

## TX-TF1 ASSISTS IN SEARCH OF DAMAGED AND DESTROYED BUILDINGS



At approximately 3:00 p.m. on May 25, 2011, Texas Task Force 1 (TX-TF1) was activated by the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) due to a mutual aid request from the State of Missouri.



The city of Joplin had been struck by a tornado on May 22 that was rated EF-5 on the enhanced Fujita intensity scale and caused destruction with sustained winds up to 250 mph, killing 142 people and injuring 990 more. The tornado was 3/4 mile wide and tore a path 13.8 miles long. Approximately 2,000 structures were destroyed, including the town's hospital and high school.

The Task Force arrived in Joplin at 8:00 am on May 26 and immediately set up a base of operations and began conducting canine searches of assigned areas. TX-TF1 conducted over 13 canine search missions over the next four days and completed the last search assignment on the evening of Sunday, May 29.

On the morning of May 30, the State of Missouri demobilized all TX-TF1 personnel and they returned to College Station, TX.



### Deployment Statistics

- Deployment involved 8 personnel deployed for 6 days

- Canine Search Team Command Staff

- 1 Task Force Leader
- 1 Search Team Manager

- 3 HR Canine Search Teams

- Each team consisted of a canine, the canine handler, and a flanker/navigator

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

