



The Salvation Army

**Southern Territory Emergency Disaster Services
Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network**



Thursday – 25 February 2016

The Salvation Army Responds To February Tornado Outbreak In The South

Southern Territory THQ (02/25/2016) – Local Salvation Army units in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi responded to multiple tornadoes that struck those and other states over a two day period.

Florida (FLA) Division:



Pensacola Canteen Serving Tornado Impacted Neighborhood

The Salvation Army of Pensacola were staging cots and blankets on their gymnasium floor as early as 10:00 am on Tuesday preparing for a significant outbreak of tornadoes. "Thanks to our National Weather Service partners, we knew this was going to be a big event, so we were prepared." said Major Bob Cornett, Corps Officer of The Salvation Army of Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties.

By Wednesday morning, families in Northeast Pensacola were counting their blessings after a terrifying night of howling winds, flying debris as an EF-3 tornado impacted hundreds of people in its path Tuesday night. As first responders tried to perform search and rescue efforts immediately after the storm. When the Moorings apartment complex began to fail, local responders and partner agencies responded by opening a shelter to house those whose homes were destroyed.

It wasn't until daybreak Wednesday morning the depth of devastation became clear. "It was bad, you couldn't even recognize that place. Cars were flipped upside down, stuff everywhere" said a Salvation Army Emergency Disaster worker as he assessed the damage. Throughout the heartache and pain many storm victims were able to smile knowing they are just grateful to be alive. Despite the devastation, only a handful of minor injuries were reported, and no fatalities.

Many of the people affected by the storm (storm victims, first responders, members of the media and volunteers) steadily came to The Salvation Army mobile canteen throughout the day to receive hot fresh hamburgers, juice, ice, cleaning supplies, cases of water and bottled water that was donated by Coca Cola.

Time spent on the ground in the hardest hit areas offered Salvation Army employees and volunteers a chance to grasp the importance of their work. Those are not just burgers and drinks The Salvation Army is handing out, those items give storm survivors a reason to have HOPE.

The Salvation Army of Pensacola was still serving the families from Century, Florida that was hit with an EF3 tornado February 15, 2016, when this storm struck.

Alabama-Louisiana-Mississippi (ALM) Division:

Tuesday afternoon into early Wednesday morning brought heavy rain, high winds and several tornadoes across the Alabama-Louisiana-Mississippi (ALM) Division. Several locations in all three states were impacted by the severe weather.

The Salvation Army responded to the Sugar Hill RV Park in Convent, Louisiana, in St. James Parish. Local officials have confirmed two deaths and 30 injuries from this location with some 130 RVs and mobile homes damaged or destroyed.

The Baton Rouge Corps and New Orleans Command both responded with canteens and volunteers to serve first responders and residents whose vehicles were literally turned upside down from the high winds brought by the storms.

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The Salvation Army Response To Tornado Outbreak (continued)



Ambulances staged in preparation to transport the injured from the Sugar Hill RV Park in Convent, LA

“A great team of people headed straight to Convent once we learned of the need last night. This is difficult work for the first responders, and we are just glad to be able to serve and help them do what they have to do”, said Captain Brett Meredith, Baton Rouge Corps officer.

Over 200 meals were served, 400 drinks and snacks, and twenty pairs of socks and six pairs of gloves were handed out. Salvation Army officers on site also provided spiritual care to impacted residents and first responders. “Our hearts go out to those who lost loved ones last night, and we pray that our work may ease the burden that everyone feels during times like these”, shared Captain Meredith.

“The Salvation Army is committed to insuring that the emergent needs of our community are met when needed,” Maj. David Worthy said. “When crisis occurs, we’re there to support victims, first responders and anyone else in need of help.”

LaPlace, Louisiana, in St. John the Baptist Parish was also struck. Current estimates are that approximately 200 homes were impacted with some 50 of those home uninhabitable. Power for some 8,100 people was not expected to be restored until sometime Thursday afternoon. Many people impacted by the tornado had just begun to recover from the devastation caused by Hurricane Isaac in 2012.

