

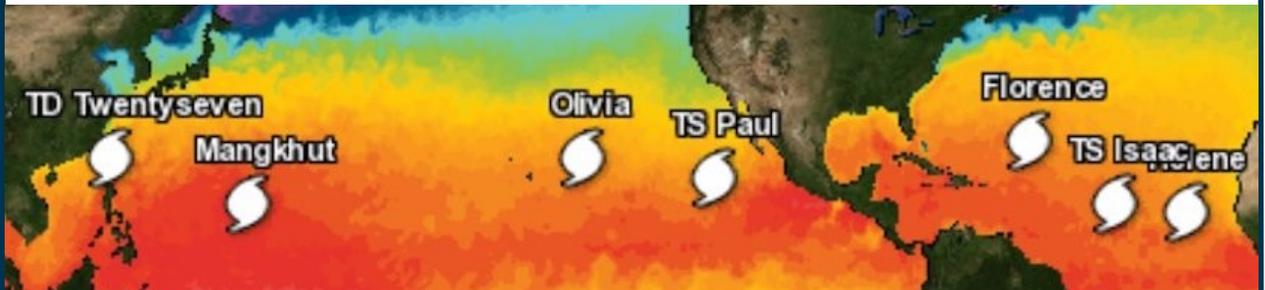
Aug 4 - Oct 4, 2018

NEBRASKA TASK FORCE 1

IST Members Deploy to Hurricanes

IST Members
Brad Thavenet
Dr. Ed Mlinek

NE-TF1 member Brad Thavenet and Dr. Ed Mlinek activated with the Incident Support Team.



On August 24th, 2018 NE-TF1 Program Manager and Battalion Chief Brad Thavenet was activated to deploy to the Hawaiian Islands with the White IST in preparation of Hurricane Lane. The Incident Support Team (IST) was deployed to support CA-TF8, WA-TF1, and CA-TF3 who were deployed to the area as Type III US&R Task Forces. Luckily the hurricane was downgraded to a tropical storm just as it reached the islands, even so, there were areas that received historic levels of rain., up to 52.02 inches in some areas. The storm made landfall twice: once in the west Maui mountains and again on Lanai before continuing to move further west. Task forces and Members of the IST were demobilized on September 2nd.

The following week, September 7th, Chief Thavenet, and Medial Team Manager Dr. Ed Mlinek were activated with the Blue IST to Hawaii in anticipation of Typhoon Mangkut in Guam and Hurricane Olivia. The pair were staged in Honolulu, Hawaii in support of US&R Task Forces CA-TF3, WA-TF1, and CA-TF6. The storm was downgraded and the islands again, escaped serious damage. Dr. Mlinek was demobilized on September 14th, while Chief Thavenet was re-routed to Raleigh, NC to join the Red IST to provide support in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence.

Hurricane Florence made landfall on Friday, September 14th near Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina dumping up to 35 inches of rain in places, causing an estimated \$22 billion dollars in damage, and resulting in at least 24 deaths. According to some reports Hurricane Florence was the worst flooding event in East Coast history. Every FEMA US&R task force in the United States deployed a member, or members, to this event; either as a member of the IST, with a full task force, as a Type III task force, or as a modular water rescue asset. Dr. Mlinek was also activated on September 16th reporting to Kinston, NC to replace another IST member needing to return home. Both Chief Thavenet and Dr. Mlinek were demobilized from Hurricane Florence on Thursday, October 4th.

Chief Thavenet was mobilized and in theater for over 34 days, supporting the response efforts of hurricanes Lane, Olivia, and Florence. Dr. Mlinek was in theater for over twenty days in response to hurricanes Olivia and Florence.



Overall, Collective US&R Teams

Deployment Statistics

- 200 Evacuations
- 85 Assists
- 22k Shelter-in-Place Checks
- 21k Animal Assists
- 30k Structural Assessments



During their response to hurricane Florence, Blue IST members pause for a moment of silence to pay reverence to those lost on 9/11