
CDF MEDIA ADVISORY

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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RELEASE
DATE: September 12, 2005



CDF Provides Support Following Hurricane Katrina

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) is providing support in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Two Urban Search and Rescue Teams, one from Riverside County and one from San Diego County were deployed to Louisiana on Wednesday, August 31. The Riverside team of 77 includes 11 CDF team members. The San Diego Team of 70 includes one CDF member. The USAR Riverside Team has been actively involved in primary and secondary searches in an approximate two square mile area near New Orleans University. They have found many people alive who were trapped in their homes from the rising flood water.

In all the devastation left by the hurricane there are still positive stories. On Friday the Team was able to rescue a 34 year old woman who had been trapped in her attic for nearly two weeks. Her windows and doors were swollen shut from the water. She was hungry and dehydrated, but glad to be discovered.

On Friday, September 9 CDF deployed an Incident Management Task Force to assist the State of Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The Task Force is made up of 13 personnel. They arrived in Baton Rouge late Friday night.

On Saturday the Task Force was briefed at the Louisiana Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness by Incident Commander Cliff Oliver and Planning Section Chief Jim McCall of the Louisiana National Guard. Their primary objective is to provide guidance to the State of Louisiana in organizing the incident by using the Incident Command System.

After the briefing the Task Force set up their operations at the FEMA Joint Field Office in Baton Rouge which will serve as their base of operations during their deployment.

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The CDF USAR Team members are: USAR Task Force 6 (from the Riverside Unit), Steven Beach, Martin Gill, Vince Kirk, Kelly Becker, Ramona Eggendorfer, Dean Sipes, Bryan Deyo, Tanya Lange, Michelle Camper, Jorge Juarez, Tim Buckley. USAR Task Force 8 (from the San Diego Unit), Ray Chaney.

The Incident Management Task Force is made up personnel from CDF Units and one local government county throughout California. They include Lee Winton (Amador-El Dorado), Pat Kerschen (San Luis Obispo Unit), Kevin Smith (Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit), Bryan Vendenbossche (Ventura County Fire), Mike Kirkley (Amador-El Dorado Unit), Ken Crow (Tulare Unit), Jeff Johnson (Riverside Unit), Ted Yarbrough (Riverside Unit), Chris Anthony (Amador-El Dorado Unit), Bob Michael (Riverside Unit), Rich Giubbini (San Luis Obispo Unit), Eric Cleveland (San Luis Obispo Unit), and Dick Gardner (San Diego Unit).

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