

Attachment C
Texas A&M Task Force 1
Urban Search and Rescue (US&R)
Participating Agency/Employer (County of Hidalgo)
Individual Member Letter of Endorsement

Date: 4/21/2023

To: [County of Hidalgo]
From: TX-TF1 Deputy Chief
Re: Participation in Texas Task Force 1

Texas A&M Task Force 1 (TX-TF1) a State and Federal Emergency Response Task Force requests TX-TF1 membership endorsement for [Ricardo Saldana].

TX-TF1 functions as one of the 28 federal teams under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)'s National Urban Search and Rescue System and as a statewide urban search and rescue team under direction of the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM). TX-TF1 also coordinates the state's swiftwater rescue program and the helicopter search and rescue team which works in conjunction with Texas Military Forces.

By signing this authorization letter, you are approving participation of the listed individual in TX-TF1 activations and trainings and affirm the Employer's support of the Member's participation in TX-TF1 training, meetings, and emergency response activities. Local significant emergency situations or disasters affecting your jurisdiction may take priority over TX-TF1 activations or training events.

Following are the participation requirements for Members of TX-TF1:

Members must be in good standing with the Employer.

1. Members must be of good moral character and may not have been convicted of any felony or any other criminal offense involving moral turpitude.
2. Members serving in a TX-TF1 position that requires the individual to hold a license, registration, certificate or other similar authorization to lawfully engage in an activity must hold such authorization, which must be current and validly issued.
3. Members must follow all TX-TF1 Standard Operating Guidelines that are available at <https://texastaskforce1.org/sogs>.
4. Members must meet medical/fitness standards and be physically capable of performing assigned duties required in the position description requirements for the assigned position in a wide range of environments per TX-TF1 Standard Operating Guidelines.
5. Members must maintain knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to operate safely and effectively in the assigned position.
6. Members must advise Employer of TX-TF1 activities that may require time off work.

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7. Members must notify TEEEX of any change in the notification process, i.e. address or phone number changes, and maintain current personal profile in the Emergency Management Operation System (EMOS)
8. Members must ensure availability for immediate call-out during the period the Member's assigned team is first on the rotational model for call-out. Members who are not on the team that is first on the rotational model may be requested to fill the position of another team member who is not available to deploy to ensure the team is fully staffed for the mission.
9. Members must respond immediately to call-out with acceptance or refusal of current mission request and arrive within 3 hours from time of call-out to the assigned point of assembly.
10. Members must maintain all equipment issued by TX-TF1 in a ready state and advise TEEEX immediately of any lost, stolen or damaged items.
11. Members must be prepared to operate in the disaster environment for up to 14 consecutive days.
12. Members must provide documentation of the required immunizations as listed below:
 - Diphtheria/Tetanus (or Tetanus only if there is a contra-indication to Diphtheria)
 - Hepatitis A
 - Hepatitis B
 - Measles/Mumps/Rubella (if born after 1957)
 - Polio

Costs and requirements associated with TX-TF1 by the Employer are addressed through your Participating Agencies/Employer Memorandum of Understanding with TX-TF1.

Membership on TX-TF1 is an honor and significant accomplishment and requires a large commitment of time and effort from both the Member and their Employer.

TX-TF1 Participating Agency Chief or designee (Print) **Rank/ title**

TX-TF1 Participating Agency Chief or designee (Signature) **Date**

I acknowledge that I have read and agree with the requirements as listed in this Letter of Endorsement.

Ricardo Saldana Task Force Leader

Member Name (Print) **Task Force Position**

 10/31/2023

TX-TF1 Member (Signature) **Date**