

TEXAS TASK FORCE 1  
 RESPONDS TO EF-5 TORNADO

TX-TF1 Requested for Search Operations in Moore, Oklahoma



On the afternoon of May 20, 2013, an EF-5 tornado struck the city of Moore, Oklahoma. With winds upwards of 210 miles per hour, the tornado killed 23 people, injured 377, and caused a 17 mile long and mile wide path of destruction.



On May 20, at 1800 hours, FEMA activated three US&R teams, the Red Incident Support Team (IST), and the IST Central Cache. The three US&R teams that were activated were TX-TF1, NE-TF1, and TN-TF1. In addition, a fourth task force, MO-TF1, was placed on alert. TX-TF1 activated the White Type-I US&R team and prepared to leave College Station, TX for Moore, OK. In addition to the 70 person Type-I team and 10 support specialists, 1 IST Structure Specialist from TX-TF1 deployed as part of the RED IST, and 6 Support Specialists with TX-TF1 activated to support the Central IST Cache.

Upon arrival, TX-TF1 conducted search operations and debris removal in areas around the city of Moore. Some of these searches included basements, cellars, and secured damaged structures. In the first operations period, TX-TF1 completed their assigned search area of 499 structures. In addition, a HR Canine Team supported OK-TF1 Squads while searching the Plaza Towers Elementary School to ensure all personnel were recovered.



By the evening of May 22, the mission for the FEMA US&R teams was complete and the task forces began to demobilize. TX-TF1 departed Moore, OK in the early morning of May 23 and arrived safely in College Station, TX in the afternoon.

**Deployment Statistics**

- Incident involved 87 personnel deployed for 4 days
  - Type-I US&R Task Force (consisting of 80 personnel)
    - 4 Rescue squads
    - 4 Canine and 2 technical search teams
    - Command, Medical, Logistics, HazMat and Communications personnel
  - FEMA IST Red Team (consisting of 1 personnel from TX-TF1)
    - 1 IST Structural Specialist
  - FEMA IST C-Cache (consisting of 6 personnel)
    - 6 IST Cache Support Specialist
  - Utilized 1 HR Canine Team to Support OK-TF1 Squads

