



Snohomish County Council

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - WEDNESDAY AUGUST 31, 2005

Council Considers Emergency Action to Assist Gulf Coast Victims of Hurricane

Snohomish County Sheriff prepares to answer the call

On Wednesday, the National Sheriff's Association put out a call for all available law enforcement personnel to report to areas impacted by Hurricane Katrina. Snohomish County Sheriff Rick Bart immediately notified the County Council that legislative approval would be needed to relieve local agencies in areas devastated by the storm.

Once the official Declaration of Emergency has been made by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), law enforcement from Snohomish County will assemble into a team of responders, gather their equipment and be transported to relieve local agencies. Deputies will mainly assist in anti-looting and search & rescue operations.

Once the local Region 10 Emergency Management declares that an emergency response is necessary, the County Council will work to approve an emergency declaration of assistance. FEMA has indicated they will reimburse counties for expenses, but the urgency of the situation requires the Snohomish County Council to provide initial support as an emergency action.

Council Chair Gary Nelson commends Sheriff Rick Bart and staff involved in mobilizing personnel from the Sheriff's Office for their quick reaction to this emergency.

“We really can’t spare the deputies, but anytime another county needs this kind of help, we have to act,” said Sheriff Rick Bart.

“Anyone who has seen the news must appreciate what the people there are going through and how much effort will be required to get things back to normal,” Bart added.

The scheduling of reinforcement personnel will continue for a number of weeks to respond to the State of Emergency in Gulf Coast counties.

NOTE: Action Item Pending from Snohomish County Sheriff’s Office
Expected Approval Date: Tuesday, September 6th.

Contact:
Council Chairman Gary Nelson
425-388-3494

Sheriff Rick Bart
425-388-3414

encl: NSA Letter to Sheriffs

NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
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WWW.SHERIFFS.ORG NSAMAIL@SHERIFFS.ORG

THOMAS N. FAUST
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
August 31, 2005

Dear Sheriff:

Response to the request for assistance to aid sheriffs in areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina has been phenomenal. Additional agencies are still needed. I would like to address general questions which have been received thus far.

- How many deputies are needed? Whatever a Sheriff's Office can spare for immediate response. The responding deputies must be self-sufficient for a minimum of 3 days (patrol car, equipment, food, water, clothing, shelter). Pack your sleeping bag and pup tent. Two deputies per patrol car are allowable.
- How long are we needed? This will be a long term operation. Deputies will be needed for a minimum 3 days to a maximum of what a Sheriff's Office will allow. We will also be scheduling replacements until the State of Emergency has ended.
- Do we get reimbursed? We are gathering Sheriff's Offices with personnel and resources and contacting Sheriff's Office with needs to marry them up. We then ask the requesting agency to have their EMA Director place the responding Sheriff's Office name in the EMAC system specifically naming the responding agency. The request should be routed to the State EMA, then to the responding State EMA to the local EMA of the responding agency with a FEMA tracking number. NOTE: YOU MAY NOT BE REIMBURSED WITHOUT A FEMA TRACKING NUMBER!
- Supplies needed by victims and Sheriff's deputies in devastated jurisdictions: Bottled water, Non-perishable food, batteries, flashlights, baby needs (formula and diapers), cell phones, new blankets, law enforcement resources such as command posts, generators, boats, aviation.

My office is coordinating the response. Please feel free to contact me at 205-752-0616, cell phone 205-799-2911, email tsexton@tuscco.com, Lt. Eric Bailey, 205-752-0616, ext 620, cell phone 205-242-6277, email ebailey@tuscco.com, Elaine Gray, 205-752-0616, ext 603. Our office hours are 8:30-5:00 central standard time. Any needs after this hour should be sent to one of the above listed cell phones, or to our communications divisions and clearly state what you need.

Thanks

Edmund M. Ted Sexton, Sr.
Edmund M. "Ted" Sexton, Sr., Sheriff
President, NSA