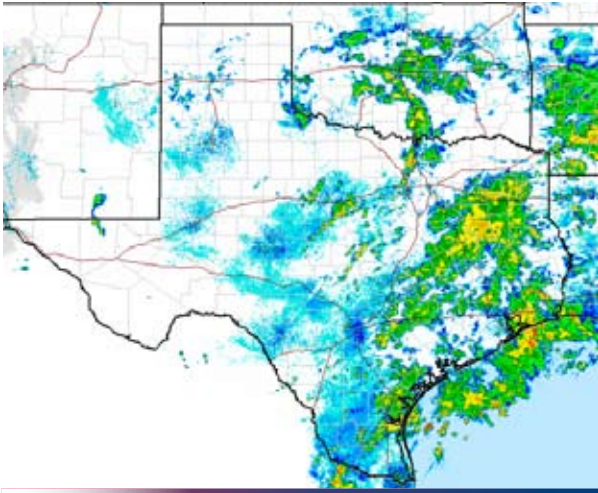


HEAVY RAIN IN NORTHERN TEXAS IMPACTS WICHITA COUNTY



At 3 am on August 19, 2008, Texas Task Force 1 (TX-TF1) was activated by the Governor's Division of Emergency Management (GDEM) to deploy swift water rescue assets due to heavy rains and severe weather across northern Texas. The task force deployed four water rescue squads and a command and logistical support package to Wichita County. TX-TF1 also activated three helicopter rescue specialists to stage with Texas Military Forces helicopters in Austin.



TX-TF1 water rescue squads worked with Wichita County emergency responders and Texas Parks and Wildlife personnel to rescue individuals near the Wichita River. TX-TF1 personnel also conducted airborne assessments of the area with local officials aboard a Texas Department of Public Safety aircraft to determine the extent of the flooding.

Each water rescue squad consisted of 5 members. Each squad deployed with a swift water rescue boat, personal protective equipment, rescue gear, and interoperable satellite & radio communications equipment. The teams were staged in Wichita Falls and prepared to deploy to impacted areas across North Texas.

At 11 am on the morning of August 20, after the waters receded and the threat of flooding in the area had subsided, GDEM released all TX-TF1 personnel and boat teams.

Deployment Statistics

• Incident involved 30 personnel deployed for 2 days

- 4 Water rescue squads deployed to Wichita County (consisting of 21 personnel)
- 3 Logistics personnel with a communications and a support equipment package deployed with the squads
- 3 UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters were staged in Austin
 - 3 TX-TF1 helicopter rescue swimmers were co-located with these UH-60 helicopters
- 1 ESF-9 Coordinator assigned to the State Operations Center
- 1 ESF-9 Liaison assigned to the Wichita County Emergency Operations Center
- 1 ESF-9 Liaison assigned to the Wichita County DDC
- ESF-9 Coordination Center in College Station was activated for this deployment
- 10 High Profile Vehicles from the Texas Military Forces on standby in Fort Worth

