

Sept. 28 - Oct. 4, 2013

# NEBRASKA TASK FORCE 1 DEPLOYS TO COLORADO FLOODING

Task Force Leaders  
Brad Thavenet  
Leo Benes

NE-TF1 Requested to Assist in Boulder after Local Water Rescue Resources were Compromised



On September 13th, 2013 NE-TF1 deployed an 80 member task force to Boulder Colorado at 8 a.m. The task force is comprised of firefighters from both Lincoln and Omaha Fire Departments, as well as civilians members in specialty areas. The group deployed to Boulder includes canine teams and personnel trained in water rescue. Colorado Task Force 1 and Utah Task Force 1 also were activated.

NE-TF1 began operations at 0700 on September 14th. During the deployment the team was tasked with search and rescue and gathering preliminary damage assessments in the Left Hand Canyon and Riverside/Raymond areas, excavate, locate and recover the victim of a mudslide that tore through a residence in Jamestown Division, assess and search a flooded trailer park and neighborhood and searched swift water creeks and debris piles and completed some wide area search for missing civilians. The task force covered approximately 50 miles per day making contact with the residents of Boulder County to ensure they were accounted for.

"As you can imagine," Task Force Leader Thavenet said, "things changed overnight. So, if [crews] got a new task or new assignment, they had to be flexible and dynamic, which is a testament to the individuals that went up there." "One day the river would be here, and the next day it had widened out to a totally different direction, whatever path it wanted to take."

The flood waters caused a shocking amount of devastation and destruction, as entire roads were gone and homes swept away.

The task force received their demobilization order late in the evening of September 29th to be effective September 20th at 12 p.m. Early on the 20th NE-TF1 members began tearing down their base camp and packing their cache to return to Lincoln, NE.

- Deployment Statistics
- Lasted a total of 7 days
- 92 Personnel activated
- 24 rescued, 1 Recovery

