The month of May 2015 was the wettest month on record for the State of Texas, causing floods in many areas across the state. As a result, TDEM activated the SOC on May 8, 2015, and began to contact state response partners for activation. In response, TX-TF1 activated 4 ESF-9 Coordinators to respond to the SOC as well as HSARTS to support TXMF helicopters.

As the severity of the situation increased, so did the amount of required resources. Through the entire deployment the SOC activated a total of 249 TX-TF1 personnel which included a Type-I US&R Task Force, a Type-III US&R Task Force, the Region 3 SAR Team, 13 Water Rescue Squads, 18 HSARTs, 7 ESF-9 Coordinators, the Joint Air Ground Coordination Team (JAGCT), and TX-TF1’s SAR Overhead Team in response to some of the worst weather the state had seen in 2 decades.

Each resource played a different part in the overall picture of this deployment. The Type-III US&R Task Force was alerted for possible tornadoes and staged in College Station ready to respond at moment’s notice. After a family of nine’s house was swept off its foundation by the river in Wimberley, Texas, the Type-III US&R Task Force was upgraded to a Type-I US&R Task Force and deployed to assists with the search of the missing people. The Region 3 SAR team also aided in this effort, making it the first deployment for this team. The 13 Water Rescue Squads and 18 HSARTs were strategically staged around the state and were constantly relocating to jurisdictions to provide aid to areas experiencing flooding. The 7 Liaison Officers worked in the SOC and in local EOCs to coordinate and fill requests from the State. The JAGCT and TX-TF1’s SAR Overhead Team operated from TX-TF1’s headquarters, coordinating operations throughout the entire state.

All teams demobilized by June 5, 2015, making this the longest deployment in the history of the task force.