



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Governor Richardson Orders 200 New Mexico National Guard to Aid in Hurricane Katrina Relief

New Mexico Urban Search and Rescue Team Deployed to Louisiana

New Mexico Emergency Operations Center Coordinating Assistance with the National Guard, Department of Health and State Police

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Santa Fe- Governor Bill Richardson has ordered 200 members of the New Mexico National Guard to aid in the hurricane relief effort.

“The New Mexico National Guard has extensive experience in disaster relief and after my discussions with Governor Blanco; I have ordered two hundred members of the New Mexico National Guard to leave immediately. Last night, the New Mexico Urban Search and Rescue Team departed for Baton Rouge, the federal and state staging area for eight to ten Strike Force teams for specific instructions,” Governor Richardson said.

“I spoke with Louisiana Governor Blanco and offered whatever help we could. The total dimensions of the disaster are still unknown. But, it is clear they need all the help they can get and the New Mexico teams are ready and able to provide immediate assistance. They are highly capable and well trained. The National Guard and the Department of Public Safety have valuable experience that can be put to immediate use in the impacted areas,” Governor Richardson said.

“We will continue to maintain contact with state and federal officials and respond to their requests for aid as we are able. Our hearts go out to all the victims, their families and the communities,” Governor Richardson said.

New Mexico Urban Search and Rescue Team Deployed for Hurricane Assistance

Santa Fe—Governor Richardson authorized the deployment of the New Mexico Task Force 1 called up for service yesterday by FEMA. The Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team departed last night and is now en route to Baton Rouge, Louisiana where they will stage with other teams to begin highly specialized and skilled search and rescue missions.

The 70 member team is composed of New Mexico volunteers who are trained in emergency medicine, K-9 searches, collapsed building searches, fire and rescue and other specialized urban rescue support efforts. They are volunteers from fire departments, police departments, wilderness search and rescue teams and other concerned citizens. NMTF1 is administered by the Department of Public Safety Office of Emergency Management.

The Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) was deployed to Houston on Sunday. DMAT is a 35 member team of volunteer medical professionals, doctors, nurses and others, who will help local hospitals and medical personnel in the affected disaster areas.

New Mexico Red Cross has sent two-- ten person volunteer teams and supplies.

New Mexicans are very generous when our neighbors are in need but donations of food, clothing and other things cannot be accepted. Transportation to these affected areas is severely limited and these items would have to be stockpiled, stored and would not reach those in need. Donations of money should be made to the Red Cross or other disaster relief organizations, a list of items to donate can be found at www.fema.gov.

The State of New Mexico will be sending more highly skilled and trained volunteers as the affected states request more help.