Tropical Storm Bill threatens the Texas coast

Just as Texas was recovering from some of the worst rain and flooding in the state’s history, Tropical Storm Bill began steering towards the Texas coast causing flash flooding and river flooding from the I-35 corridor east. As a result, on June 16, 2015, TDEM directed TX-TF1 to activate 9 Water Rescue Squads, 2 Water Rescue Managers, and 5 HSARTS and pre-position them across the state. Eventually, an additional 3 HSARTs were activated, supporting 4 TXMF UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters and a DPS helicopter. In addition, a SAR Overhead Team was activated to provide control and coordination of search resources, as well as 3 ESF-9 Coordinators to coordinate and fill requests from the state at the SOC.

Fortunately, the tropical storm passed quickly through the state, only dropping 2-4 inches of rain in most areas as opposed to the 6-20 inches that had been predicted. On June 17, Bill was downgraded from a Tropical Storm to a Tropical Depression as it continued to move from the gulf coast into the DFW area. All resources were demobilized on June 19, 2015.