At the request of local officials, The Salvation Army will be deployed on Friday, February 26, to provide cleanup kits, first aid kits and food for 500 to 600 people.

In Mississippi, The Salvation Army staffed the State Emergency Operations Center in anticipation of a devastating outbreak. The Salvation Army served 139 meals at a shelter in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Fortunately, although several communities were struck by tornadoes in Mississippi, the resulting damage was minimal.

In Alabama, the Coastal Alabama Area Command opened an emergency shelter and housed and fed 49 people for two nights.

The Salvation Army Provides Support After Tragic Kansas Shooting



Hesston, KS. (February 26, 2016) In light of the tragic February 25 shooting in Hesston, Kansas, the Kansas and Western Missouri Division of The Salvation Army has been near the scene and close to the community to provide emotional and spiritual support.

Salvation Army representatives were present at Hesston High School to meet with families, providing emotional and spiritual support, refreshments and snacks. A caseworker and volunteer stayed with families who were waiting to hear updates about their loved ones. Salvation Army Harvey County Coordinator Barbara Lee was present at prayer centers today in Newton providing support services for families.

The Salvation Army will be present at the Friday evening community vigil, scheduled to begin around 6 p.m. The vigil will be located in a vacant parking lot just southwest of the final site of the shootings at Excel Industries. The Salvation Army will be available to provide emotional and spiritual support, as well as assist with other needs from community members.

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First Time Volunteer Makes A Difference In Tornado Response



Pensacola, FL – (02/26/2016) - Rick Lowes lives in West Pensacola, a part of town largely unscathed during Tuesday night's wicked storm that left a path of destruction on the opposite side of town. After seeing the jaw-dropping devastation left behind by a powerful EF3 tornado with whirling winds up to 155 miles per hour, Lowes felt he needed to lend a helping hand. He decided to volunteer with The Salvation Army for the first time.

"After any disaster you want to help, but when it's this close to home you just have to do something" said Lowes.

Lowes joined two other Salvation Army employees on the mobile canteen. They probed the hardest hit areas looking for storm survivors, volunteers and emergency responders to offer

a free hot lunch. Driving through the Northpointe community – one of the hardest hit areas – you quickly notice even after two full days of clean-up there is still a great deal of work to do. A portion of the Moorings Apartment complex is left in rubble. Nearby houses are left without roofs and some had no walls exposing everything that miraculously weathered the storm.

Seeing the faces of elderly men and women sitting in the front yards of their once beautiful homes now in ruin. The sheer desperation that masks the faces of once proud homeowners now sifting through debris trying to salvage what they can. These heartbreaking images deeply touched Lowes. While the chicken nuggets, French fries, corn and biscuits may appear to be a small token of sustenance at the surface, Lowes quickly realized these hot meals meant so much more. The meals, the cleaning supplies and cases of water The Salvation Army provided are what HOPE looks, feels, smells and tastes like. It shows affected residents, they are not alone on the long road to recovery.

"Handing people a hot meal and watching them smile makes this experience worth it" said Lowes.

Lowes says his first experience volunteering with The Salvation Army is just the first of many. His willingness to help with the tornado recovery efforts demonstrated to him, he is 'Doing The Most Good'.

FCC Seeks Comments On Petition To Grant Lifetime Amateur Radio Licenses



The FCC is seeking comments on a *Petition for Rule Making* (RM11760) that asks the FCC to grant lifetime Amateur Radio licenses. Mark F. Krotz, N7MK, of Mesa, Arizona, filed his request with the FCC last November. He wants the FCC to revise § 97.25 of its rules to indicate that Amateur Radio licenses are granted for the holder's lifetime, instead of for the current 10-year term. Krotz noted that the General Radiotelephone Operator License (GROL) already is issued on a lifetime basis, and he maintained that not having to renew licenses would lighten the FCC's workload.

