



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City Personnel Assisting with Hurricane Harvey Recovery

New Braunfels, Texas — Joining other cities, agencies and organizations around the country, City of New Braunfels first responder emergency personnel and equipment have been dispatched to provide aid to the thousands affected by the record-setting flooding and destruction in Texas.

“As Texas deals with the devastating effects from Hurricane Harvey, the City of New Braunfels is ready to assist,” said City Manager Robert Camareno. “If our citizens also want to provide assistance and be a part of the relief effort, our local Salvation Army facility is collecting items to help those who have been displaced and are living in shelters.”

Items requested by the Salvation Army include:

- New wash cloths and bath towels
- New baby items, diapers, ointments, soaps
- New and packaged girls’ and boys’ undergarments
- New and packaged men’s and women’s undergarments
- New and packaged men’s t-shirts
- Personal hygiene items (razors, deodorant, soap, shaving cream, toothpaste, toothbrushes, ladies products)

The local Salvation Army office is located at 617 Elliot Knox Blvd. Their hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. (closed from noon until 1:30 p.m.), and they may be contacted at 830-608-9129.

The New Braunfels Fire Department has dispatched nine members who are contributing through their professional affiliations with four different elite organizations. All deployments last seven to 14 days.

“The New Braunfels Fire Department, because of our intimate experience with the devastation caused by flooding and other natural disasters, is a willing participant in mutual aid and statewide responses with organizations such as Texas Task Force 1 (TX-TF1), the Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) and the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Committee (STRAC),” said Fire Chief Kenneth Jacks.

Capt. Jeremy Van Ausdall and Lt. Lee Barker were deployed to the coastal area on Friday, August 25th as part of TX-TF 1. The organization is one of 28 federal teams under the FEMA Search and Rescue System, that provides statewide urban search and rescue, coordinates the state’s swiftwater rescue program and manages the Helicopter Search and Rescue Team in conjunction with Texas Military Forces.

Also deployed to the Texas coast on Friday was Lt. John Weige, in service to STRAC. STRAC is a regional non-profit organization encompassing 22 counties in southwest Texas that is tasked with reducing death and disability related to trauma, disaster and acute illness through the implementation of well planned and coordinated regional emergency response systems. Consequently, STRAC made a region wide request for personnel to staff a mobile medical unit, which is essentially a 16-32 bed mobile hospital, and Lt. Weige, an EMT-Paramedic, is fulfilling that request.

TIFMAS is a statewide fire mutual aid system maintained by Texas A&M Forest Service that is responsible for making statewide use of qualified and properly trained local resources. The Fire Department has six members assigned to two separate TIFMAS deployments. Battalion Chief Darren Brinkkoeter and Eng. Tyler Hindman are deployed to Port Aransas in a command function and Captain Garrick Herbert, Firefighter John Sippel, Firefighter Wes Short and Firefighter Chris Hudgins are deployed to Katy as part of a TIFMAS Water Rescue Strike Team.

The New Braunfels Police Department has collaborated with First Baptist Church in Universal City, who donated seven pallets of water, to provide aid to emergency personnel serving in the coastal area.

“Panera Bread in Creekside also contacted us and we will be taking approximately 100 pounds of baked goods to the flooded area,” said Police Chief Tom Wibert. “Police personnel departed Tuesday afternoon to delivery these much needed supplies to emergency workers in Refugio.”

“We are continuing to explore other opportunities for City to provide aid to victims of this disaster and those working to help them,” Camareno said. “It is important that we all work together to send our heart, our hope and our helping hands to those impacted by this catastrophic event.”

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Optional photos attached to email of TIFMAS Water Rescue Strike Team members from New Braunfels assisting victims in Katy, Texas.