

October 7, 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: Update on California-Based US&R Resources—
Tropical Cyclone Milton and Hurricane Helene

Activated for Tropical Cyclone Milton:

California/FEMA US&R Task Force 1 (CA-TF1, Los Angeles Fire Department), NIMS Type 3 US&R Task Force
California/FEMA US&R Task Force 2 (CA-TF2, Los Angeles County Fire Department), NIMS Type 3 US&R Task Force
California/FEMA US&R Task Force 3 (CA-TF3, Menlo Park Fire Protection District), NIMS Type 3 US&R Task Force
2 California-based members Activated for the FEMA Red US&R IST; 3 California-based members transferred from the Blue IST to the Red IST.

Assigned to Hurricane Helene operations:

172 California-based FEMA US&R Incident Support Team (IST) members, US&R Canine Search Team-HRD's and Veterinary support, US&R Search Team Managers, MERT, and other overhead/support from California/FEMA US&R Task Forces 1, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8.

California/FEMA US&R Task Force 5 (CA-TF5, Orange County Fire Authority), NIMS Type 3 US&R Task Force, continuing field operations as coordinated by the Blue US&R IST

California/FEMA US&R Task Force 6 (CA-TF6, Riverside Fire Department), NIMS Type 3 US&R Task Force, continuing field operations as coordinated by the Blue US&R IST

California/FEMA US&R Task Force 1 (CA-TF1, Los Angeles Fire Department), US&R Mission Ready Package-Water Rescue, continuing field operations as coordinated by the Blue US&R IST

Demobing/Returning:

California/FEMA US&R Task Force 8 (San Diego Fire-Rescue Department), NIMS Type 3 US&R Task Force: Two injured members remain hospitalized in Shreveport, LA; one injured member has been released from the hospital; some members have been Demobed and have returned via commercial air; and the remaining members with the CA-TF8 convoy are returning over road, with anticipated arrival back in San Diego on Monday, October 7.

Note:

With the current drawdown in California-based US&R resources and the continuing commitment of California Fire & Rescue Mutual Aid resources committed to various wildfires across the state and extended fire weather anticipated, all remaining California/FEMA US&R Task Forces, California Regional US&R Task Forces, and Cal OES Swiftwater-Flood Search & Rescue Teams are requested to continue assessing availability and report any new non-deployable status to Cal OES Fire & Rescue via the normal channels including the respective Cal OES Fire & Rescue Special Operations & Haz Mat Assistant Chiefs.

Cal OES continues to monitor these and other events, and to support US&R and other Fire & Rescue resource needs.

Respectfully,

LC