

NEWS

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S.B. County hurricane relief convoy to depart for Gulfport Friday *County, cities round up enough supplies to fill several big rigs*

The County of San Bernardino and several cities within the county have pulled together in an effort to make a substantial difference in the life of at least one community devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

The county and the cities have collected enough generators, pumps, office furniture and equipment, power tools, and other items to fill several tractor-trailer rigs, which will depart for Gulfport, Mississippi from the San Bernardino County warehouse facilities Friday afternoon. The cities that have been participating in the effort include Ontario, Chino Hills, Chino, Upland, Rancho Cucamonga, San Bernardino, Barstow, and Big Bear Lake.

"We wanted to pool our resources and have a measurable impact on a single community," said San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors Chairman Bill Postmus. "We were contacted by the mayor of Gulfport, who told us how seriously his community had been hit by the hurricane, and we agreed that Gulfport would become the focus of our efforts."

The news media are invited to view the items that will be shipped to Gulfport and interview the county and city leaders who made the effort a reality tomorrow, Friday, September 16, at 12 noon, at the loading docks behind the San Bernardino County General Services Building located at 777 E. Rialto Ave. in San Bernardino, one block east of Waterman Avenue. The rear of the building can be accessed by going around the west side of the building and turning left.

Working from a wish list faxed by the City of Gulfport to the county, the county and participating cities have spent the past week obtaining the items and preparing them for shipment.

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Additionally, Gulfport requested gift cards to various retailers to be used by residents who need clothing and household supplies. In response, employees from the county and the cities have donated several thousand dollars in gift cards to the effort. The gift cards will be flown to Gulfport and personally delivered to Gulfport officials by representatives of San Bernardino County and the cities.

"This has turned into a massive humanitarian effort far beyond what I envisioned when we were first contacted by the City of Gulfport," Chairman Postmus said. "I commend everyone who has turned out for this effort."

"I am particularly proud of our county employees, who have already generously given to the Red Cross and other efforts, for digging into their pockets and their hearts once again for the people of Gulfport," Chairman Postmus said.