Just as Texas was recovering from some of the worst rain and flooding in state history Tropical Storm Bill began steering towards the Texas coast creating flash flooding and river flooding from the I-35 corridor East. As a result, the Texas Division Of Emergency Management (TDEM) activated the State Operation Center (SOC) on June 16, 2015 and began to contact state response partners for activation.

Texas Task Force 1 (TX-TF1) activated 9 Water Rescue Squads, 2 Water Rescue Managers, and 5 Helicopter Search and Rescue Technician (HSART) teams and pre-positioned them across the state. Eventually, an additional 3 HSART teams were activated, supporting four Texas Military Department (TMD) UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters and a Texas DPS helicopter. In addition, a Search and Rescue Overhead Team was activated to provide control and coordination of search resources, as well as 3 Liaison Officers to coordinate and fill requests from the state at the SOC.

Fortunately, the tropical storm passed quickly through the state, only dropping 2-4 inches of rain in most areas as opposed to the 6-20 inches that had been predicted. On June 17th, Bill was downgraded from a Tropical Storm to a Tropical Depression as it continued to move from the gulf coast into the DFW area. All resources were demobilized on June 19, 2015.

Deployment Statistics:
• Incident involved 72 personnel deployed for 4 days:
  • 9 Water Rescue Squads
  • 2 Water Rescue Managers
  • 9 HSART teams
  • 3 Liaison Officers
  • SAR Overhead Team
• Teams Completed:
  • 4 rescues (8 people)
  • Multiple Home and business checks where people sheltered in place
  • Just in Time Training for Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) and TXMF