

TASK FORCE SUPPORTS FEMA IST STAGED FOR PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION



On January 17, 2009, in preparations for the 44th Presidential Inauguration, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) placed a FEMA US&R task force on standby near the Washington D.C. area. To support the task force in the event of a deployment, FEMA activated an Incident Support Team (IST) and requested that TX-TF1 personnel assist with staffing. One TX-TF1 task force member was requested by FEMA to forward deploy with the FEMA IST based near Washington D.C.



Additionally, FEMA supported state and local emergency management services and first responder units by pre-deploying emergency personnel to serve with Emergency Response Teams and the National Disaster Medical System.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officially declared the 2009 Presidential Inauguration a National Special Security Event (NSSE). As such, the United States Secret Service was charged with employing and coordinating all federal and local agencies including the various bureaus of DHS, the FBI, and the Washington D.C. Police Department to secure the venue from terrorist attacks. An estimated 1.8 million people attended the inauguration ceremony on the National Mall.

The city of Washington D.C. employed 8,000 additional police officers deployed for the inauguration. The police force was assisted by 1,000 FBI agents to provide security for the event. Ten thousand National Guard troops were also on site, including the 153rd Military Police Company of the Delaware National Guard with 5,000 troops providing security duty in a ceremonial capacity and 1,300 unarmed troops aiding Park Police in crowd control at the National Mall.

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

Deployment Statistics

- Incident involved 1 person deployed for 6 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

