

2024

HURRICANE HELENE & HURRICANE MILTON

Deployment Statistics

Lasted a total of 20 days

102 Personnel activated supporting the following resources:

- 1 Type 1 Water Capable Mission Ready Package

Teams completed:

- 6 Evacuations

Type – **HURRICANE**



On September 24, FEMA requested Texas A&M Task Force 1 (TX-TF1) as a Type 1 Water Capable Urban Search and Rescue Team in preparation for Tropical Storm Helene which was expected to progress into a hurricane and make landfall in Florida. The team departed that afternoon to Pensacola, Florida and arrived late in the afternoon on September 25, 2024 and positioned in preparation for the large-scale storm. Late in the evening on September 26, 2024, Hurricane Helene made landfall near Perry Florida as a Category 4 hurricane. Its high winds and storm surges ranked it among the most powerful storms to strike the United States.

The team spent the days following the storm performing searches and damage assessments in their assigned areas. They relocated as assigned multiple times and worked in the surrounding states including Georgia and North Carolina. One of the biggest challenges was the lack of cellular coverage after the storm, so the Communications team worked hard setting up radio communications and establishing repeaters.

On October 2, 2024, an additional Canine Handler and 3 Canines made their way to meet the team along with TX-TF Chaplain Meek. That afternoon during a targeted search of a damaged lumberyard, 1 Human Remains was detected. The additional Canines arrived on October 5, 2024, and began working. That day a squad responded to a report of someone stranded on a washed-out road and safely evacuated 1 Adult Female, 6 Cats, and 3 Dogs. On October 7, 2024, 21 fresh TX-TF1 members arrived in North Carolina to replace active members who would be demobilizing.

On October 10, 2024, the event officially changed to Hurricane Milton and the team headed back to Florida to assist in storm response efforts. Late in the morning on October 11, 2024, with the event becoming manageable for state and local jurisdictions, the team was determined to be an excess resource and released. The team arrived back in Texas on October 13, 2024.



SEPT. 24-OCT. 13