

TEXAS TASK FORCE 1

ASSIST WITH SEARCH AND RECOVERY AFTER MUD SLIDE

TX-TF1 Requested after Washington Mud Slide Consumes a Rural Community

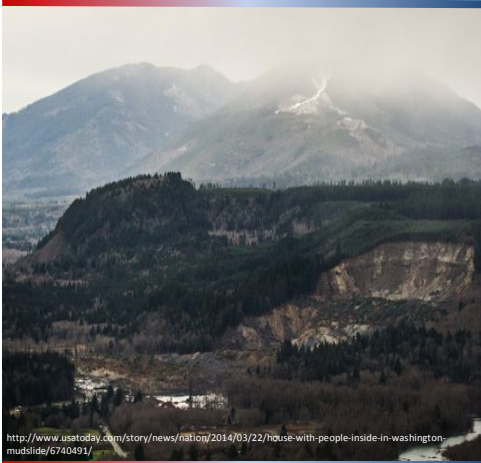


<http://cslrbc.com/2014/03/27/90-people-listed-as-definitively-missing-or-unaccounted-for-in-mudslide-area/>



<http://q13f6x.com/2014/03/27/90-people-listed-as-definitively-missing-or-unaccounted-for-in-mudslide-area/>

On March 22, 2014, a large slide covering nearly cover 1.3 square miles and engulfing 49 homes and other structures in an unincorporated neighborhood 4 miles east of Oso, Washington. It also dammed the river, causing extensive flooding upstream of the the North Fork of the Stillaguamish River. The mud and wet soil was roughly 15 to 20 feet deep in some areas. A number of fatalities were confirmed soon after the event and a number of people remained missing.



<http://www.asstoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/03/22/house-with-people-inside-in-washington-mudslide/6740491/>

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) immediately activated the White Incident Support Team (IST), and place CA-TF7 on alert. After the determination was made that it would not be a search and rescue mission, but rather a search and recover, Human Remains canines and handlers from a number of Task Forces, including Texas Task Force One (TX-TF1) were activated and deployed to Oso, Washington, on April 3.



<http://www.seattletpi.com/local/article/Gov-Inslee-on-mudslide-Unrelenting-and-5342734.php>

On April 5, after 15 days, the Blue IST was activated in order to relieve the White IST, which was later demobilized on April 7. The canine teams and the IST worked tirelessly to bring closure to many families affected by the mudslide.

The HR canines and handlers demobilized on April 17, and the personnel for Blue IST remained 2 more days, before being demobilized on April 19. This was the 1<sup>st</sup> time FEMA deployed HR canines in the history of the Urban Search & Rescue Program. Though an extremely disastrous event, the hard work of the individuals who worked vigorously for days made a difference for the community of Oso, Washington.

Deployment Statistics

- White IST included 1 person deployed for 15 days
- Blue IST included 2 people deployed for 21 days
- Canine Teams included 2 HR canines deployed for 18 days

