



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 10, 2024

Gainesville Fire-Rescue Firefighters Provide Essential Flood Relief as Part of Texas A&M Task Force 1

Gainesville, TX — May 10, 2024 –Six Gainesville Fire-Rescue Firefighters have been deployed since May 1 with Texas A&M Task Force 1 (TX-TF1) to aid in relief efforts amidst widespread flooding in the southeastern part of Texas.

Members of Task Force 1 aid in various critical tasks including searches, damage assessments, welfare checks, and reconnaissance efforts across Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) Regions 3 and 4. A team totaling nearly 250 personnel, TX-TF1 joined five other task forces from Florida, North Carolina, Michigan, and Tennessee, underscoring the spirit of cooperation and mutual aid among states in time of crisis.

“It’s always been an honor to serve with TX-TF1 and I’m very proud of the work our people do,” says Gainesville Fire-Rescue Chief Wayne Twiner. “Their dedication and service to others contributes to the success of the mission. I’m also very grateful for the sacrifice being made from their families. We couldn’t do it without their support. Gainesville Fire-Rescue will continue to pray for safety of the citizens and first responders.”

Authorities at the scene continue to monitor the weather conditions closely with TDEM, state meteorologists, and hydrologists as decisions are made in the coming days. For now, TX-TF1 is settled, working hard, and staying ready to respond.

The dedication and commitment of the Gainesville Fire-Rescue team, including two three-person boat squads with TX-TF1 and those who are aiding our local citizens, exemplify the resilience and selflessness characteristic of first responders in times of adversity. We acknowledge and appreciate the sacrifices made by the firefighters and their families to serve and we appreciate the patience and support of our community.



Gainesville Fire-Rescue

Gainesville Fire-Rescue exists to protect lives, property, and render aid to citizens and visitors of Gainesville, TX by providing excellent customer service through fire suppression and rescue activities, medical first responder services, public safety education, emergency management, and fire prevention activities.

Texas A&M Task Force 1

Texas A&M Task Force 1 (TXTF1) functions as one of the 28 federal teams under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)'s National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) System and as a statewide urban search and rescue team under direction of the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM). TXTF1 also coordinates the state's swiftwater rescue program and the helicopter search and rescue team which works in conjunction with Texas Military Department.

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Attachments

Six pictures from the scene in TDEM Regions 3 and 4

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