On March 8, 2016, the State of Texas began experiencing heavy rain over East and North Texas. While the rain quickly moved out of the area, a large amount of rain fell in river water sheds resulting in slow, sustained, and historical river and community flooding. The severe flooding resulted in voluntary evacuations in Jasper County and mandatory evacuations in Orange and Newton Counties.

As a result of the major flooding conditions, TDEM activated 9 Water Rescue Squads, 3 Water Rescue Managers, 7 HSARTS, a SAR Overhead team, and 5 ESF-9 Liaison Officers from TX-TF1. The teams worked tirelessly to assist with water rescues and evacuations in communities affected by the historic flooding along the Sabine River.

Additionally, in response to the threat of tornado/severe weather in East and North Texas, TX-TF1 put a Type-III US&R Task Force and a Type-I US&R Task Force on alert. In the end, neither were needed and they were stood down.

In total, Water Rescue Squads completed 15 rescues, 12 assists, 200 evacuations, and 165 Shelter-in-place welfare checks. Additionally, a large number of rescues and evacuations of pets and livestock were also completed.