

relief assistance. While Hurricane Irma had lost some of her strength after making landfall, our members' needs remain great.

Working with 12th District Vice President Walter Dix, Florida Professional Firefighters (FPF) President Jim Tolley and local leaders, this union has again mobilized teams on the ground to support our members with whatever they need, including food and water, supplies, financial assistance, behavioral health counseling, vaccinations and emergency home repairs.

Disaster relief operations have been established at the Cape Coral Local 2424 union hall. In addition, operations will be set up at the Metro-Dade County Local 1403 union hall to provide assistance to members in some of the hardest hit areas, including the Florida Keys.

Streets in Miami became raging rivers as floodwaters surged in the city, while Jacksonville experienced widespread flooding. Devastating storm surges battered coastlines all across Florida, and nearly six million in the state are without power. Some locations could be without electricity for weeks. In addition, tornadoes were reported in some areas. Even Disney World was forced to close, for only the sixth time in its 45-year history.

For up-to-date resources for IAFF members affected by Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma, including how to apply for assistance, health and safety guidelines for exposure to flood waters, information on state, federal and international emergency management agencies and more, visit www.iaff.org.



Jacksonville

IAFF DISASTER RELIEF

Hurricane Irma

26,000

members in the storm's path

1,275

members visited by peer support teams



235

disaster relief applications

300+

DSFRs and members assisting with disaster relief operations

110

emergency home repairs

cost of generators, tarps and chain saws
\$45,000

26,000

bottles of water



225

vaccinations



1 + 2

command center regional sites

4,500

gallons of fuel to supply gas to members



Donate: www.iaff.org/disasterrelief

Fire Fighter

SUMMER 2017
QUARTERLY



HURRICANE RELIEF

> ON THE FRONTLINES FOR OUR MEMBERS



> OPERATION DISASTER RELIEF

IAFF Response to Hurricanes Harvey and Irma

Hurricane Harvey made landfall August 25 along the Texas Gulf Coast from Corpus Christi to Orange, bringing “biblical” amounts of rain, damaging winds and widespread flooding. The magnitude of the Category 4 storm was unprecedented as affiliates in Houston and across the Texas-Louisiana border felt the brunt of the destruction.

Less than two weeks later, on September 10, Hurricane Irma tore through Florida, making landfall as a Category 4 hurricane. More than 25,000 IAFF members were in the storm’s path.

> Hurricane Harvey

Despite the dangerous conditions, members in the disaster zone worked around the clock — 96 hours straight — responding to tens of thousands of calls, rescuing people trapped on rooftops or marooned by floodwaters knowing their own homes were likely underwater and with little or no outside resources or equipment from city or state agencies.

“The flooding was unlike anything any of us have ever seen,” says General President Harold Schaitberger, who traveled to the disaster zone in the days after the hurricane to assess damage and provide support to members. “Roads and major highways were impassible in many places, making it challenging for our members to respond to emergencies.”

Within hours, President Schaitberger, General Secretary-Treasurer Edward Kelly and IAFF senior staff were on the phone with leaders from across the 11th District, prepared to send as many resources as needed.

Getting a team from the IAFF on the ground to assist members was the top priority, and would not have been possible without Austin Local 975 and the Austin Fire Department, which provided department vehicles to help with transportation to Houston, and made drivers available for the disaster relief team.

11th District Vice President Sandy McGhee and Assistant to the General President Pat Morrison, along with 11th District Field Services Representative Joe Tellez, affiliate leaders and other district service field representatives from the Texas State Association of Fire Fighters (TSAFF) and Houston Local 341, established disaster relief operations at the Local 341 union hall to provide assistance to members and their families across Texas who were affected by the storm.

“During this stressful time, Texas members appreciated that the IAFF responded with such great support,” says TSAFF President John Riddle. “Our members proudly stayed on duty with no rest serving their communities, and the assistance the IAFF provided was greatly needed.”

Local 341 President Marty Lancton notes, “I could not be prouder of our 4,000 members, making the most of limited resources. I was also proud to be able to lend our union hall for the IAFF to set up disaster



relief operations to help all IAFF members affected by the hurricane.”

District Vice President McGhee says, “Our members are thankful for the resources

provided by the IAFF and TSAFF and the ongoing support as they get back on their feet and rebuild.”

“This union stepped up to help our brothers and sisters in the disaster zone,” says General Secretary-Treasurer Kelly. “It’s a great example of how the IAFF and our state and local affiliates work together to get our members the help they need.”

As Hurricane Harvey boomeranged towards southeast Texas, 14th District Vice President Danny Todd, along with District Service Field

Representative Pete Reagan and Professional Fire Fighters Association of Louisiana President Chad Major, worked to set up a second command center in Vinton, Louisiana, to assist members in southeast Texas, with both operations coordinating work to help members.

“Thanks to all of the support from the IAFF and the Houston and Louisiana command centers, we are making things better for our members in need,” says Todd.

As of press time, the IAFF had processed 413 Hurricane Harvey disaster relief applications — and that number could continue to rise. In addition, the TSAFF distributed 357 grants from its Relief and Scholarship Fund.

The IAFF teams on the ground also provided food, water, clothing, medication and transportation to help hundreds of members impacted by the storm. As part of a demolition operation led by the TSAFF, locals throughout the state and across the country formed teams to assist members with storm damage to their homes. This program will continue at the local level for some time.

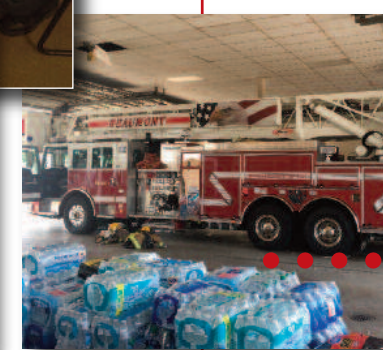
Additionally, the IAFF spent \$386,000 to buy and administer more than 2,500 Hepatitis-A and Tetanus vaccines for members exposed to toxic waters and high levels of E. coli from the flooding, and also distributed the NFORS exposure app for all members in the affected area.

Members in the disaster region are also dealing with the emotional trauma of Hurricane Harvey. IAFF Peer Support teams were dispatched in the critical days following the storm, conducting more than 2,500 direct needs assessments for members affected by the storm. Peer Support teams will continue to follow-up with immediate and long-term needs.

The unbelievable destruction wrought by this storm will have a life-changing effect on members for months to come. The assistance the IAFF teams on the ground provided is just the beginning.

> Hurricane Irma

In response to Hurricane Irma, which has caused widespread destruction throughout Florida, impacting tens of thousands of members who remained on the frontlines, the IAFF is providing disaster



IAFF DISASTER RELIEF for Hurricane Harvey

6,000
members in the storm's path

2,500
members visited by peer support teams

26
locals affected by Hurricane Harvey

Cost of
2,500
Hepatitis-A and Tetanus shots
\$386,000

2
semi-truck loads of bottled water and food

150
fans to dry out members' homes

100
members working with operations center

413
disaster relief applications

134
members' homes provided with free demolition

180
generators provided to fire stations and members' homes

