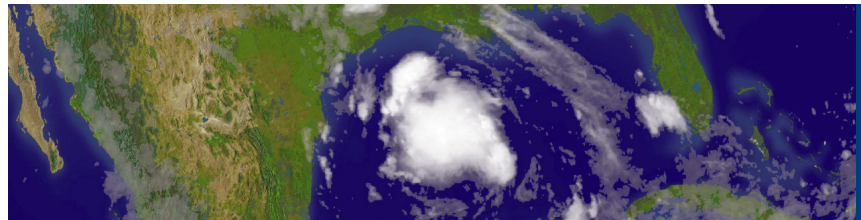
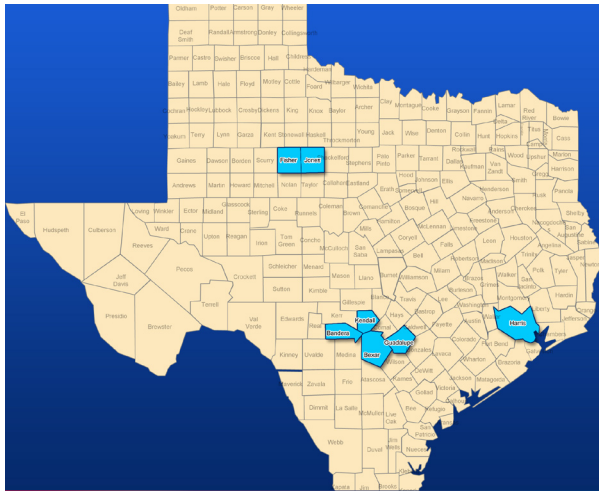


TROPICAL DEPRESSION FIVE UPGRADES TO TROPICAL STORM ERIN



The fifth Tropical Depression of 2007 formed in the Gulf of Mexico at 10 p.m. on Aug. 14. The center of the depression was forecast to be near the lower or middle Texas coast by Thursday, Aug. 16. A Tropical Storm Watch was issued for the Texas Coast from Freeport south to Brownsville. Due to the heavy rains and flooding in July, many Texas rivers and lakes were already at capacity, with the potential for possible flooding and swift water incidents due to heavy rains from the tropical depression, which developed into Erin.



To prepare for anticipated flooding, the Governor's Division of Emergency Management took deliberate preparedness actions in order to provide an immediate and effective response. Search and rescue resources were deployed to Central and South Texas. The Texas Military Forces (TMF) deployed 3 HH-60 Blackhawk helicopters (2 to San Antonio and 1 to Austin). Each of these helicopters had hoist capabilities to support high-water rescue operations. Texas Task Force 1 (TX-TF1) deployed six swift water rescue teams to stage in San Antonio along with six TX-TF1 rescue swimmers to stage with the TMF helicopters in Austin and San Antonio. Each swift water rescue boat team consisted of 5 members plus a team leader. Each team deployed with a swift water boat, flotation vests, rescue gear, and interoperable satellite & radio communications equipment. These teams were staged and prepared to deploy to impacted areas. TX-TF1 also provided an ESF-9 Liaison to the State Operations Center and another to the DDCs in San Antonio and McAllen.

Deployment Statistics

• Incident involved 55 personnel deployed for 3 days

- 31 member swift water search and rescue team
- 6 Swift Water Rescue Teams - staged in San Antonio/Bexar County
- 1 ESF-9 LNO assigned to San Antonio DDC
- 1 ESF-9 LNO assigned to McAllen DDC
- 1 ESF-9 LNO assigned at the State Operations Center
- 2 HH-60s staged in San Antonio and 1 HH-60 in Austin to provide SAR aviation assets
 - 2 TX-TF1 helicopter rescue swimmers were co-located with each of these HH-60 helicopters