

TEXAS TASK FORCE 1

ACTIVATES DUE TO DANGEROUS WINTER STORM

TX-TF1 Requested to assist with Search and Rescue Efforts in North Texas



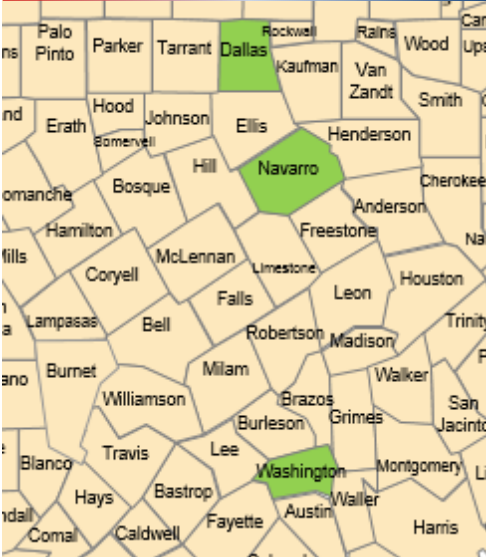
On the evening of December 26th, 2015, a strong cold front pushed through Texas resulting in an EF-3 tornado striking Rowlett, TX, and an EF-4 tornado striking neighboring Garland, TX. These tornadoes caused wide spread damage and destroyed a number of structures. As a result, the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) Activated the State Operation Center (SOC) and began to contact state response partners.



At 2000 hours December 26, Texas Task Force 1 (TX-TF1)'s Type-1 Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Team was activated to assist the city of Rowlett, TX, with search and rescue (SAR) efforts. In addition, a small SAR Overhead Team and 4 Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) ESF-9 liaisons were activated to support and coordinate SAR operations and resources throughout the state.

TX-TF1's Type-1 US&R team completed their entire search areas in Rowlett by the afternoon of Sunday December 27th and were requested to help TX-TF2 complete their remaining areas in Garland. By Sunday night, the local EOC released TX-TF2 for demobilization, while the regional Disaster District held TX-TF1 until late morning, December 28th, when they were demobilized to College Station.

Additionally, with the heavy rain on the night of Sunday December 27th, TX-TF1 activated and mobilized two Water Rescue Squads and a Water Rescue Manager to support Texas DPS Region 1 and those communities impacted by flash flooding and localized river flooding. One squad deactivated on December 29th, while the other deactivated early December 30th.



Deployment Statistics:

- Incident involved a total of 98 personnel involved for 5 days
 - TX-TF1 Type 1 Team
 - 2 Water rescue Squads
 - 1 Water Rescue Manager
 - 1 SAR Overhead Team
 - 4 ESF-9 Liaisons
- Teams completed:
 - Rescued: 9 people
 - Assisted: 2 people
 - Sheltered in place: 549 people

