



**HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**  
News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: June 29, 2010**

## Houston Firefighters Deploy with Task Forces to South Texas for Tropical Storm Alex

The Houston Fire Department has sent 26 members to be deployed with Texas Task Force 1 (TX-TF 1) for tropical storm Alex. All members reported to the Task Force Center yesterday afternoon and members are from the HFD Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Team, HFD Rescue and the HFD Hazardous Materials Response Team. The TX-TF1 departed this morning en route to south Texas.

A Quick Response Force and nine Water Rescue Squads are also on their way to Weslaco, TX. TX-TF1. Members joining TX-TF2 will stage in Kingsville, TX. All will remain at their respective locations until they are dispatched for emergencies.

Personnel from agencies throughout the state constitute the two teams. TX-TF 1 and TX-TF 2 are two of 28 National Urban Search and Rescue teams in the nation, which FEMA coordinates.

TX-TF 1 originated in response to the bombing of the Murrah Federal building in Oklahoma City on April 19, 1995. The Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) is the primary agency responsible for coordinating urban search and rescue (US&R) efforts under the State of Texas Emergency Management Plan. This team has been called out to assist with search and rescue following Hurricanes Ike and Katrina, as well as the 9-11 attacks on the World Trade Center.

***Working Smoke Detectors Save Lives!***

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