

NEWS RELEASE



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Corps team moves to Texas as Ike closes in

NORFOLK, Va. --Employees of the Norfolk District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, that deployed to Meridian, Miss., Sept. 8 and 9, are now moving to Texas as Hurricane Ike takes aim at the Lone Star State.

The employees are volunteer members of the Norfolk District's 10-person Commodities' Team, a specialized team that helps the Federal Emergency Management Agency and state officials coordinate the purchase, transportation and distribution of water and ice during times of federal emergencies.

"The team is pre-positioning to the San Antonio," said Gregg Williams, the commodities team leader. "Our team will be the boots on the ground immediately after impact and will get basic commodities of water and ice to the people in need."

The Corps has more than 40 specially trained response teams to support National Response Framework missions. These teams are trained, equipped and stand ready to perform debris removal, commodities procurement and delivery, as well as provide temporary emergency power, temporary housing, temporary roofing, infrastructure assessment, and support to urban search and rescue missions, as assigned by FEMA.

The Norfolk District's commodities team deployed in July when Hurricane Dolly struck the extreme southern portions of Texas.

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MEDIA ADVISORY: The Norfolk District Emergency Management Chief, Stan Ballard, is available to discuss the district's emergency response mission and the mission of the Norfolk District Commodities Team. Additionally, telephone interviews with deployed members of the commodities team may be available as the situation allows. Media representatives interested in these availabilities should contact the Norfolk District public affairs officer at (757) 201-7673.

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