On the evening of December 26, 2015, a strong cold front pushed through Texas resulting in an EF-3 tornado striking Rowlett, Texas, and an EF-4 tornado striking neighboring Garland, Texas. These tornadoes caused widespread damage and destroyed a number of structures. As a result, TDEM activated a TX-TF1 Type-I US&R Task Force and a TX-TF2 Type-III US&R Task Force to assist the Cities of Rowlett and Garland, Texas, with SAR efforts. Additionally, a small Overhead Team and 4 Liaison Officers were activated from TX-TF1 to support and coordinate SAR operations and resources throughout the state.

TX-TF1’s Type-I US&R Task Force completed their entire assigned search areas in Rowlett by the afternoon of Sunday, December 27, and were requested to help TX-TF2 complete their remaining areas in Garland. By Sunday night, the local EOC released TX-TF2 for demobilization, while the Regional Disaster District held TX-TF1 until late morning, December 28, when they were demobilized to College Station.

Additionally, with the heavy rain on the night of December 27, TX-TF1 activated and mobilized 2 Water Rescue Squads and a 1 Water Rescue Manager to support DPS Region 1 and those communities impacted by flash flooding and localized river flooding. One squad deactivated on December 29, while the other deactivated early December 30.