DHS officially declared the 2004 Republican National Convention occurring on August 30, 2004, a National Special Security Event (NSSE). As such, the United States Secret Service was charged with employing and coordinating all federal and local agencies including the various bureaus of DHS, the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), and the New York Police Department (NYPD) to secure the venue from terrorist attacks. Expected security expenditures reached $70 million, 50 of which was funded by the federal government.

In preparation for the Republican National Convention, FEMA placed a FEMA US&R Task Force on standby on August 27. Additionally, to support the task force in the event of a deployment, FEMA activated a FEMA US&R IST and requested that 1 TX-TF1 personnel forward deploy to New York City.

The FEMA US&R Task Force and IST remained deployed until September 3, the day after the Convention convened. All personnel were demobilized after no major incidents occurred.