# 2008 SPY SATELLITE RE-ENTRY

Spy Satellite re-entry threatens nation

## Deployment Statistics

**Lasted a total of 3 days**

**70 Personnel activated supporting the following resources:**

- **Type-I US&R Task Force**

**Type - SECURITY SENSITIVE (NON-WATER)**

On December 14, 2006, the U.S. military launched a reconnaissance satellite, which was the size of a bus, into space for a classified mission. The satellite malfunctioned shortly after deployment, and lost contact with the ground within hours. In late January 2008, reports confirmed the spy satellite was in a deteriorating orbit and was expected to crash into Earth within weeks. An uncontrolled re-entry of the satellite could have resulted in large pieces of debris falling across the southern United States. Additionally, the satellite was powered by 1000 pounds of hydrazine, a toxic substance similar to chlorine that could damage skin and lungs.

In preparation for the re-entry of the spy satellite, on February 19, 2008, FEMA requested that TX-TF1 roster a Type-I US&R Task Force and be ready for a possible deployment to anywhere in the southern United States. TX-TF1 identified 70 personnel available for immediate mobilization and began making preparations for a rapid mobilization to any impact site.

At 9:30 p.m. on February 20, the United States Navy successfully intercepted the satellite with a modified SM-3 missile fired from the USS Lake Erie, hitting the satellite 133 nautical miles over the Pacific Ocean as it travelled at more than 17,000 miles per hour. The missile scored a direct hit, striking the satellite in the hydrazine tank, reducing the satellite to football size pieces which were destroyed upon re-entry. A few hours later, after no impacts of satellite debris were reported, FEMA released TX-TF1.

**February 19-21**