

TYPE 1 US&R TASK FORCE AND A WATER TASK FORCE DEPLOYED TO SOUTH TEXAS



On July 21, 2008, the Governor's Division of Emergency Management (GDEM) directed TX-TF1 to activate a Type I US&R Task Force and ten water rescue boat squads. These resources were mobilized and staged in College Station. At the time, Tropical Storm Dolly was located in the Gulf of Mexico and the National Weather Service (NWS) predicted the storm may intensify into a hurricane, with possible landfall between Brownsville and Corpus Christi.



In preparation for this storm, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) deployed an Incident Support Team (IST) to San Antonio to coordinate the operations of one Type I and two Type III US&R task forces. TX-TF1 developed and directed a unified command in close cooperation with other state and federal response agencies. On July 22, all search and rescue resources forward deployed to South Texas and began familiarizing themselves with the local area and establishing liaison with local emergency responders. Dolly made landfall as a Category 2 hurricane on July 23 near South Padre Island with 100 mph winds. TX-TF2 was also activated on July 23 as a Type III task force and deployed to the region.

After landfall, Dolly continued moving westward and dropped sixteen inches of rain in some areas, causing widespread flooding. The storm impacted 14 counties in south Texas. The teams worked over the next 5 days conducting rescue operations in the impacted area. Additionally, TX-TF1 completed the evacuation of a nursing home early on Thursday morning while the Type I task force conducted structural damage assessments on South Padre Island.

On the morning of July 27, after the threat of major flooding had subsided, GDEM released all deployed task forces to return from operations in south Texas.



Deployment Statistics

• Incident involved 151 personnel deployed for 7 days

Type I US&R Task Force (consisting of 77 personnel)

- 4 Rescue squads
- 4 Canine and 2 technical search teams
- Command, Medical, Logistics, HazMat and Communications personnel

Hurricane Water Task Force (consisting of 55 personnel)

- 10 Water rescue squads (5 personnel on each squad)

State of Texas ESF-9 Unified Command Team (consisting of 6 personnel)

- Command staff and support personnel comprising a Water, Structural and Air Branch

Search and Rescue Joint Air/Ground Coordination and Control Element

- 6 UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters staged in Austin and San Antonio
- 5 TX-TF1 helicopter rescue specialists staged with the helicopters

- 3 ESF-9 Coordinators assigned to the State Operations Center

- 1 ESF-9 Liaison assigned to the McAllen DDC

- 1 ESF-9 Liaison assigned to the Corpus Christi DDC

- 1 ESF-9 Liaison assigned to the Texas Military Forces Joint Operations Center

- 2 ESF-9 Liaisons assigned to the Cameron County EOC

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

