

Testimony from Randy Denzer—Volunteer from Texas that traveled to SWFL to assist with Hurricane Ian response

We arrived on Ft Myers Beach a couple days after hurricane Ian had passed to assist the township of FMB. A handful of our members of the IMST team had previous experience with hurricane response. We were all confused as to why there was no marking paint on any of the structures to signify that they had been searched. This was not normal.

I reached out to fellow Texans on the Texas Task Force and they indicated they were sitting in a parking lot of a junior college about 10 miles away and had not been assigned for search operations. They were just sitting in staging.

On Sunday, two USAR team members came to meet with our IMST team to give us an update. They indicated during this meeting that they had just finished up "Hasty Searches" and started "Primary searches" while operating in unified command with the local Fire Department.

They went on to indicate that, "we are not doing primary searches at night because it's too dangerous with the shifting stuff".

All of our team was surprised and angered when they told us this. None of us had ever seen primary searches stopped at night for the conditions we were seeing on the island at that time.
