Hurrican Ian Hits the Coast of Florida

Deployment Statistics

Lasted a total of 16 days

46 Personnel activated supporting the following resources:
  • **Type 3 Water Capable Search and Rescue Team**

Teams completed:
  • **1 Evacuation**
  • **1 Pet Evacuation**
  • **3 Human Remains Discovered/Removed**
  • **1,208 Damaged Structures Assessments**

Type – RAIN

On September 27, 2022, the Federal Emergency Management Agency activated Texas A&M Task Force 1 as a Type 3 Water Capable Search and Rescue Team to assist the state of Florida with Tropical Cyclone Ian. Ian was expected to make landfall as a category 4 hurricane producing high winds and heavy rainfall. On September 28, 2022, the team traveled to Gulfport, MS and received their assignment to Tallahassee, FL.

On September 29, 2022, TX-TF 1 traveled through Florida to their designated area of operation and began assessing surge damage. From September 30-October 3, 2022, the team conducted hundreds of damage assessments, multiple assists, completed 1 human and 1 pet evacuation. The Task Force canine teams discovered 1 set of human remains, and later TX-TF 1 received a request to remove 2 more human remains. During this time a new assignment was given to TX-TF1 by the IST due to the lack of space for all of the canine resources. There were 25 individual human remains canine teams present. Therefore, the Task Force members banded together and created "Lone Star Kennels" at the Base of Operations. In this new space all of the canine resources had adequate care from the team.

Over the next week the team conducted water and wide area search operations in the surrounding areas assisting the other FEMA teams. On October 10, 2022, TX-TF 1 began demobilizing and heading back to Texas. The team arrived back in College Station on October 12, 2022, then departed to their home stations.