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National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

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SITUATION REPORT: HURRICANE EARL

Tuesday, August 31st 2010

National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (National VOAD)

National VOAD staff have participated on several conference calls to better ascertain how the federal government is preparing for Hurricane Earl. A conference call between the National Members and State VOADs will be held this afternoon at 3:00 PM to discuss the hurricane response. If you would like to participate and do not have the call specifics, please contact the office and speak with Danielle (703.778.5088 x1).

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

FEMA is monitoring the situation and activating appropriate staff and deployment centers along the projected hurricane route. The FEMA National Response Coordination Center (NRCC) activated at Level III on August 30th and began 24/7 operations at 8:00 AM EDT today. Incident Management Assistant Teams (IMATs) from Regions V, IX and X will be deploying to Region I to assist in hurricane preparations.

FEMA Region II Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) is at Level II from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM EDT. Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 15 and the Defense Control Element (DCE) are activated until further notice. IMAT Team A is deployed to the U.S. Virgin Islands, IMAT Team B is on alert in New York, IMAT Team C is deployed to Puerto Rico. LNOs are deployed to Emergency Operation Centers (EOCs) in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Two pre-designated Federal Coordinating Officers (FCOs) are deployed to the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico and Defense Coordinating Officers (DCOs) are on scene in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Region II anticipates post-disaster assessments to begin by the end of the week.

Puerto Rico: Puerto Rico Emergency Management Agency's (PREMA) Emergency Operations Center is fully activated. The Governor has declared a State of Emergency island wide. The U.S. Coast Guard temporarily suspended operations for Puerto Rico Ports of Entry on the Islands of Vieques and Culebra. Airports in Culebra, Vieques and Fajardo are closed. San Juan International remains open. Nine shelters have been opened in the Municipality of Vieques with 93 occupants. Approximately 107,000 customers are without power. Schools were closed yesterday in 8 municipalities. No shortfalls or limiting factors identified.

U.S. Virgin Islands: The Virgin Island Territory Emergency Management Agency's (VITEMA) Emergency Operations Center has been activated with 24/7 operations. The airports in St. Thomas are closed but are expected to reopen today. The U.S. Coast Guard will resume assessment of ports and waterways in the morning. Four shelters are open with approximately 41 occupants. An estimated 90% of the population in St. Thomas and 70% in St. Croix are without power; further assessments and restoration will resume today. USVI has requested 5,000-10,000 sandbags and additional radio equipment, which is being provided by FEMA. Territory schools are closed until further notice. VITEMA has begun preparations for Tropical Storm Fiona. No additional shortfalls or limiting factors identified.

National Members

American Red Cross

On Saturday, August 28th, the American Red Cross deployed a leadership team to the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI), where they met with the FEMA Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO), Deputy FCO and VITEMA. Red Cross Chapters in the USVI and Puerto Rico are working closely with the local emergency management offices.

This morning, Red Cross and government partners opened four shelter facilities: one each on St. Thomas and St. Croix, and two on St. John. The shelters are staffed with Red Cross and government workers and are outfitted with cots, blankets and food. Three on-island USVI Disaster Field Supply Centers (trailers) have been activated. Due to closed airports on the USVI and Puerto Rico, the Puerto Rico Red Cross Chapter is supporting stranded travelers with snacks.

Shelter location and population information is available on the American Red Cross website. The direct link is <http://app.redcross.org/nss-app/>

Amateur Relay Radio League (ARRL)

ARRL is receiving regular reports from Amateur Radio operators in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Amateur Radio groups are beginning to work with local service agencies in preparation for the storm. Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) emergency communications groups in New Jersey and Connecticut have reported that they are in "Stand-by Mode" and monitoring conditions. More reports from Amateur Radio operations and ARES emergency communication groups are expected as the storm progresses.

Brethren Disaster Ministries – Children's Disaster Services

Children's Disaster Services (CDS), a program of Brethren Disaster Ministries, is continuously ready to meet the needs of children during or after a disaster. CDS does not yet know what or where their response will be to Hurricane Earl, because often a community's child care needs aren't known until after the hurricane hits. Once they respond, CDS will set-up child care centers in shelters, disaster assistance centers or other venues, while qualified volunteers will respond to traumatized children by providing a calm, safe and reassuring presence. If you find a need for these services, please call the following numbers to request volunteers: (410) 635-8734 or (410) 635-8735.

Feeding America

The Feeding America National Office has reached out to Member food banks in Puerto Rico to address any unmet needs, and along the U.S. East Coast to begin preparations for the hurricane's potential landfall. Relevant National Office Departments have been put on alert regarding the potential for landfall and the need of support for Member food banks throughout the holiday weekend.

Regarding pre-positioned and staged supplies, the Feeding America Network has staged approximately 40 truckloads of disaster relief supplies in 5 regional staging locations across the United States, including Second Harvest in Valdosta, Georgia and Community Food Bank of New Jersey in Hillside, New Jersey. These supplies include water, beverages, food boxes, shelf-stable food and snack items, personal care products and cleaning supplies. Additionally, Feeding America and their partner, Abbott, have prepositioned disaster relief packs of nutritional products in 23 Member food banks, including 22 along the Southeast coast and Puerto Rico. These disaster relief packs will serve more than 20,000 people in the initial aftermath of disasters and are intended to augment food bank efforts until additional supplies are brought in to the affected area.

