



JEFF B. SAUNDERS

Operations Chief

Jeff has 30 years in the fire service which started as a seasonal wildland fire fighter. He worked as a structural firefighter in New Mexico with Santa Fe County Fire Department, 6 years as a District Chief and 5 years as Assistant Chief of Operations. As the Operations Chief he implemented and managed the county wide technical rescue team. Jeff was active with New Mexico Task Force 1, serving as a Rescue Specialist, Heavy Rigging Specialist and Task Force Leader.

Currently, Jeff is primarily responsible for the readiness and response of Texas Task Force 1, Urban Search and Rescue Team. Texas Task Force 1 (TX-TF1) is the response component of the Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX). TEEX is the agency having jurisdiction for search and rescue under Annex R in the State of Texas Emergency Management Plan. Jeff concentrates his abilities towards operational, training and logistical readiness preparation of the task force personnel and equipment needed for response to natural and man-made disasters such as structural collapse, overhead, and flood and swiftwater mitigation.

Saunders responded to the Pentagon during 9-11 as well as deploying for Hurricanes Ivan, Katrina, Rita, Ike and Alex. Awards Jeff has received include being appointed to the New Mexico Task Force 1 Steering Committee by Governor Gary Johnson, and the Santa Fe County Fire Department Medal of Valor for exemplary service beyond the call of duty during the Cerro Grande conflagration in Los Alamos, NM.

