

TX-TF1 DEPLOYS A TYPE 1 US&R TASK FORCE AND A WATER TASK FORCE



On August 3, 2008, the Governor's Division of Emergency Management (GDEM) directed TX-TF1 to activate a Type I US&R Task Force and eight water rescue boat squads in preparation for a landfall of Tropical Storm Edouard. The search and rescue resources were mobilized on August 4 and forward deployed to Reliant Arena in Houston. Tropical Storm Edouard was located in the Gulf of Mexico and the National Weather Service (NWS) predicted that the storm may intensify into a hurricane and was tracking for possible landfall between Galveston and Port Lavaca. TX-TF1 had just finished a week long deployment the previous week for Hurricane Dolly.



By the evening of August 4, all search and rescue resources were forward deployed to the Reliant Center in Houston and teams had familiarized themselves with the surrounding communities and established liaison with local emergency responders. The storm made landfall the morning of August 5 to the east of Galveston Island with sustained 65 mph winds.

After making landfall, Tropical Storm Edouard continued moving westward, causing over 6 inches of rainfall in some areas over the next few days causing widespread flooding. The storm impacted 17 counties along the coast of Texas.

By noon on August 5, the storm was downgraded to a tropical depression and after the threat of major flooding had subsided and no local jurisdictions required assistance, GDEM released all deployed task forces to return to College Station.

Deployment Statistics

• Incident involved 141 personnel deployed for 2 days

Type I US&R Task Force (consisting of 74 personnel)

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

Hurricane Water Task Force (consisting of 46 personnel)

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

State of Texas ESF-9 Unified Command Team (consisting of 10 personnel)

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

Search and Rescue Join Air/Ground Coordination and Control Element

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

Water rescue command and logistics personnel with trailer and communication package were deployed with the Water Task Force at the Reliant Center in Houston

- 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 Galveston County EOC
- 1 ESP-9 Liaison assigned to the Texas Military Forces Joint Operations Center
- ESF-9 Coordination Center in College Station was activated for this deployment

