On August 19, under the direction of the Governor’s Division of Emergency Management and in coordination with the State Operations Center in Austin, Texas Task Force 1 (TX-TF1) assembled a unified command structure for statewide search and rescue involving eight state agencies, six FEMA US&R teams and a FEMA Incident Support Team. Search and rescue personnel and equipment were deployed to Weslaco and San Antonio in preparation for Hurricane Dean’s potential landfall on the Texas coast.

TEEX and TX-TF1 also coordinated with the FEMA Incident Support Team and six US&R teams from across the country, which were pre-staged in Dallas/Fort Worth to support the Texas search and rescue efforts.

TX-TF1 maintains a portion of the FEMA US&R Incident Support Team cache trailers for deployment throughout the United States upon activation by FEMA. The mobilization and use of the FEMA IST cache provides a significant capability for disaster response and mitigation. The IST cache maintained by TX-TF1 was mobilized and en route to Dallas / Ft. Worth, within 4 hours of the request by FEMA.

The multi-disciplinary FEMA US&R task forces provide search, rescue, medical, 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 equipment caches to support the IST with communications equipment (including telephones and radios), computers, printers, and administrative office supplies.

Deployment Statistics
• Incident involved 2 personnel deployed for 6 days
  FEMA Incident Support Team Equipment Cache
    - 2 eighteen-wheel cargo trucks
    - 2 IST cache support personnel and truck drivers