incident involved 8 personnel deployed for 1 day

Canine Search Team Command Staff

- 1 Team Leader
- 1 Search Team Manager

3 HR Canine Search Teams

- Each team consisted of a canine, the canine handler, and a flanker/navigator

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