

The National Hurricane Center (NHC) and the NWS first began to alert TDEM of the severe weather in Texas early in the week of October 18, 2015. The predicted severe weather was a result of a mixture of a strong system moving toward the state, Gulf and Western Caribbean moisture drawn northwest into Texas, and the remnants of Hurricane Patricia from the Pacific. As the week progressed, rainfall predictions continued to increase as Hurricane Patricia upgraded to a Category 5 Hurricane and remained strong even after landfall.

On October 23, 2015, TX-TF1 activated 7 Water Rescue Squads and 11 HSARTs. These squads were strategically positioned around the state in order respond to the severe weather. Locations for the squads included Waco, Corsicana, Austin, and San Antonio. Corsicana, Texas, was among one of the hardest hit areas with floodwater shutting down I-45 and also derailing a train. With rain continuing to fall and flooding continuing to increase, an additional Water Rescue Squad was activated on October 24, bring the total to 8 Water Rescue Squads. Water rescues continued across the state until the rain subsided on October 25, 2015, with TX-TF1 demobilized by 6:30 p.m.

During this event, TX-TF1 worked extensively with the TMD, the TX DPS, and TX DOT in order to successfully complete 40 rescues, 7 evacuations, 4 assisting rescues to other agencies and vehicle checks when vehicles were found underwater. TX-TF1 units also provided Just-In-Time training for state response partners.







