

TEXAS TASK FORCE 1

HSART AND RESCUE SQUADS ASSIST AFTER FLOODING

TX-TF1 Requested for Search and Rescue Operations for Pecos River Flooding



On September 19, 2014 the city of Pecos officially declared a disaster as a result of heavy rain localized and upstream and flooding of the Pecos River, affecting the city. Mandatory evacuation orders were issued to anyone living near the Pecos River, with nearly 50 homes and a number of remote oilfield camps being affected and possible becoming inaccessible.



On September 22 at 1230 hours, Texas Task Force 1 ( TX-TF1) received a State of Texas Assistance Request (STAR) activating and mobilizing two Water Rescue Squads, with personnel and support resources, to support rescue operations along the flooded Pecos River in Reeves County. At 1640 hours, TX-TF1 received a second STAR activating four Helicopter Search & Rescue Technicians (HSART) to staff two Texas Military Forces' UH-60 Blackhawk hoist equipped helicopters for possible rescue missions in the affected area.

The two Water Rescue Squads, one from San Antonio FD and the other from Fort Worth FD, worked in close support of the local authorities responding to calls for assistance to maintain the safety of those residents affected by the cresting Pecos River. The HSARTs flew requested reconnaissance flights over the flooded river basin to both identify any residents or oilfield camps that may require assistance and to provide the local jurisdictional Incident Commander with better situational awareness about the size and scope of the flooding damage they was on going.



When the Pecos River finally crested in the evening of September 24<sup>th</sup>, the Water Rescue Squads, Command & Support personnel, and HSARTs were demobilized at 0800 hours on September 25, 2014.

Deployment Statistics

- Incident involved 20 personnel deployed for 4 days
  - 2 boat squads (San Antonio FD and Fort Worth FD)
  - 1 HELO squad
  - 1 Task Force Leader
  - 1 Communications Specialist
  - 2 Support Specialist