"It would be mutually beneficial for the FCC and Amateur Radio operators to update Part 97 to grant operator licenses for lifetime," Krotz said in his filing. "The FCC would benefit by reducing administrative costs."

In 2014, the FCC granted lifetime credit for examination elements 3 and 4, but applicants seeking relicensing under that provision still must pass examination element 2.

Individuals may submit comments via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS).

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Missouri ARES Group Leverages Radio, Internet and Local Media In Flood Watch

Ste. Genevieve, MO (02/22/2016) - Members of Ste Genevieve County ARES in Missouri pulled together a variety of resources to help when the Mississippi River threatened to crest at a record level in late December. Ste Genevieve County Emergency Coordinator Norm Gallup, KDØHMH, reached out to the county's emergency manager to offer the ARES group's assistance. The ARES team was tasked with patrolling the north levee. Gallup was familiar with the system of levees and earthen dams that keep the river from overflowing its banks. With only a handful of radio amateurs at hand, AEC Jody Odem, NR9A, said the ARES team soon realized it would have to expand its pool of volunteers to non-amateurs. He suggested providing Multi-Use Radio Service (MURS) VHF radios to support unlicensed levee walkers, to supplement ham radio and the Ste Genevieve County Amateur Radio Club repeater.



The ARES Team's Command Post in the County Department of Public Works building.

The ARES team set up shop at the Ste Genevieve Public Works Department, which overlooks the Mississippi. A county-provided, trailer-mounted crank-up tower was pulled into service to mount antennas. Gallup's "Go Kit" was packed with a broad complement of radio gear. To obtain Internet service, Odem used a modified wireless router that could be used as a repeater to borrow a wireless signal from a local residential care facility.

As the patrols got under way, MURS radios were issued to all levee walkers, with one also going to the local police department to monitor the ARES team's traffic. The command post also monitored local law enforcement as well as county fire and EMS repeaters.

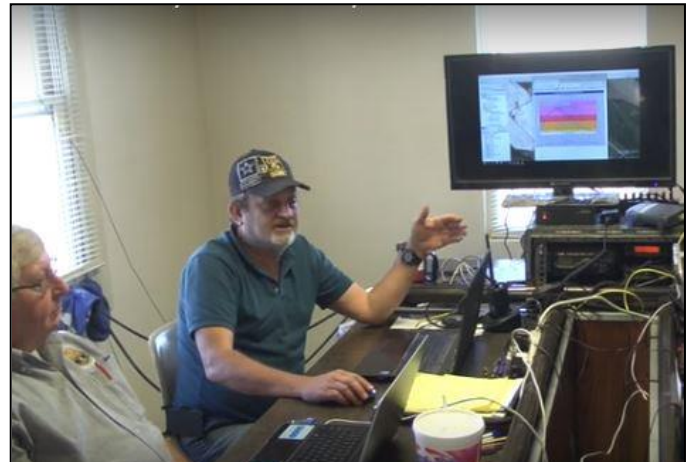
While all this was going on, Odem's wife Ana, N0ANA, took to Facebook, e-mail, text message, and telephone to secure additional volunteers. Fortuitously, Don Pritchard, W6ZPC, is the news director and an on-air personality for the local radio station, and he was able to put out the word via that medium.

"As the operation progressed, volunteers came out of the woodwork to walk the levee," Jody Odem said. Throughout the operation a total of 37 volunteers walked 4-hour shifts on the levee, looking for "areas of concern," which were called in and plotted on a map using Google Earth. Many volunteers returned to walk multiple shifts, Jody Odem said, and with temperatures dipping into the 20s at night, no one complained.

None of the areas of concern that levee walkers spotted turned out to be of great concern, as the Mississippi River reached its second-highest level at Chester, Illinois, since records have been kept. The ARES team officially stood down on January 4.

