RAPID RESPONSE TASK FORCE (RRTF) SUMMARY

The state of Texas has formed four Rapid Response Task Forces (RRTFs) which are considered an “All Hazards” resource, with potential utility in response to any disaster, natural or man-made. RRTFs are designed to conduct re-entry operations immediately following a disaster but can also remain in the impacted area for transition to recovery operations.

These RRTFs are comprised of personnel and equipment from state agencies, private sector, volunteer organizations and city and county government. Three of the RRTFs are designated “Light” and one is designated as “Heavy” with Light TFs being comprised of up to 250 personnel and the heavy with up to 500. Unified Command of the RRTFs is provided by the Texas Department of Public Safety, Lone Star Incident Management Teams, The Texas Division of Emergency Management and the National Emergency Response & Rescue Training Center.

Potential missions assigned to the RRTFs include:

- Secure impacted area
- Provide emergency search and rescue
- Begin immediate mass care operations
- Assess damages
- Synchronize local, state and federal response
- Aid in restoration of essential services
- Support state and local continuity of government

RRTFs will be self-supporting, and will bring capabilities and resources which are additive to those of the impacted jurisdictions. The presence of the RRTFs will ensure that required resources are more readily available and provided in a timely manner. The method whereby resources are requested will remain unchanged for local jurisdictions.

While control of the RRTFs will remain under the State, the RRTF leadership will form a Unified Command with the Disaster District Committee in the region to which they are deployed. To expedite the processing of resource requests, the state is prepared to deploy a State Operations Center (Forward) to coordinate provision of resources resident within the RRTFs. Requests for state assets from regions to which RRTFs are not deployed will continue to be processed directly at the State (Main) Operations Center.