

**September 29, 2024**

**FROM: LARRY COLLINS**  
**Deputy Chief, Cal OES Special Operations &**  
**Hazardous Materials Division, Fire & Rescue Branch**  
**State US&R Program Manager**

**To: Sponsoring Agency Fire Chiefs (and designated**  
**Reps) and Program Managers of California-Based**  
**State/National US&R Task Forces; California Regional**  
**US&R Task Forces, and Cal OES Swiftwater-Flood S&R**  
**Teams; copied to FEMA US&R Program Reps and**  
**Program Office Staff, and Cal OES Special Ops Staff**

**SUBJECT: California-Based US&R Resource Incident En Route**  
**to Hurricane Helene**

**NOTE: \*\*\*\*\*INFORMATIONAL/SITUATIONAL AWARENESS\*\*\*\*\***

Echoing today's FENMA US&R General Memorandum 2024-029 (TC Helene Response Incident) and other communications, it is with deep concern and regret that we report a serious mishap involving the convoy of California/FEMA US&R Task Force 8 (CA-TF8, San Diego Fire-Rescue Department) while en route to Tropical Cyclone Helene-related urban search & rescue assignment operations. A convoy vehicle experienced a mishap near the Texas/Louisiana state line, resulting in injuries to three CA-TF8 members, who were airlifted to the closest appropriate medical facility. The FEMA US&R Branch is coordinating support and information for this incident with the Blue Incident Support Team, Sponsoring Agency, and responding agencies, and Cal OES continues to monitor and support. As mentioned in today's FEMA US&R General Memorandum, more information will be shared as it becomes available.

In the meantime, please keep our friends and colleagues from CA-TF8 and their families your thoughts and prayers.

Respectfully,

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