On September 4, 2011, 3 separate fires started near the city of Bastrop and as a result of the strong winds caused by nearby Tropical Storm Lee, merged into one large blaze that burned east of the city. The high winds quickly spread the fire among the towering pine trees causing firefighter crews to work tirelessly to control the blaze during the following days.

At approximately 11:00 p.m. on September 6, 2011, TX-TF1 was activated by TDEM to deploy to Bastrop County and assist the local jurisdictions with wide area search operations in areas recently affected by wildland fires. At 6:00 a.m. on September 7, TX-TF1 deployed a Type-I US&R Task Force and additional search personnel to Bastrop County.

The task force established a Base of Operations at Camp Swift and worked in conjunction with TFS to conduct wide area search operations in the affected areas. TX-TF1 searched over 2,600 damaged, destroyed, or remaining structures over the next 6 days. In the process of conducting search operations, TX-TF1 encountered domestic animals and wildlife within the burned areas and worked in coordination with the Texas A&M Veterinary Emergency Team (VET) to provide care for and relocate the animals.

The Bastrop Fire Complex resulted in the death of 2 people, and destroyed 1,600 homes causing an estimated $325 million of damage, and wasn’t formally declared to be contained until October 10, even though cleanup operations began on September 30.

On the afternoon of September 12, after TX-TF1 had completed their mission, all TX-TF1 personnel were demobilized and returned to College Station, Texas.