



Media Alert

Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems
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September 11, 2008

Harford County EMS Strike Team Members Return From Hurricane Gustav

** Team to return to Fallston Volunteer Fire and Ambulance Company this afternoon **

The original Maryland Ambulance Strike Team with emergency responders from Harford County that left for Louisiana on August 30, 2008, will return **today** from their work in assisting with relief efforts as a result of Hurricane Gustav. The entire Maryland Team included a total of 25 individuals from Baltimore City and Charles, Howard and Harford counties as well as LifeStar Response, a commercial ambulance company. The four Harford County members of the Team drove back from the mission. They transported and delivered equipment for Howard County and Baltimore City on their return trip.

"I want to thank the Harford County members of the Maryland Ambulance Strike Team that answered the call for assistance from our friends in Louisiana," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "Natural disasters are not contained by geographic borders, and neither, therefore, should our ability to respond to them."

The response was coordinated jointly by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) and the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) in coordination with other state and local agencies. MEMA continues to monitor the situation with Hurricane Ike with officials from various federal agencies, other states, and local jurisdictions in Maryland.

**The members will return to the
Fallston Volunteer Fire and Ambulance Company,
2201 Carrs Mill Road, Fallston, Maryland 21047.
Personnel from the returning Ambulance Strike Team
will available between 2:00 and 2:30 PM.**

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EMS Strike Team Returns From Hurricane Gustav as Relief Team Departs to Assist with On-going Efforts and Potential Impact of Hurricane Ike

***** Team to return to BWI Marshall Airport this morning *****

The original Maryland Ambulance Strike Team with emergency responders from several Maryland jurisdictions that left for Louisiana on August 30, 2008, will return **today** from their work in assisting with relief efforts as a result of Hurricane Gustav. The Maryland group included 26 individuals from Baltimore City and Charles, Howard and Harford counties as well as LifeStar Response, a commercial ambulance company. These providers will be leaving their emergency response vehicles in Louisiana for use by a second Ambulance Strike Team that will depart today to assist in the continuing recovery response to Gustav as well as the potential impact of Hurricane Ike. The new storm is forecasted to hit the Gulf region later this week.

Louisiana issued a second request for strike teams through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, a process that allows state-to-state mutual aid in times of disasters. Several other states also have offered assistance to Gulf states.

"I want to thank our Maryland emergency responders that answered the call for assistance from our friends in Louisiana. Because of the on-going recovery effort with Gustav and the potential impact of Hurricane Ike, we are sending additional emergency medical personnel to replace our first team," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "Natural disasters are not contained by geographic borders, and neither, therefore, should our ability to respond to them."

The response was coordinated jointly by MEMA and MIEMSS in coordination with other state and local agencies. MEMA continues to monitor the situation with Hurricane Ike with officials from various federal agencies, other states, and local jurisdictions in Maryland.

The reception center will be located in the BWI Friendship Center near the Observation Area in the Airport terminal, located between Concourses B and C.

Personnel from the returning Ambulance Strike Team as well as members of the departing team will available between 12:30 and 3:00 PM.

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⌚ Sep 10, 2008 5:37 pm US/Eastern

25 Volunteers Return From Helping Gustav VictimsReporting
Richard Sher

BALTIMORE (WJZ) —

Twenty-five members of Maryland's special strike team have returned from Louisiana, where they were helping victims of Hurricane Gustav.

They were sent from Baltimore City, Charles, Harford, and Howard counties and Life Star ambulance service to Alexandria, La.

"We helped set up evacuations for people who had been removed, the sick and elderly," said Baltimore City paramedic Jennifer Triaca.

"It was exhausting. Some of the evacuations were four hours out and four hours back, not including the time to take the patients out," said Charles County EMT Missi Fox.

Dr. Robert Bass, executive director of Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, was at BWI-Thurgood Marshall Airport to welcome them home and to help send off the next strike team because "the crisis in Louisiana is far from over."

"I was down there during Katrina. This is a wonderful experience for the men and women to go to Louisiana to help out," said Baltimore City Fire Chief James Clack.

"We had stressful times which we overcame. The camaraderie among the five groups was amazing. It was actually fun working together. I would love to do it again," said strike team leader Barry Contee.

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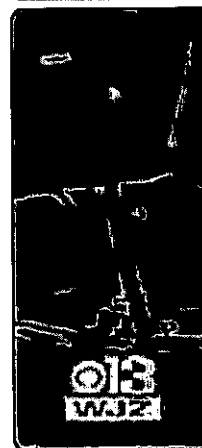
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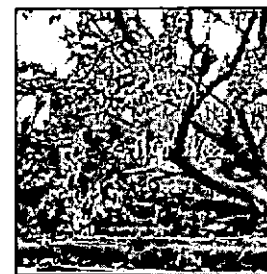
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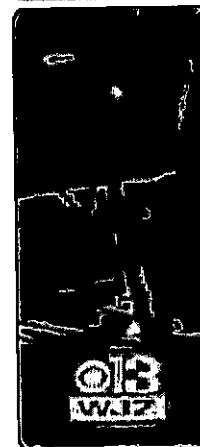
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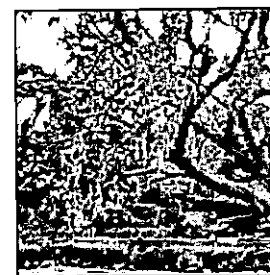
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Twenty-five members of Maryland's special strike team have returned from Louisiana, where they were helping victims of Hurricane Gustav. Getty Images

WBALTV.com

BGE, Md. Search, Rescue Teams Headed To Gulf Coast

POSTED: 3:26 pm EDT September 11, 2008
UPDATED: 10:24 am EDT September 12, 2008

ROCKVILLE, Md. -- An urban search and rescue team from Montgomery County and BGE crews are heading to the Gulf Coast to respond to Hurricane Ike.

Maryland Task Force One is one of 28 such groups supported by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and FEMA asked for its help as the Gulf Coast gears up for another major storm. The team is made up mostly of Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service personnel but also includes a few physicians and structural engineers.

Thirty-four team members are departing Thursday afternoon for a staging area in Louisiana, although Fire and Rescue spokesman Pete Piringier said their destination may change. Some members will be traveling in a nine-vehicle caravan, and others will fly to Louisiana on commercial airlines.

The team is self-sufficient for 14 days and is equipped for a variety of search and rescue missions.

Baltimore Gas and Electric crews are also heading to the Texas Gulf Coast to help restore power after Ike passes through. The Category 2 storm is expected to cause widespread power outages.

About 70 BGE linemen and support personnel were planning to depart Friday from a service center in Howard County. They'll help out crews from the Gulf Coast utility Energy Corporation.

The BGE crews are expected to start their work Monday and could remain in the region for up to two weeks.

Among the vehicles heading to the Gulf will be a new Mobile Operations Center equipped with Internet, satellite, cellular and other communications capabilities. It's the first time the vehicle has been used for an out-of-state assignment.

Ike is expected to bring hurricane-force winds to the Texas coast as early as Friday before making landfall over the weekend.

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