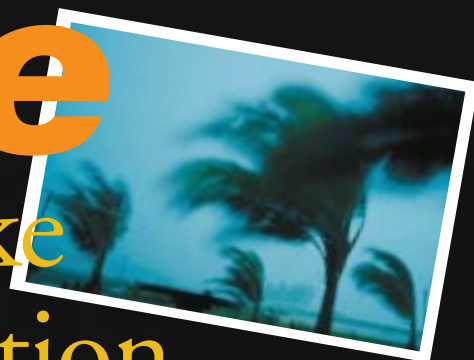
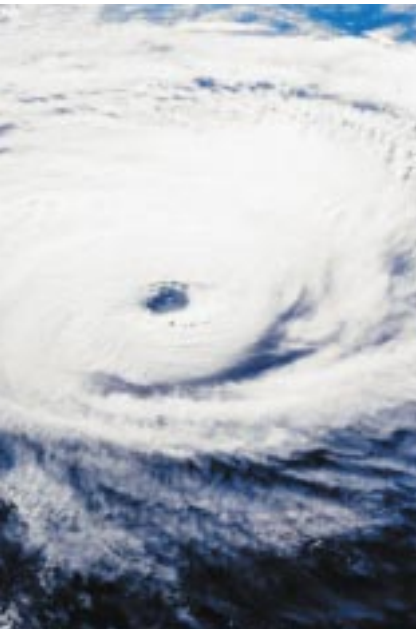


Hurricane **Force**

gsa in the wake
of the destruction

by Melinda Wagoner and Emily LeDuc





According to FEMA, hurricanes are classified as storms that have generated winds that reach a constant speed of 74 miles per hour or more. Hurricane winds blow in a large spiral around a relatively calm center known

as the “eye.” The “eye” is generally 20- to 30-miles wide, and the storm may extend outward 400 miles. **As a hurricane nears land, it can bring torrential rains, high winds, and storm surges.**

Hurricane Basics

A single hurricane can last for more than two weeks over open waters and can run a path across the entire length of the eastern seaboard. August and September are peak months during the hurricane season that lasts from June 1 through November 30.

The 74 to 160 mile per hour winds of a hurricane can extend inland for hundreds of miles. Hurricanes can spawn tornadoes, which add to the destructiveness of the storm. Floods and flash floods generated by torrential rains also cause damage and loss of life. Following a hurricane, inland streams and rivers can flood and trigger landslides. Even more dangerous than the high winds of a hurricane is the storm surge — a dome of ocean water that can be 20 feet at its peak and 50- to 100-miles wide. The surge can devastate coastal communities as it sweeps ashore.

Charley, Frances, and Ivan

The 2004 hurricane season has brought a number of devastating storms to the U.S. eastern seaboard. Florida faced Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne all within the span of 40 days. The storms collectively caused billions of dollars in damage and claimed dozens of lives. FEMA has worked tirelessly to provide support to the victims of these storms, and GSA has played a major role in coordinating supplies, equipment, and services when and where they were needed.

Rendering Assistance - FEMA and GSA

As citizens of the Southeastern states recover from the latest in a series of devastating hurricanes, GSA associates, working in their normal capacities and as volunteers, are among those who have been mobilized to help in response to the storms and their aftermath.



Orlando, FL, September 12, 2004 – An overview of the Orange County Convention Center where Disaster Medical Assistance Teams have set up an operations center for residents of Florida. There are both hospital beds and cots set up. FEMA Photo/Jocelyn Augustino.

As a result of Hurricane Frances, FEMA activated Emergency Support Function 7 (ESF-7). GSA serves as the lead agency under this function and, when activated, is required to render indefinite, around-the-clock assistance. ESF-7 provides direct and active support to emergency response and recovery efforts during the initial response phase following a disaster. This support includes locating, procuring, and issuing resources, such as supplies, office space, office equipment, fuel, contracting services, personnel, heavy equipment, generators, and transportation of such. GSA, as the lead agency for ESF-7, must provide equipment, materials, supplies, and personnel to federal entities during emergency response operations.

GSA's Transportation Management Branch in the mid-Atlantic region has furnished transportation routings for five trailer loads of medical supplies and two trailer loads of generators totaling 130,430 pounds at a cost of \$179,250. The use of GSA's transportation services saved more than \$80,000.

GSA also provided housing for approximately 70 Americorp workers and acquired ground transportation for 800 FEMA and support personnel. These personnel were redeployed from Orlando and Ft. Myers, FL to Atlanta, GA via charter planes to escape Hurricane Frances. Buses provided transportation service from the Atlanta Airport to their designated hotel. GSA established round the clock contracting teams for support at FEMA Regional Operations Centers. Our Public Building Service acquired services and supplies, and 24-hour guard service for the Mobile Emergency Response Staff office at the Easley Building in Tallahassee. Nearly one million Meals, Ready

to Eat (MRE's) were sent to the Lakeland Mobile Operations Base center and Punta Gorda, the area particularly hard hit by hurricane Charley. GSA solicited quotes for the removal of furniture, TV's, computers, books, files, and other equipment from eight schools in the area. This contract included the removal (packing and transportation) of the items to various storage facilities as well as the return transportation and unpacking of those items when the schools were cleaned and repaired.

