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#76-18

NYC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INTERVIEWS MEMBERS OF NEW YORK TASK FORCE 1 URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM AS 2018 ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON ENDS

Special guests reflect on their deployment to North Carolina in support of Hurricane Florence response efforts

#PrepTalkNYC {Click to listen to [Episode 20](#)}

November 30, 2018 — “Honor. Rewarding. Privilege.” These are the words members of New York Task Force 1 (NY-TF1) use to describe their work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Urban Search & Rescue (US&R) team. On the latest [episode](#) of “Prep Talk,” hosts Omar Bourne and Allison Pennisi sit down with three members of NY-TF1 to discuss their September deployment to North Carolina in support of Hurricane Florence response efforts. You will hear first-hand accounts of the team’s rescues and experience on the ground, along with their motivation to answer the call. The [episode](#) features NYPD Emergency Services Unit (ESU) Captain Tom Traynor, FDNY Battalion Chief Bill Reddan, and NYC Emergency Management Assistant Commissioner John Grimm. NY-TF1 rescued 128 people and 61 animals while providing aid for close to two weeks. The New York City Emergency Management Department sponsors the FEMA US&R NY-TF1 team, which is made up of specially trained personnel from FDNY and NYPD.

New York City deployed 101 specialized NY-TF1 members to assist in the response efforts. NY-TF1 conducted rescues in various locations throughout North Carolina, including Bayboro, River Bend, Pollocksville, Goose Creek Island, and Fayetteville. Members were divided into two teams. The City’s first team, NY-TF1 Alpha — which deployed September 11 through September 20, and consisted of 83 personnel and six canines — rescued 69 people, 46 animals, and conducted 299 welfare checks to people who sheltered in place. The City’s second team, NY-TF1 Bravo, which consisted of 18 members, deployed September 13 through September 26. NY-TF1 Bravo members rescued 59 people and 15 animals, and conducted 71 welfare checks to people who sheltered in place. NY-TF1 members also assisted in removing trees and debris blocking access to homes. The teams deployed with various equipment and tools to support their operations, including 14 water rescue boats, motors, and other items to support rescues from collapsed structures and confined spaces, as well as a collection of hazardous materials response equipment.

The FEMA US&R program originated as a response system for natural disasters. Since the program’s inception, the task forces have broadened the scope of US&R’s work. Two early activations of the US&R system occurred in response to Hurricane Andrew in 1992 and the 1994 Northridge Earthquake in California. FEMA US&R teams also activated in response to the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, the 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. NY-TF1 deployments include Hurricanes Ike and Gustav in

2008, the Haiti earthquake and Hurricane Earl in 2010, Hurricane Matthew in 2016, and Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, in 2017. You can listen to the latest [episode](#) on [SoundCloud](#) and [iTunes](#), and [subscribe now](#) to stay up-to-date on the latest episodes.

Profiles

Assistant Commissioner John Grimm has worked for New York City Emergency Management for the past 11 years. Assistant Commissioner Grimm currently oversees Watch Command, Field Response and the US&R NY-TF1 team. Prior to that, he was the Director of Exercises and US&R. Assistant Commissioner Grimm also held various positions on NYC Emergency Management's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) team including Planning Section Chief and EOC Manager. Before joining NYC Emergency Management, Grimm served six years in the Marine Corps, deploying twice to Iraq and once to East Timor.

Captain Thomas Traynor has worked for the NYPD for the past 26 years. Captain Traynor is currently assigned to the Emergency Service Unit (ESU) for the past five years, and before his assignment to ESU, he worked on patrol in the Bronx and Manhattan South. Captain Traynor is a Task Force Leader with NY-TF1 and enjoys working alongside the men and women of the NYPD and NYFD assigned to the team. Captain Traynor enjoys playing the bagpipes in his downtime.

Battalion Chief (BC) William Reddan, FDNY, has had the privilege of serving the citizens of New York City since 1990. In his career, he was assigned as a firefighter to Engine 34 in Hell's Kitchen, Ladder 11 in the Lower East Side, Alphabet City and Special Operations Command's (SOC) Squad 1 in Park Slope. As a lieutenant, Reddan was involved in special projects for training, became a nationally certified Master Exercise Practitioner (MEP) where he developed and organized large full-scale multi agency joint exercises, was assigned to the 15th Division Brooklyn, was the Commanding Officer of the FDNY Technical Rescue School and ultimately spent seven years in Squad 252 Bushwick.

As a captain, Reddan was assigned to the 13th division in Queens and then returned to SOC. He is now assigned as a battalion chief in the ninth battalion, Midtown, Manhattan. Apart from the FDNY, BC Reddan is currently a task force leader with the FEMA US&R team NY-TF1 where he has been deployed to numerous disasters including the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, and recently the hurricanes in Texas and North Carolina. BC Reddan has been involved in many City projects and partnerships, including the original organization of the NYC Community Emergency Response Team Training (CERT). Reddan continues to teach local and national aspects of search & rescue, US&R planning, exercise design and fire, and life safety topics. Before joining the FDNY and FEMA US&R NY-TF1, Reddan served four years in the United States Marine Corps.



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