

## SEVERE WEATHER AND TORNADO ACTIVITY PREDICTED IN EAST TEXAS



On March 30th, 2008, Texas Task Force 1 (TX-TF1) was in the process of demobilizing from a three day Full Scale Exercise in Disaster City® when the Governor's Division of Emergency Management (GDEM) placed TX-TF1 on standby for possible deployment for severe weather across Texas. TX-TF1 immediately began preparations to reconfigure the cache from a Heavy Rescue US&R Task Force to a Wide Area Flood Model Task Force.



On March 31st, TX-TF1 was activated by GDEM to prepare for severe weather and possible tornados in east Texas. Three ESF-9 Liaisons were immediately forward deployed to the affected areas. Thirty inches of rain had fallen the previous day in San Augustine and Sabine County. The National Weather Service (NWS) predicted that the convergence of a dry line and cold front would produce severe thunderstorms over northeast Texas, as well as the possibility of tornados from 1800 hrs to 0200 hrs the night of March 31st.

Multiple roads were flooded in Sabine and San Augustine County, and twenty homes were flooded in the San Augustine area. The amount of rain also required an assessment of the Bland Lake Dam.

On the afternoon of April 1st, after the threat of tornados and flooding in east Texas had subsided, GDEM released all three ESF-9 personnel to return to College Station.

This weather system continued to move north into the Midwest, where it was responsible for 16 deaths.

### Deployment Statistics

#### • Incident involved 3 personnel deployed for 2 day

- 2 ESF-9 Liaisons assigned to the Texas Forest Service Head Quarters in Lufkin
- 1 ESF-9 Liaison forward deployed to the Sabine County Sheriff's Office
- 2 UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters at the Austin Bergstrom Airport on standby
- 10 High Profile Vehicles from the Texas Military Forces on standby
- ESF-9 Coordination Center in College Station was activated for this deployment