"A number of volunteers expressed interest in obtaining their Amateur Radio licenses and becoming active in ARES," Jody Odem said. "This event turned out to be quite a public awareness opportunity for the ARES group and Amateur Radio as a whole. Hopefully we will increase the number of hams in the community and add members to the ARES group."

The ARES team also obtained access to the public works building to use as a command post for future operations and to store equipment and hold meetings. A videographer for Ste Genevieve Community Access Television interviewed ARES members for "Flood Control Watch."



Ste. Genevieve County AEC Jody Odem, NR9A, is interviewed by the local public access channel about the flood watch efforts. At left is Howard Dohack, WØJET.

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How The Salvation Army Is Organized – An Overview, Part VII



The Salvation Army Citadel Corps in Jackson, MS

The Salvation Army is an international movement organized into five Zones. Zones are divided into Territories and Territories into Divisions which supervise their local units which are either Corps, Service Centers or Service Units. Part VII discusses the role of the local units in the United States.

Local Salvation Army units come in many different sizes and service capabilities.

Corps: The most basic unit is The Salvation Army Corps. A Corps is the local Salvation Army church. In addition to the church services typical of most churches, a Salvation Army Corps usually provides local social services and disaster services. In some Territories, the Corps may also provide

other services such as a homeless shelter or a drug and alcohol rehabilitation program, elderly or child day care, a feeding program, youth programs and many other services.

Corps are generally led by a husband-wife pair of Officers who usually hold a rank of Lieutenant, Captain or Major. They are ordained clergy in the Salvationist church with two years of seminary at the Territory's College For Officer Training.

Service Centers: The Service Extension program provides basic Salvation Army services in a mid-size rural community not covered by a Corps. A major component of the Service Extension program is the Service Center. A Service Center usually consists of a Salvation Army Family Thrift Store that also provides social services and disaster services. A Service Center is led by a Service Center Director who is usually an employee of The Salvation Army and not an officer, unless the Service Center is being considered for development into a Corps at a later date.

Service Units: Another component of the Service Extension program is the Service Unit. A Service Unit is a group of volunteer community leaders who meet once a month to administer the basic social service and disaster service programs of The Salvation Army. Service Units are led by a Service Unit Chairperson who is elected by the Service Unit volunteers. Service Units provide services in very small rural areas that are not covered by either a Corps or a Service Center nor do they have a physical location such as a Thrift Store.

Financial support for Corps, Service Centers and Service Units comes from a number of sources including donations by individual donors, mail appeals, special fund-raising events and the annual Christmas kettle campaign. Corps and Service Centers are also typically supported by the proceeds of their Family Thrift Store(s).

It is important to note that a disaster services program is usually a core service provided by Corps, Service Centers and Service Units. An emergency management maxim is that "All disasters are local." That means that all disasters begin and end with the response of the local community. Other groups, agencies and resources from the state and federal level may come from outside of the community to help, but ultimately, the disaster is led and managed by the local community.

This is as true for The Salvation Army as it is for government and emergency management. The first people to respond to a disaster for The Salvation Army is the people of the local Corps, Service Center or Service Unit. Depending upon the nature and scope of the emergency or disaster, they may be the ONLY Salvation Army response. But even if they need outside assistance from the Division, that assistance will come from other local units through the Division. In short, anyone wanting to be involved in disaster response – whether it is to feed and hydrate or to provide communications through the SATERN program – will most likely be activated by their local unit rather than Divisional Headquarters. And if help is needed in another Division, the request will be made through Territorial Headquarters who will, in turn, contact other Divisions who will, in turn, contact their local units for personnel and equipment. This includes requests for SATERN volunteers to assist.

In short, all EDS and SATERN volunteers are strongly encouraged to become a part of their local unit's disaster services program. SATERN volunteers are encouraged to be flexible and willing to do non-communications duty such as helping with the Canteen (mobile kitchen). That is how they get to know the local unit leader and talk to them about SATERN.

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