

DATE ISSUED: September 6, 2005

REPORT NO. 05-184

ATTENTION: Honorable Mayor and City Council

SUBJECT: US&R Deployment Situation Update

SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATION ITEM ONLY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF THE COMMITTEE OR THE CITY COUNCIL.

A number of San Diego's assets were sent to the Hurricane Katrina disaster. San Diego California Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 8 (CA-TF8) was activated August 31, 2005, at approximately 1800 hours with 80 personnel. The Task Force was enroute to Hattiesburg Mississippi. The Task Force was diverted to Houston, Texas due to change in available space. CA TF 8 departed Houston at 1800 hours on September 5, 2005, en route to New Orleans. The team arrived at approximately 0400 hours September 6, 2005. San Diego also sent a swiftwater river rescue team comprised of 14 San Diego Fire Department (SDFD) personnel. This team was ground transported to March Air Force Base and then airlifted via military aircraft to New Orleans arriving on 8/31.

The team is still continuing rescue and reconnaissance operations. They were successful in rescuing over 240 victims. The team continues secondary searches of areas in commercial/industrial and residential structures. The Team reports that everyone is well and continues to remain in good spirits. All reports indicate the team is doing well.

Also sent were 3 SDFD personnel that are working on the White Incident Support Team (IST), they are working out of Gulfport, Mississippi. They have been working hard to support the Task Forces working under their command and have worked through many of the logistical needs and are doing well.

Three members of the SDFD are also working on the Blue Incident Support Team (IST) out of New Orleans Saints Training Field. The Blue IST has reported approximately 4,500 rescues. They have had the same logistical issues as the White Team, however, both team now are receiving the necessary supplies.

The primary mission of all task forces and swiftwater teams is focused on continued rescue efforts. People continue to be located and rescued even after being trapped in their homes since the day of the hurricane. Initial challenges met by the teams deployed were the lack of logistical support and resources: water, fuel, showers, etc. The last two days has improved dramatically and the Incident Support Teams (IST's) are receiving the requested supplies.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by:

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Fire Chief

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City Manager