

2014

## WASHINGTON MUD SLIDE

## Deployment Statistics

Lasted a total of 31 days

5 Personnel activated supporting the following resources:

- FEMA US&R IST
- 2 HR Canine Teams

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



On March 22, 2014, a large slide, covering nearly cover 1.3 square miles, engulfed 49 homes and other structures in an unincorporated neighborhood 4 miles east of Oso, Washington. It also dammed the river, causing extensive flooding upstream of the North Fork of the Stillaguamish River, with the mud and wet soil being roughly 15 to 20 feet deep in some areas. A number of fatalities were confirmed soon after the event and a number of people remained missing.

FEMA immediately activated the White IST and placed California Task Force 7 (CA-TF7) on alert. TX-TF1 was requested to help with staffing, and as a result, deployed 1 person in support of the IST. The FEMA US&R White IST deployed and integrated with local, State, and Federal entities to support the Region and the State of Washington, working with Washington Task Force 1 (WA-TF1) in the process.

On April 3, CA-TF7 was activated as a Type-I US&R Task Force. Additionally, 20 Human Remains (HR) canines and handlers from a number of task forces, including 2 TX-TF1 HR canine search teams were activated and deployed to Oso, Washington.

On April 5, 15 days after the incident, the Blue IST was activated in order to relieve the White IST, which was later demobilized on April 7. The canine teams and the IST worked tirelessly to bring closure to many families affected by the mudslide.

The HR canines and handlers demobilized on April 17, and the personnel for Blue IST remained 2 more days before being demobilized on April 19. This was the first time FEMA deployed HR canines in the history of the US&R Program. Though an extremely disastrous event, the hard work of the individuals who worked vigorously for days made a difference for the community of Oso, Washington.



**FEMA**



Mud slides in Oso, Washington, causes multiple fatalities with many people still missing

**March 24-April 23**