



GEORGE DALE
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State Fire Marshal

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Mississippi Insurance Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

George Dale, Commissioner of Insurance/State Fire Marshal
Mississippi Insurance Department
Jackson, Mississippi
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Dale Announces Large Donation for Coast Emergency Workers

Jackson –Commissioner of Insurance and State Fire Marshal George Dale announced today that a group of fire, EMS, and law enforcement personnel from Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson counties will be sent on a 5-day rest and recuperation trip thanks to a generous donation from the city of Daytona Beach, Florida.

The city of Daytona Beach wished to offer some sort of assistance to personnel who worked tirelessly and diligently in search and rescue operations following Katrina's landfall. They have donated 5-days transportation and lodging in their city. On November 8, Daytona Beach will send buses to D'Iberville to pick up the selected group of responders for the trip.

The donation is being coordinated through the State Fire Coordinator and Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson County Fire Coordinators. The County Fire Coordinators will work with all agencies requested to choose responders eligible for the trip.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for those who were on the front-lines to receive some much needed down-time. We are grateful to the city of Daytona Beach for this generous donation," said Dale.

Dale added that coordination of this donation is just the latest in the exemplary work being done through the Fire Services Development Division of the Mississippi Insurance Department in the area of Hurricane Katrina relief and assistance. Other efforts of the division include:

- Coordinating over 500 rescue personnel from in and out-of-state for search and rescue efforts
- Working with coastal fire departments in replacing lost vehicles and equipment. There were a total of 11 fire departments totally destroyed in Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson counties and many more in the 6 counties declared in the disaster that sustained major to minor damage. According to reports 32 fire apparatus, 5 tankers and 15 support vehicles were destroyed in addition to more than 200 firefighter turnouts, self-contained breathing apparatus, and other firefighting equipment. Most have been replaced through donations from other fire departments across the country and fire fighting organizations and associations.

ADD ONE/DALE ANNOUNCES LARGE

- Worked with the National Volunteer Firefighters Council with the distribution of individual checks of \$250 per person to volunteers impacted in the three coastal counties. Jackson County personnel received 31 checks; Harrison County received 45 checks; and Hancock County received 79 checks.
- Worked with the State Firefighters Association and others in the creation of the Mississippi Law Enforcement and Firefighters Katrina Relief Fund.

Commissioner Dale will be appearing on the 2-hour, live telethon, "Back the Badge", 8pm -10 pm, Thursday, October 27, 2005 on Mississippi ETV.

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