

MEMO

To: All Emergency Management Directors

From: Phil Roberts, Response Division Director
Indiana Department of Homeland Security

Date: September 1, 2005

Re: **HURRICANE KATRINA SUPPORT**

I know that all of you are being totally inundated by prospective volunteers (individuals and organizations), as well as your own emergency response personnel (law enforcement, fire, medical, CERT, etc.), regarding deployment in support of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina.

The position of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) is that **NO ONE SELF-DEPLOY.** This includes individuals, private organizations and local emergency response personnel.

For individuals and private organizations, the best thing that they can do is to make a monetary contribution to a disaster relief organization. They can make this contribution by direct contact with one of your local disaster relief organizations such as the Red Cross or Salvation Army, or through contact with the Indiana Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (INVOAD). INVOAD can be contacted either through its website at www.invoad.org or by calling 866-909-4673. If the individuals or organizations want to physically volunteer their services, again, they need to make direct contact with one of the local disaster relief organizations or utilize the INVOAD website or phone number.

We also know that you have numerous local emergency response personnel who want to deploy to the disaster area to provide assistance. We know that they have the best of intentions, but again they need to be advised to not deploy unless they have a specific mission requested by a specific organization, with a specific point of contact, in the disaster area. By deploying through this method, they are “on their own” with no guarantee of reimbursement, no liability coverage and no guarantee of support for shelter, feeding or other necessary accommodations once they arrive in the disaster area. They also need to be advised that they may very well not even make it to their disaster destination due to road blocks that have been established.

We encourage everyone to work through the established system of providing assistance which is the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). All 50 states are members of EMAC and the system provides for legal request/deployment of resources and includes reimbursement and liability provisions. Bob Demuth and Dave Franceour,

of my staff, are the State of Indiana's EMAC Coordinators and will receive and process all EMAC requests coming from the disaster affected states.

Governor Daniels has asked IDHS to put together a State Task Force to provide support to the State of Mississippi. The compilation of this Task Force is nearly complete and information regarding its deployment will be forthcoming in the near future.

In the State of Indiana, there are legal issues which complicate the deployment of local emergency response personnel, as well as private sector personnel under the EMAC system. We are working through those issues and hope to have them resolved soon. As we receive requests from the affected states through EMAC, we may be forwarding requests for support to you, once the legal issues have been resolved.

Any Indiana forces (local or state) deployed under EMAC, will be required to report their status daily to the State Emergency Operating Center. All of these procedures will be covered with you when, and/or if, your local resources are activated through EMAC.

We know that there are national organizations, like the National Sheriff's Association and National Ambulance Association, that are attempting to coordinate the activation of their members for deployment to the disaster areas. Please ensure that your local emergency response personnel understand that if they deploy through these associations, without EMAC authorization, they are "on their own" without any reimbursement or liability provisions.

We all know that this is the most significant natural disaster to ever hit the United States. The magnitude of death, injury and destruction is on a catastrophic level. There are many, many unmet needs and many, many people who need assistance. President Bush has pledged the comprehensive support of the federal government. State and local assistance will also be required.

There are many Hoosiers who want to help and they are to be commended in that regard. However, please remember that these disaster areas will continue to need assistance for many more months. Because of this fact, it is envisioned that requests for assistance will continue for quite some time.

The EMAC process is moving fairly slow at this time due to the overwhelming events caused by the disaster, as well as communications problems into and out of the affected areas. Please tell everyone wanting to provide assistance to please be patient as we work these procedures.

Please share this information with all appropriate individuals, organizations and response agencies. Thank you!