Humane Society of the United States

The Humane Society of the United States stands ready to assist any state or local authority that may request our aid with animal rescue or emergency sheltering issues related to Hurricane Earl. Our activities will depend on the impact of the storm and the local capabilities to meet the needs of families with animals.

Latter-day Saint Charities

Volunteers from Latter-day Saint Charities are ready to assist with relief efforts in each state along the Eastern seaboard and at least 20 members of the Rapid Response team are on stand-by for immediate deployment. Warehouses in most states along the Eastern seaboard are stocked with the following items: water, food, cleaning supplies, tarps, chain saws, generators, hygiene kits, blankets, other tools and supplies. These materials have been prepared and are available for use during the disaster response.

Lutheran Disaster Response

On Monday, August 30, Lutheran Disaster Response staff made contact with staff of Lutheran Social Services of the Virgin Islands and staff of the Caribbean Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. All interests in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico report a high level of confidence in preparations for the storm and were prepared to ride out the worst of its effects. In preparation for a potential East Coast landfall, Lutheran Disaster Response staff will be convening a conference call for contacts in the potentially affected areas on Wednesday, September 1, to discuss preparedness activities and potential response activities to follow.

Mercy Medical Airlift

Mercy Medical Airlift is closely watching Hurricane Earl. They have made plans to move the organization's Emergency Operations Center to their remote site in Lynchburg should it appear that Virginia will be impacted by the storm. Should the inshore move occur, their operational phone lines will be forwarded accordingly. Questions should be directed to Jim Smith at 757.373.0774 or Ed Boyer at 703.628.9059.

Noah's Wish

Volunteers have been alerted for possible deployment to Virginia and/or Long Island to shelter animals that have been displaced by the storm. Detailed response activities will be determined as the storm's severity and damage is assessed in the next few days.

United Way Worldwide

The United Way Worldwide (UWW) Crisis Team has been monitoring Hurricane Earl as it moves north, through the Caribbean and closer to the East Coast. UWW is reaching out to local United Ways to offer support, provide updates on the hurricane's projected path and strength, and to remind them of the crisis resources available to them with UWW.

World Vision

World Vision is monitoring the path of Hurricane Earl and will determine how to respond over the next 120 hours. If needed, two 40,000 square-foot facilities along the East Coast are available to respond with needed supplies.

State VOADs

Virginia VOAD

In the SouthEast Virginia (SEVA) Regional VOAD, the local American Red Cross chapter is currently assessing resources available through September 9th and doing a call of all disaster staff (paid & volunteer) to determine availability. They are monitoring the situation and assuring all preparedness activities are being completed. The VOAD is maintaining contact and information flow with the chapter jurisdictions' city emergency management, regional Red Cross chapters, state points of contact and the American Red Cross National Headquarters.

Mercy Chefs is prepared and staged in Danville, VA. The SEVA VOAD member Foodbank is on alert and are prepared to stage food if necessary. Virginia Beach Society for the Prevention of Cruelty of Animals (SPCA) will be available to accept animals from first responders or those who may be evacuated during the hurricane.

Virginia Beach SPCA's process for accepting animals is outlined on their website at www.vbspca.com. VOLUNTEER Hampton Roads will assist citizens find a place to volunteer who would like to do so after the storm. Citizens will be directed to nonprofit members that are directly involved in disaster relief.

The United Methodist Church (UMC) Norfolk District Disaster Response Team is in the final stages of preparation for the storm and has 2 Early Response Teams (ERTs) and equipment trailers in pre-deployment status. They have been in contact with the coastal UMC churches to review and implement their disaster plan. Additionally, the Virginia United Methodist Church Conference Disaster Response Team has 4 ERTs on standby for deployment as well as three equipment trailers, one debris trailer and one supply trailer. Courthouse Community United Methodist Church is the requested staging location for deploying UMC ERT and UMC Volunteer in Mission Teams.

Federal Hurricane Response Websites

IRS Disaster Assistance and Emergency Relief for Individuals and Small Businesses:
www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=156138,00.html

National Hurricane Center, National Weather Service: www.nhc.noaa.gov

Ready America: www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/hurricanes.html

Social Security Administration Hurricane Information: www.ssa.gov/hurricane/

Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Information: www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance/index.html

USA.gov Hurricane Telephone Hotlines:
www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/PublicSafety/Hurricane_Recovery/Telephone_Hotlines.shtml

U.S. Department of Homeland Security/FEMA: www.fema.gov

U.S. Department of Homeland Security/FEMA Business Resources: www.fema.gov/business/

U.S. Postal Service National Mail Service Updates: www.usps.com/communications/news/serviceupdates.htm

http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/refresh/graphics_at2+shtml/?hwind120-content

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