Hurricane Sandy made landfall along the Atlantic Coast on October 29, 2012. It was the largest hurricane on record to form in the North Atlantic with a gale diameter of 1,100 miles, and the second most damaging hurricane in history, second only to Hurricane Katrina. The entire East Coast from Maine to Florida was affected by Sandy’s landfall.

In preparation for Hurricane Sandy, FEMA activated the FEMA US&R Red IST with White IST merged in, the FEMA US&R Central IST Cache, and 8 FEMA US&R Task Forces. The IST was stationed in Herndon, Virginia, while the task forces were positioned across the East Coast. In addition, an additional 6 task forces were placed on alert for potential activation.

Though TX-TF1 was not activated, a total of 6 TX-TF1 personnel deployed in support of the Red IST and the FEMA US&R IST Cache.

The TX-TF1 personnel played critical roles in the support of the IST, from Deputy IST Leader and Deputy Medical Officer to US&R Specialist and FEMA US&R IST Cache Support. The Deputy IST Leader was in a prime leadership role for directing the 8 FEMA US&R Task Forces in search and rescue operations, while working closely with the local affected jurisdictions across 3 states. The FEMA US&R IST Cache support personnel helped provide logistical support and much needed supplies to the large number of US&R Task Forces spread out over a large area, providing them with fuel, water, food, generators, and communications gear, to help keep the US&R task forces up and operational.

All of the task forces except for 1 were demobilized on November 6 with the last task force, the Red IST, and the FEMA US&R IST Cache being demobilized on November 9.