

DISASTER STRIKES THE TASK FORCE HOMETOWN



On the early morning of November 18th, 1999, the 40-foot Texas A&M Bonfire structure collapsed, trapping students who had been working on the stack through the night. The structure consisted of approximately 5000 logs. At the time, Texas Task Force One (TX-TF1) was based out of hangers at the College Station Airport and were on-scene within 2 hours. Under the direction of the Incident Commander, and working side by side with the College Station & Bryan Fire Departments, TX-TF1 members began using their equipment, training, and experience to support the rescue efforts.



The stack was a jumble of ten inch thick logs and quarter inch steel cables. The stack resembled a matchstick pile, and moving one log could shift other logs, further injuring trapped students. Working as fast as they could, the rescue efforts on the stack were very deliberate and coordinated. The last student was removed from the stack 24 hours after the collapse had occurred.

Twelve Aggies perished in the 1999 bonfire collapse and twenty seven were injured.



Deployment Statistics

• Incident involved 22 personnel deployed for 2 days

- 22 Texas Task Force 1 members from Austin, Dallas, Houston and San Antonio
- College Station Fire Department
- 17 members of the City of Bryan US&R Team
- Students from the TEEX Fire Recruit Academy



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