

2001

SEPTEMBER 11

Deployment Statistics

Lasted a total of 17 days

74 Personnel activated supporting the following resources:

- Type-I US&R Task Force

Type - **STRUCTURAL COLLAPSE**



On September 11, 2001, one of the worst terrorist attacks in the United States history occurred after four passenger airlines were hijacked by al-Qaeda terrorist. Two of the planes were crashed into the North and South towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, with the third plane crashing into the Pentagon in Arlington County, Virginia, and the fourth plane crashing into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The attacks killed 2,996 people and injured over 6,000 others.

As part of the response, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) FEMA activated and initially deployed 8 FEMA US&R Task Forces to New York and 4 FEMA US&R Task Forces to Washington, DC. Additionally, 4 FEMA US&R Task Forces were activated and awaited orders, as to where and when to respond.

TX-TF1, was 1 of the 4 FEMA US&R Task Forces activated and awaiting orders. The team activated a Type-I US&R Task Force at 2:00 p.m. on September 11, and completed in-processing in College Station and prepared the equipment cache for deployment. TX-TF1 remained in College Station until September 16, when they received orders to move to the assigned Point of Departure (POD) in Austin, TX. The team left the next morning from Austin Bergstrom International Airport loaded on 2 C-141 U.S. Air Force transport aircrafts. The cache of equipment and logistics specialists flew on one C-141, with task force personnel on the other C-141. TX-TF1 touched down in Newark, New Jersey at Fort McGuire Air Force Base at 10:00 p.m., riding buses to Fort Dix and spending the night. The task force went to the forward operating base at Jacob K. Javits Convention Center where they received a briefing and started working at ground zero on September 19. TX-TF1 split into two groups conducting operations 24 hours a day, in rotating 12 hour shifts.

During the search phase, work had slowed due to a very large piece of steel that was hanging over the debris pile near the south tower. The large piece of steel was situated precariously over the worksite, endangering search efforts below. TX-TF1 volunteered to tackle the difficult and dangerous job. After hours of careful cutting with torches, the massive piece of steel was finally lifted free by a large crane, with union and rescue workers cheering on.

TX-TF1 personnel worked around the clock for a total of 9 days and completed over 216 hours of search and rescue operations at ground zero. They were demobilized on September 27, returning safely home to College Station, TX. This was the first federal deployment for TX-TF1 since being added as a FEMA team in early 2001.



September 11-27