WASHINGTON – The federal government’s emergency responders continue to respond to states, local communities, and tribes as impacts continue across southeast Texas.

FEMA’s priority continues to be protecting the lives and well-being of those in affected areas; the federal government is focusing on search and rescue and first responder operations to ensure people who need help get assistance.

FEMA urges those in the affected areas to follow the instructions of state, local, and tribal officials, including instructions to shelter in place or evacuate. Evacuees should not return to evacuated areas until they are told by local officials that it is safe to do so.

Federal resources are positioned closer to the impacted areas of Texas and Louisiana, and are ready to provide assistance as needed and requested by federal, state, local and tribal partners.

As of last night, FEMA had more than 900 Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) personnel working to save lives in south Texas.