

# Corporation for National and Community Service

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## DISASTER SERVICES UPDATE 9/6/12

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### **Hurricane Isaac**

Tropical Storm Isaac first impacted Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands on August 24<sup>th</sup>. Currently the storm has moved west of Florida and into the Gulf of Mexico, with a likely impact to eastern Louisiana, Mississippi and western Alabama. On August, 28<sup>th</sup> the storm intensified to a category 1 Hurricane. **More than 275 AmeriCorps and Senior Corps members have been deployed to affected areas since the beginning of the storm. Currently, more than 215 members are deployed to affected areas.**

CNCS Cadre

*August 31*

2 CNCS Cadre members staffed the CNCS desk at the National Response Coordination Center at FEMA HQ in Washington, D.C. Cadre members participated in interagency meetings and provided support to field staff.

American Red Cross AmeriCorps National Program

*August 28<sup>th</sup>*

31 National Preparedness Response Corps, an American Red Cross National AmeriCorps program have been deployed along the Gulf Coast. These members are supporting sheltering operations, operating Emergency Response Vehicles (ERV), assisting with logistics, staffing, and mass feeding.

American Red Cross AmeriCorps State Program

*August 28<sup>th</sup>*

12 AmeriCorps members from New York American Red Cross chapters have deployed to Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi to assist with shelter operations, mass care, government relations and logistics and transportation.

### **ALABAMA**

American Red Cross AmeriCorps State Program

*August 28<sup>th</sup>*

6 AmeriCorps State American Red Cross members from Illinois have deployed to Alabama as part of an Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) crew.

### **FLORIDA**

American Red Cross AmeriCorps State Program

*August 27<sup>th</sup>*

10 members are preparing kid-friendly shelter kits for use in shelters in Pensacola.

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## LOUISIANA

BATON ROUGE, LA

AmeriCorps NCCC Southern Region

*September 6<sup>th</sup>*

9 NCCC members deployed to Baton Rouge to assist support 2-1-1 call center.

American Red Cross AmeriCorps State

*August 27<sup>th</sup>*

3 AmeriCorps members are assisting in operating shelters in the Baton Rouge community.

AmeriCorps NCCC Atlantic Region

*August 28<sup>th</sup>*

3 NCCC members have been deployed to Baton Rouge to assist with shelter operations.

**NEW** AmeriCorps NCCC North Central Region

*September 5<sup>th</sup>*

A 9 member team that had been supporting American Red Cross with shelter operations in Shreveport, has been reassigned to the shelter in Baton Rouge to support shelter operations..

HAHNVILLE, LA

**NEW** RSVP

*September 6<sup>th</sup>*

15 to 20 RSVP volunteers are supporting donations collection and distribution through St. Charles Parish.

RSVP

*August 28<sup>th</sup>*

25 RSVP volunteers are assisting with St. Charles Parish evacuations.

10 RSVP volunteers are assisting with call center support providing information to the public.

NEW ORLEANS, LA

**NEW** AmeriCorps VISTA

11 members supported the 3-1-1 call center in New Orleans last week. They have concluded their work and have returned to their regular assignments.

AmeriCorps NCCC Southern Region

10 members have been reassigned from American Red Cross shelter operations in Madisonville to assist the Greater New Orleans Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (GNOVOAD) support Emergency Operations Center, support 3-1-1 call center, assist distribution centers, perform neighborhood assessments of damage and perform debris removal and home repair as needed. This team's tentative end of deployment is September 28<sup>th</sup>.

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AmeriCorps NCCC Southern Region

September 1<sup>st</sup>

20 members team have been shifted from the American Red Cross shelter in Madisonville to a shelter in New Orleans. The team will continue to provide shelter operations support at their new assignment.

## **MISSISSIPPI**

CNCS Cadre

September 4<sup>th</sup>

1 CNCS Cadre members are deploying to Mississippi to assist the state in identifying and developing projects to bring greater national service support recovery in affected areas.

Volunteer Generation Fund

August 30<sup>th</sup>

The Volunteer Center at United Way of South Mississippi, a sub-grantee of the Volunteer Generation Fund, is staffing the Emergency Operations Center assisting American Red Cross secure feeding programs, fielding requests for damage repair and connecting these requests to VOAD partners, working with United Way Worldwide and regional United Ways to develop and publish a website for donations in Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana, and reported out in EOC briefings on volunteer recruitment, resources being staged by VOAD partners and UW efforts in the region.

