

March 14-19, 2019

Task Force Leaders

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April 7, 2019

Task Force Leader

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NEBRASKA TASK FORCE 1

Members Deploy to In-State Flooding

NE-TF1 members assist in Water Rescues , Search and Recovery efforts, following flood



The second week of March, 2019, a "bomb cyclone" swept through the Midwest causing more than a billion dollars of flood damage in Nebraska with heavy rainfall and rapid snowmelt causing catastrophic flooding across three-fourths of the state's 93 counties. On March 14th, at the request of the governor, Nebraska Task Force 1 responded. The team battled winds of over 60 mph, temperatures in the 20's, extremely intense water current with waves, debris, and ice chunks the size of trucks moving downstream. These conditions ultimately proved too much for their boats to handle and prompted a call for a helicopter to aid with rescues. NE-TF1 conducted day operations over the next three days helping rescue five people trapped in homes surrounded by floodwater near Columbus, and five people and two dogs from the community of Monroe, parts of which had been left virtually inaccessible.



As of April 6th three people had perished in the flooding and two remained missing. NE-TF1 joined forces with the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, Nebraska State Patrol, Nebraska National Guard, local law enforcement and emergency responders from Holt County in the search for a man missing since his home was washed away when the Spencer Dam broke on March 14th.



NE-TF1 members were airdropped by a National Guard helicopter in areas that used to occupy the man's residence and downstream. The team deployed with cadaver dogs and punched aeration holes in the sand in hopes of giving the dogs a scent. They were not able to locate the missing person.

Deployment Statistics:

- 3 twelve Hour Operations resulted in Ten Rescues

