

WINTER FLOODING THREATENS THE TOWN OF FARGO



During the Winter of 2009, North Dakota had received unusually large amounts of snowfall. In late March, a sudden warming and associated heavy rains began to rapidly melt the snow in the surrounding areas. This unexpected and rapid melting of the snow caused the water levels of the Red River to rise quickly and rapidly. The Red River directly threatened the city of Fargo, North Dakota. The city of Fargo began emergency sandbagging and earthen levee construction to contain the rising water levels of the Red River.



On March 27th, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requested that Texas Task Force 1 (TX-TF1) deploy the FEMA Incident Support Team (IST) equipment cache and two personnel to North Dakota to support operations in the area. TX-TF1 maintains a portion of the FEMA US&R IST cache for deployment throughout the United States upon activation by FEMA. The mobilization and use of FEMA IST cache provides a significant capability for disaster response and mitigation. The IST cache maintained by TX-TF1 was mobilized and en route to Fargo, ND, within 2.5 hours of the request by FEMA.

The multi-disciplinary FEMA US&R task forces afford search, rescue, medical & technical capabilities, and as well as a wide variety of services for catastrophic events. The IST equipment cache is organized into functional kits and is available for dispatch with the IST. FEMA maintains these kits to support the IST with communications equipment (including telephones and radios), computers, printers, and administrative office supplies.

After the Red River began to recede and the threat of the river breaching the emergency levees subsided, TX-TF1 received its demobilization orders from FEMA.

Deployment Statistics

• Incident involved 4 personnel deployed for 8 days

Deployed FEMA Incident Support Team equipment cache

- 1 Eighteen-wheel cargo truck
- 1 Deputy Logistics Chief
- 1 Deputy Communication Unit Leader
- 2 IST cache support personnel and truck drivers

ESF-9 Coordination Center in College Station was activated for this deployment

