

2013

WEST FERTILIZER PLANT II

Deployment Statistics

Lasted a total of 4 days

16 Personnel activated supporting the following resources:

- 1 Technical Rescue Team

Type - **SEARCH OPERATIONS (NON-WATER)**



After the explosion at the West Fertilizer Plant in the city of West, Texas, on April 17, 2013, search and rescue missions were coordinated and completed by local resources, TX-TF1, and TX-TF2. Additionally, local residents were evacuated from their homes due to health and safety concerns as a result of hazardous materials from the plant fire and from the severe damage to homes and structures from the explosion. With rescue operations concluded, the City of West moved into the recovery phase of the disaster, and allowed residents to have access to their homes to collect any personal effects from their homes, before they were demolished due to safety concerns. With safety in mind, the City of West and the State of Texas ordered a small technical rescue team from TX-TF1. This small team of rescue, medical, and command personnel was mobilized at 9:00 p.m. on April 26, and arrived early the following morning in West, Texas.

TX-TF1 assisted residents entering their homes that were damaged in the explosion, by ensuring safe entry and exit. The TX-TF1 team helped residents gain entry into approximately 75 homes, allowing residents to retrieve valuables, family memories, and personnel effects in a safe and secure manner.

Though this was not a typical mission that is accepted by US&R Task Forces, this humanitarian mission was extremely important in maintaining a safe environment for residents of a city that had suffered from such a catastrophic loss. Additionally, it provided a unique closure for the TX-TF1 personnel that had responded 1 week earlier to the explosion, as they were able meet and help those families that had lost everything in a matter of seconds.

The team remained deployed for 3 days, and after the City of West closed the affected area from re-entry they released TX-TF1 and the team demobilized at 10:30 a.m. on April 29.



April 26-29