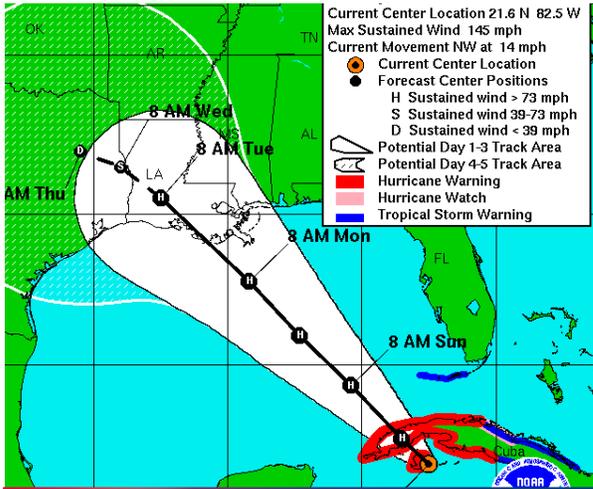


FIVE FEMA US&R TEAMS ON STANDBY FOR HURRICANE GUSTAV IN HOUSTON



On August 31, Texas Task Force 1 (TX-TF1) requested the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to activate and deploy the FEMA Incident Support Team (IST) cache of equipment based in College Station, TX. While state of Texas search and rescue personnel and equipment were deployed to Houston and Beaumont in preparation for Hurricane Gustav's potential landfall on the Texas coast, these FEMA US&R assets were directed by TX-TF1 to stage at the Reliant Center in Houston. A member of TX-TF1 was also mobilized and deployed to Reliant Center in Houston as an IST Communications Specialist from September 3 to 5 in order to support the FEMA IST mission.



As Hurricane Gustav headed for Texas, TEEX and TX-TF1 directed and coordinated with the FEMA IST and five US&R teams from across the country, which were pre-staged in Houston to support the Texas search and rescue efforts. The staged task forces were comprised of three Type I and two Type III teams.

TX-TF1 maintains one of three FEMA US&R Incident Support Team caches 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 multi-disciplinary FEMA US&R task forces afford search, rescue, medical, and technical capabilities, and a wide variety of services for catastrophic events. TX-TF1 also provides personnel to staff the FEMA US&R IST for deployment throughout the United States upon activation by FEMA. Supporting the mobilization and deployment of the FEMA IST provides task force personnel an opportunity to train and practice command and planning functions at large scale incidents and improves the State's capability for disaster response and mitigation.

The IST cache maintained by TX-TF1 was mobilized and enroute to the Houston area within 2 hours of request by FEMA. 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 IST cache supported FEMA coordination efforts for US&R task forces assigned to respond in Louisiana and Texas.

On the evening of September 5, after the threat of major flooding from Hurricane Gustav had subsided in north Texas, and because no federal assets were required for deployment by the state of Texas, FEMA transitioned the Blue IST cache personnel and equipment to make preparations for Hurricane Ike. The equipment cache and FEMA IST personnel continued to stay at Reliant Center in Houston.

Deployment Statistics

- Incident involved 3 personnel deployed for 6 days

- FEMA Incident Support Team Equipment Cache

- 1 eighteen-wheel cargo truck
 - 2 IST cache support personnel and truck drivers
 - 1 IST communications specialist

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

