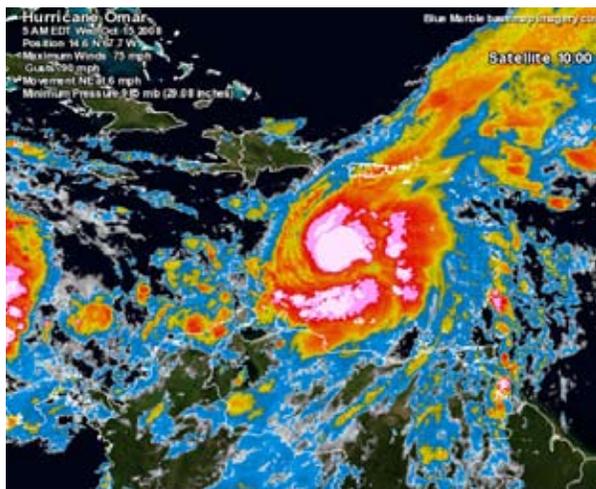


**TASK FORCE SUPPORTS FEMA IST DEPLOYMENT FOR HURRICANE OMAR**



On October 15, 2008, in preparation for Hurricane Omar, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) activated and forward deployed three FEMA US&R task forces. In order to support this deployment, FEMA activated an Incident Support Team (IST) and requested that TX-TF1 personnel assist with staffing. One member of TX-TF1 was requested by FEMA to forward deploy with the IST which was staged in Miami. The IST established a base camp in Miami and began planning operations for the ten FEMA US&R task forces enroute to the area.



TX-TF1 provides personnel to staff the FEMA US&R IST for deployments 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 multi-disciplinary FEMA US&R task forces afford search, rescue, medical, and technical capabilities, and a wide variety of services for catastrophic events.

In addition to supporting personnel to staff the IST, TX-TF1 also maintains one of three FEMA US&R IST equipment 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 multi-disciplinary FEMA US&R task forces afford search, rescue, medical, and technical capabilities, and a wide variety of services for catastrophic events. Hurricane Omar developed into a strong hurricane which took an unusual southwest to northeast track through the eastern Caribbean Sea and did not pose a threat the continental United States. As a result, on October 16, IST personnel and task forces received demobilization orders from FEMA.

**Deployment Statistics**

- Incident involved 1 person deployed for 2 days

FEMA Incident Support Team

- 1 Task force member deployed as the IST Structures Specialist

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