Mobile Operations Base centers were made operational by GSA staff, as well as housing for 1,600 to 2,000 occupants; until mobile home facilities were developed by FEMA. In addition to facilities, GSA has also provided cots, blankets, MREs, showers, restrooms, and security. GSA assisted the Army Corps of Engineers efforts to acquire 400 tons of ice.

After procuring and exhausting the stock of Meals, Ready to Eat (MRE's) from major sources for Hurricanes Charley and Frances, GSA partnered with the Defense Logistics Agency and purchased more than 1 million Meals, Ready to Eat (MRE's) to support relief efforts for Hurricane Ivan.

GSA associates are also supporting FEMA by producing assessment reports of damage, conducting client meetings, and inspecting potential lease locations. One GSA associate worked in Mississippi solely on making sure that major media outlet phone numbers were accurate and up-to-date so that FEMA could call them to disseminate emergency information to the public.



Melbourne Beach, FL, September 11, 2004 – A comfort dog, common at many disaster sites, poses for the camera. FEMA Photo/Jocelyn Augustino.

The Orange County convention center was converted into an emergency shelter where Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMAT) sprung into action to render medical assistance. GSA worked to lease 360,000 square feet of the space for those in need. In addition to leasing emergency space for housing and medical purposes, GSA has provided labor and construction services, staging areas for responders, storage space, and parking space.

In Orlando, FL, GSA associate Steve McFarland said his biggest challenge was finding mobile laundry trailers, adding, “Before this, I didn’t know there was such a thing. The Forest Service has them, but they’re more like a full-service laundry on wheels, whereas we wanted something more like a Laundromat.” He still managed to find a source. “We bought

something like ten million MREs,” he said, adding, “That’s all the DoD had. FEMA, the American Red Cross, and the Salvation Army were handing them out at a rate of 750,000 a day, but field kitchens are currently being set up.”

Fire rescue crews were established for the Lakeland municipal airport to allow the landing of Air Force aircraft. Tens of thousand of cots and blankets, as well as shower trailers, were supplied and shipped. GSA acquired SUV’s and vans for base medical teams, 5-ton spot coolers for local staging areas, folding aluminum tables and chairs, golf carts, and copiers. Pads were supplied for mobile home temporary housing.

In Mobile, AL, Steve Sizemore sourced tents, fax machines, shuttle buses, and lodging. To fulfill requests for office supplies, he contacted a local store under GSA contract, which told him to take whatever was needed. He did. “We wiped them out on several items,” he said.

GSA is proud of the effort all of our associates have made to help those affected by Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, Jeanne and other storms that have passed through the Southeast. Some GSA associates have been among those who have experienced personal emergencies due to the hurricanes. Also, many associates have worked significant amounts of overtime or have volunteered their time to assist FEMA and the Red Cross in the effort.

GSA is proud of all of who are working tirelessly to render aid to those in need and of our strong partnership with FEMA. We value our continued commitment to provide desperately needed supplies and services to help in times of crisis.



September 8, 2004, West Palm Beach, FL – Truckloads of generators are poised for delivery to critical facilities in need at the South Florida Fairgrounds in West Palm Beach. FEMA Photo/Mark Wolfe.

Services Administration has procured the following products and services to provide relief to the citizens of Florida. GSA Multiple Award Schedule commercial partners in the state of Florida were able to fulfill some of the procurements for the supplies listed below.

- Adult Meal Supplement
- Baby and Adult Diapers
- Blankets
- Chairs and Tables
- Computers
- Cots
- Forklifts and Ramps
- Fuel tenders of Gasoline and Diesel Fuel
- Gas Cans
- Golf Carts
- Guard Services
- Hotel Rooms
- Meals Ready to Eat (MRE's)
- Modular Buildings
- Portable Restrooms
- Portable Showers
- Potable Water



Orlando, FL, September 12, 2004 – A FEMA Disaster Medical Assistance Team Member goes through supplies at the Orange County Convention Center.

- Powered Emergency Signs
- Printers
- Printing Services
- Rental Cars and Trucks
- Shuttle Services
- Sun Screen
- Temporary Services
- Tents
- Trailers
- Waste Disposal Services



FEMA photo/Andrea Booker

Vero Beach, FL, 9/11/2004 – A week after hurricane Frances, Meals Ready to Eat (MRE's) are stocked in preparation of hurricane Ivan.


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