Additionally, in partnership with the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service, the volunteer center is preparing to open a Volunteer Reception Centers (VRC) if needed. In preparation for this, the volunteer center has pre-trained nearly 50 volunteers to help activate VRCs on the Mississippi coast. The Volunteer Center is securing locations now and is prepared to activate at least two VRCs in Hancock and Harrison counties. They and MCVS have been pre-registering stand-by volunteers so that once the VRCs are activated volunteers can be mobilized and deployed as soon as possible.

American Red Cross National AmeriCorps Program

August 27<sup>th</sup>

4 American Red Cross members have been deployed from Philadelphia to Mississippi to assist in shelter operations within the state.

HATTIESBURG, MS

AmeriCorps NCCC Atlantic Region

September 1<sup>st</sup>

5 NCCC members are supporting the American Red Cross with shelter operations and bulk distribution. On September 6<sup>th</sup>, these members will move to Natchez, MS to assist the members performing disaster assessments.

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NATCHEZ, MS

AmeriCorps NCCC Atlantic Region

September 1<sup>st</sup>

23 NCCC members are performing damage assessments for the American Red Cross. They have completed assessments in Adams and Wilkinson and are continuing to assess eight other counties in Mississippi.

JACKSON, MS

AmeriCorps NCCC Southern Region

August 27<sup>th</sup>

10 members, have been deployed to assist the United Way of the Capital Area in staffing the 2-1-1 Mississippi Call Center. River 10 will field calls and provide preparedness information to the public. This team will end their deployment on September 9th.

RSVP

August 27<sup>th</sup>

15 RSVP volunteers from the Handy Man Brigade are assisting disabled seniors with home preparation for storm impact, assisting the Hancock County Emergency Operations Center with communications. RSVP volunteers are also assisting with transportation of seniors to American Red Cross shelters. Additionally, RSVP volunteers are on stand-by with the local Red Cross chapter to support with shelter operations and the RSVP CERT team is in place for emergency response when the storm passes. The RSVP program is also reaching out to known vulnerable seniors to identify any unmet needs.

## **WESTERN WILDFIRES**

Approximately 200 AmeriCorps members and RSVP volunteers deployed to fight wildfires, manage volunteers and donations, operate emergency shelters, and support call centers in Colorado, New Mexico and Utah since late June. Members of AmeriCorps NCCC, AmeriCorps VISTA, AmeriCorps State & National, and RSVP programs are working with federal, state, and local government agencies, the American Red Cross, the United Way, Adventist Community Services, and other organizations. Additional teams are being deployed as conditions evolve.

ROUNDUP, MT

**UPDATE** Musselshell County RSVP

August 31<sup>st</sup>

27 RSVP volunteers gave 2850 hours of service to assisting those affected during and after the fires. These volunteers helped serve and prepare meals, provided lodging, sorted and collected clothing and other items, assisted in moving animals in line with the fire to a safe place, donated money to the fire victims fund, just sat with and listened to fire victims when they needed someone to talk to, worked in the DES office manning the phones and distributed information to the fire victims. After the Dahl Fire, a RSVP volunteer was trained with the Red Cross and was ready to assist when the Delphia Fire occurred.

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## **NEW DISASTER EVENTS**

For information on new disaster events, please visit FEMA's daily situation report at:

<http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/index.shtm>

## Resources

### ***Disaster Distress Helpline 1-800-985-5990***

The Disaster Distress Helpline provides 24/7, year-round crisis counseling and support. The Helpline is staffed by trained counselors from a network of crisis call centers located across the United States, all of whom provide:

- Crisis counseling for those who are in emotional distress related to any natural or human-caused disaster
- Information on how to recognize distress and its effects on individuals and families
- Tips for healthy coping
- Disaster-specific resources and referral information.

### ***Colorado Wildfire Assistance***

For those interested in assisting those affected by the wildfires in Colorado, please visit:

[www.HelpColoradoNow.org](http://www.HelpColoradoNow.org). This website identifies ways to donate time or resources to those in need.

***If you would like to learn more about how you can assist communities affected by disaster visit [www.serve.gov](http://www.serve.gov). If you would like to learn more about how to prepare your family and or community please visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).***