

TX-TF1 DEPLOYS FEMA IST EQUIPMENT TO CENTRAL KANSAS



On May 4th, 2007, a series of tornadoes developed over the central Kansas. The most destructive of these tornadoes occurred on the evening of May 4 in the city of Greensburg in Kiowa County. The EF5 tornado destroyed 95% of the town. The tornado killed at least 13 people, including 11 in Greensburg and two in Pratt County by a separate tornado. At least 60 people were injured in Greensburg. The tornado was estimated at 1.7 miles in diameter with a total path of 22 miles. Winds inside the tornado were estimated in excess of 205 mph.



The tornado destroyed 961 homes, caused major damage to 105 and minor damage to 67. In addition 67 mobile homes were destroyed. A total of 110 businesses were destroyed and 24 sustained minor damage. Two public schools, one private school, all nine churches, many public and government buildings, and other property were also destroyed.

On May 7th, 2007, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requested that Texas Task Force 1 (TX-TF1) deploy the FEMA Incident Support Team (IST) equipment cache to Kansas. TX-TF1 maintains a portion of the FEMA US&R IST cache trailers for deployment throughout the United States upon activation by FEMA. The mobilization and use of 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 Greensburg, KS, within 2 hours of the request by FEMA.

The multi-disciplinary FEMA US&R task forces afford search, rescue, medical & technical capabilities, and as well as 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.

Deployment Statistics

- Incident involved 2 personnel deployed for 5 days
 - Deployed FEMA Incident Support Team equipment cache
 - 1 Eighteen-wheel cargo truck
 - 2 IST cache support personnel and truck drivers

ESF-9 Coordination Center in College Station was activated for this deployment

