



SHREVEPORT FIRE

D E P A R T M E N T

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For Immediate Release

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Louisiana Task Force 3 Urban Search & Rescue Team set to Demobilize from South Carolina

Louisiana Task Force 3 deployed to Fountain Inn, South Carolina this past week, arriving on Saturday, September 28 and beginning work that afternoon. The team was comprised of 9 members of Shreveport Fire Department as well as members from Bossier City Fire, Caddo Parish Fire District 1, Caddo Parish Fire District 4, Pineville, VA Fire Department, and the Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Office, totaling 22 members deployed.

LA-TF3 Team Leader Chris Burden advises, "We have been working in 12-hour shifts performing primary searches for victims and assessment of infrastructure in the area." The unit reports widespread damage in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. They are scheduled to demobilize on Thursday, October 3, 2024 and return home.

Chief of Special Operations, Calvin Baker, Jr. provided insight on what it takes to coordinate this regional response to the disaster area. "There is a considerable amount of planning and preparation that goes into deploying a task force. We have to ensure that we can not only deploy trained professionals, but also balance the daily operations of our own response system. Maintaining a constant state of readiness and coordination among other departments is paramount to ensuring the success of these missions."

LA-TF3 Urban Search & Rescue Team is a regionally based and managed multi-jurisdictional asset deployed through the State of Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) is considered a multi-hazard discipline as it may be needed for a variety of emergencies or disasters, including but not limited to hurricanes and other severe weather events.

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