



FEMA

August 29, 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR: First Responder Community

FROM:

R. David Paulison
Administrator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R. David Paulison".

SUBJECT: Deployment

Once again, the Gulf Coast is facing the prospect of a devastating hurricane, likely making landfall within the next few days. As first responders and emergency management professionals, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recognizes your strong desire to assist in response and recovery efforts.

FEMA advises against first responders self-deploying to the disaster area. Coordinated, requested, and approved mutual aid will ensure the most effective use of resources and support. I ask that you work through your State emergency management office and the Emergency Management Assistance Compact to ensure that when you are requested, your deployment meets the specific need and request of an affected State.

As you know, an influx of resources that are not requested, while well-intended, can significantly slow down response and recovery operations and can actually create a burden on the state and local officials engaged in response.

You will be receiving additional information on potential needs through your state emergency management agencies who will be working closely with the FEMA regions. I personally appreciate your continued commitment and support to emergency response.