

# Corporation for National and Community Service

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## DISASTER SERVICES UPDATE 9/18/12

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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 295 AmeriCorps and Senior Corps members have been deployed to affected areas since the beginning of the storm.**

### **LOUISIANA**

AmeriCorps St. Louis

*September 11<sup>th</sup>*

6 AmeriCorps St. Louis Safety Corps members, under FEMA Mission Assignment are assisting the Louisiana VOAD with the Temporary Roof Repair program and supporting a Volunteer Reception Center in St. John's Parish. Four members will be tracking the impact and effectiveness of the Temporary Roof Repair program by collecting material, client, and completion information to populate a data base and daily reports to FEMA. Two members will stand up and assist in operating a VRC.

BATON ROUGE, LA

AmeriCorps NCCC Southern Region

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

12 NCCC members deployed to Baton Rouge to support the American Red cross at their main disaster warehouse with counting, sorting and relocating supplies used at numerous shelters, kitchens and local warehouses across the south since Hurricane Isaac. This project is scheduled to end on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

HAHNVILLE, LA

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.

LAFAYETTE, LA

University of Louisiana-Lafayette AmeriCorps Program

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

12 members have been serving at the 232-HELP/Louisiana 2-1-1 call center in Lafayette.

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NEW ORLEANS, LA

Share Our Strength VISTA program

*September 10<sup>th</sup>*

2 VISTAs from Share Our Strength are working closely with Second Harvest Food Bank to support a Disaster SNAP benefits hotline for individuals affected by Hurricane Isaac. These members are fielding phone calls and assisting applicants with the pre-application process.

AmeriCorps NCCC Southern Region

*September 8<sup>th</sup>*

10 members are supporting 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>.

## **MISSISSIPPI**

HANCOCK COUNTY, MS

**NEW** AmeriCorps NCCC Southern Region

*September 18<sup>th</sup>*

An 8 member team has deployed to support the Housing Resource Center and Manna Ministries with case management client intake, volunteer coordination, warehouse management, tarping roofs and other support. This team's expected end of deployment date is September 28<sup>th</sup>.

HARRISON COUNTY, MS

**NEW** AmeriCorps NCCC Southern Region

*September 18<sup>th</sup>*

A 9 member team has deployed to support the United Way of South Mississippi and International Relief and Development Gulf Coast with case management client intake, volunteer coordination, warehouse management, tarping roofs and other support. This team's expected end of deployment date is September 28<sup>th</sup>.

JACKSON, MS

AmeriCorps NCCC Southern Region

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

9 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 21<sup>st</sup>.

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RSVP

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

15 RSVP volunteers from the Handy Man Brigade are assisted 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.

I mentioned last Friday that we had 4 fire fighters placed on a crew from MA to help get that crew up to the required 20 person size and that they could be deployed to the Pacific Northwest in a few days. Well we were just notified that they would be heading out of Logan Airport this evening headed to a staging area in OR. From there they will get their actual assignment to one of the fires burning there. Right now we are getting these 4 members linked up with the rest of the MA crew.

OREGON WILDFIRES

**NEW** AmeriCorps NCCC Atlantic Region

*September 18<sup>th</sup>*

4 NCCC members have been deployed to Oregon to support wildfire suppression in Oregon. This team has arrived at the staging site and is awaiting assignment.

ROUNDUP, MT

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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HUSUM, WA

Washington Conservation Corps

September 10<sup>th</sup>

The Washington Conservation Corps deployed 22 members and two supervisors to the "Highway 141 Fire" near Husum in Klickitat County last Thursday, September 6.

## **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).***