

TX-TF1 DEPLOYS A TYPE I & TYPE III US&R TASK FORCE, AND A WATER TASK FORCE



On August 30, 2008, Hurricane Gustav was located in the Caribbean as a Category 5 storm and the National Weather Service (NWS) predicted that the storm was tracking for possible landfall between New Orleans and Corpus Christi. On August 30, the Governor's Division of Emergency Management (GDEM) directed Texas Task Force 1 (TX-TF1) to activate all available search and rescue resources and deploy to Reliant Center in Houston.



In preparation for this storm, on August 30th, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) deployed a FEMA Incident Support Team (IST) to Houston to provide planning and coordinate the operations of two Type I and three Type III FEMA US&R Task Forces.

On Aug 30th, the Louisiana Governor requested that Texas help with the evacuation of special needs citizens in New Orleans. At 11am on August 30th, a 40 person strike team of TX-TF1 personnel boarded a C-130 aircraft in College Station and flew to New Orleans, supervising the loading and evacuation of New Orleans residents. The mission was completed at 7pm on Aug 30th.

While forward deployed to Reliant Center, TX-TF1 worked closely with other state and federal response agencies to create a unified search and rescue command organization.

After making landfall on September 1st at 9 am near Grand Isle, LA, Hurricane Gustav quickly weakened into a Tropical Storm and continued moving northwest into north Texas. After the threat of tornados and flooding associated with Hurricane Gustav had subsided, GDEM released all deployed task forces from operations on September 3rd.

Deployment Statistics

• Incident involved 219 personnel deployed for 5 days

Type I US&R Task Force (consisting of 81 personnel)

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

Type III US&R Task Force (consisting of 32 personnel)

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

Hurricane Water Task Force (consisting of 58 personnel)

- 4 Water rescue squads stages in Beaumont
- 6 Water rescue squads staged in Houston

State of Texas ESF-9 Unified Command Team (consisting of 35 personnel)

- Command staff and support personnel comprising a Water, Structural and Air Branch
- Member of TX-TF1, TX-TF2, Texas Forest Service, Texas Military Forces, Dept. of State and Health Services, General Land Office, Dept. of Part and Wildlife, and the Dept. of Public Safety

Search and Rescue Join Air/Ground Coordination and Control Element

- 1 ESF-9 Liaison assigned to the JAGCT
- 4 C-130 Hercules aircraft
- 8 UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters staged in Austin and San Antonio
- TX-TF1 helicopter rescue swimmers were staged in Austin

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

- 1 ESF-9 Liaison assigned to the Houston DDC

- 1 ESF-9 Liaison assigned to the Beaumont DDC

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

