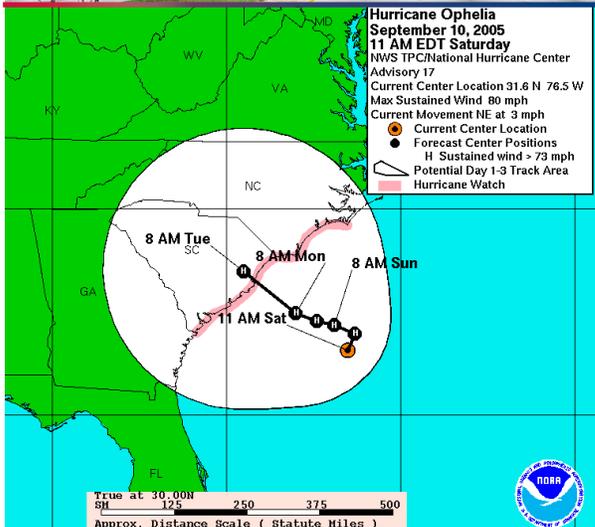


**TASK FORCE SUPPORTS HURRICANE OPHELIA DEPLOYMENT**



The National Weather Service projected that Hurricane Ophelia would make landfall in South Carolina on Tuesday, September 13th. On September 10th, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requested that Texas Task Force One (TX-TF1) support the FEMA Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Program Office by providing two personnel to drive the FEMA Incident Support Team (IST) equipment cache to Atlanta, GA. Both of the TX-TF1 personnel had just returned on September 7th from a thirteen day deployment to New Orleans for Hurricane Katrina.

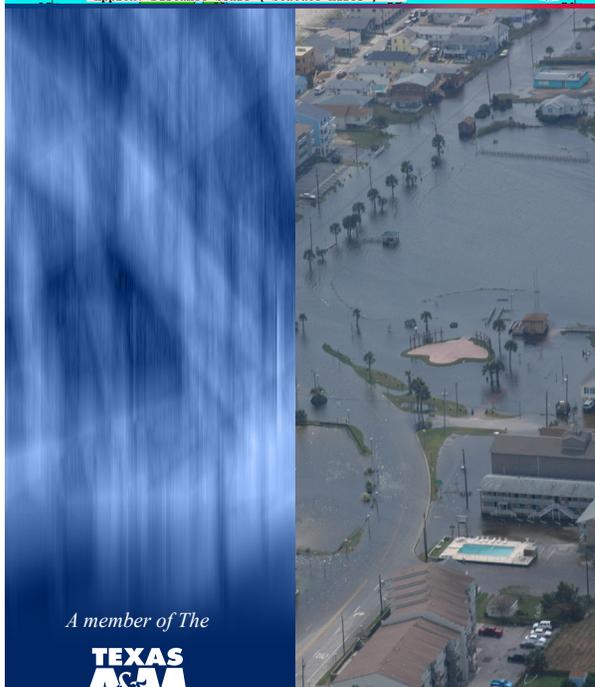


On September 11th, both TX-TF1 personnel flew commercial aircraft to Ft. Worth, picked up the FEMA IST cache and departed within the hour for Atlanta, GA. On September 12th prior to arriving to Atlanta, GA, the FEMA Program Office moved the new staging location to Raleigh, NC. The TX-TF1 personnel and cache arrived the night of the September 12th, staging at a hotel on the east side of Raleigh. The next morning, the TX-TF1 personnel met up with the IST command team and other IST equipment caches and made preparations for landfall of Hurricane Ophelia.

At the time, FEMA maintained a portion of the FEMA US&R IST equipment cache on a trailer at the FEMA warehouse in Ft. Worth for deployment throughout the United States. The mobilization and use of FEMA IST cache provides a significant capability for disaster response and mitigation. The multi-disciplinary FEMA US&R task forces afford search, rescue, medical, and technical capabilities, and a wide variety of services for catastrophic events.

The IST equipment cache is organized into functional kits and is available for dispatch with the IST. FEMA maintains these kits to support the IST with communications equipment (including telephones and radios), computers, printers, and administrative office supplies.

The initial damage reports were not as severe as originally predicted, and local authorities did not request assistance from any of the FEMA search and rescue teams stationed along the Gulf Coast. As a result, on September 16th, the TX-TF1 personnel received demobilization orders from FEMA. The task force members arrived with the FEMA IST trailer in Ft. Worth on September 17th and then returned to College Station.



**Deployment Statistics**

- Incident involved 2 personnel deployed for 7 days

FEMA Incident Support Team Equipment Cache  
- 1 eighteen wheel cargo truck

A member of The

