



# The Salvation Army

## Emergency Disaster Services

### Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network



## The Salvation Army Responds To Severe Weather In Central, South & East USA

**NHQ (04/18/2019)** – For the past two weeks, The Salvation Army has responded to two waves of severe weather that included hail, torrential rain with flash flooding, hail, strong damaging winds and tornadoes. The severe weather impacted many states throughout the Central, Eastern and Southern Territories.

**Central Territory:** The primary focus of the Emergency Disaster Services (EDS) ministry in the Central Territory is its response to major flooding in the Western Division encompassing western Iowa, South Dakota and Nebraska.

The Council Bluff Corps continues to provide up to 500 meals per day as it expanded its services to Hamburg, IA, last week. The meals are being delivered by Salvation Army Canteens (mobile kitchens) staffed by Salvation Army officers (pastors), staff and volunteers. Two Disaster Resource Centers (DRCs) were opened three weeks ago in Council Bluffs to distribute needed flood-relief items in the Council Bluffs metro area. Other flood-relief work is being done in Nebraska.

**Eastern Territory:** The Eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware (EPA) Division dispatched EDS teams to Sussex County, DE, and Columbia and Sullivan Counties in Eastern Pennsylvania in response to severe storms on Monday (15 April).



The National Weather Service confirmed an EF-2 tornado touched down in the community of Laurel, DE, on Monday. A Canteen was dispatched to the hardest hit neighborhood, where 25 homes were damaged or destroyed. The team provided meals to impacted residents in that neighborhood and at a Red Cross shelter

nearby. The Salvation Army also provided emergency assistance to families in the area.

Severe weather also impacted communities in Eastern Pennsylvania. The Salvation Army provided assistance to people at a mobile home park in Benton, PA, which was hit by an EF-1 tornado. It offered residents food vouchers to Country Fresh Market in Benton and clothing vouchers that may be redeemed at The Salvation Army's Family Store in Bloomsburg.

An EDS team also responded to an apartment complex in Dushore, PA, that experienced a power outage as a result of Monday's storms. There were approximately 30 residents in the affected apartment community. The Salvation Army provided lunch and dinner on Tuesday to those impacted.

**Southern Territory:** Several Divisions were impacted by severe weather over the past two weeks. What follows is a report of the activities of each of the impacted divisions' EDS ministries.

**Alabama-Louisiana-Mississippi (ALM) Division:** The Salvation Army began serving affected residents and aid to first responders in the days that followed two tornadoes striking in Monroe County, MS, on Saturday, 13 April. At least one person was killed and several others were injured in Hamilton, MS.

Columbus (MS) Corps officer Lt. Christian Smith reported that a second wave of incoming storms forced their operation to close at Noon on Thursday, 18 April. Operations were resumed the next day and continued through the weekend, including meals, water, snacks, clean-up kits, and emotional and spiritual care.

The Salvation Army also provided services near Troy in Pike County, AL. Pike County Service Center Manager Kimberly May reported that a Canteen from Dothan, AL, assisted her with serving meals and hydration in an impacted mobile home park.

**National Capital-Virginia (NCV) Division:** In Franklin County, VA, the National Weather Service confirmed a tornado touched down Friday morning (19 April) with high winds, hail, and flying debris damaging or destroying several homes.



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The Martinsville and Roanoke Corps responded. They provided meals for first responders and volunteers at the Franklin County Emergency Management incident command post, offering spiritual care to families, and distributing clean up kits. The Salvation Army team was also prepared to shelter at a local church and distribute clean up kits the next day while assessing the need for further canteen operations.

**Texas (TEX) Division:** On Saturday afternoon (13 April), an EF3 tornado struck the city of Franklin, TX. The Salvation Army of Bryan College Station, located about 30 miles away, deployed a Canteen and emergency response team to provide support to first responders and storm survivors.



An emergency triage center was established by the city at the United Methodist Church, where The Salvation Army team began feeding. Media reports indicated there were numerous people trapped in their homes and that many homes had been damaged or destroyed by the powerful storm that affected several other communities in the area. Operation Barbecue Relief (OBR), a valued partner of The Salvation Army in times of disaster, provided 200 meals to be served and moved a kitchen into the area on Sunday. The Salvation Army and Operation Barbecue Relief personnel worked together to coordinate feeding operations.

The Canteen from Williamson County-Austin, with the ability to serve up to 1,500 meals per day, was deployed to Alto, another small community affected by the storms. They expected to provide close to 500 meals and drinks on Saturday to first responders and storm survivors, in addition to emotional and spiritual care.

## New Vehicle Improves Disaster Response In Colorado and The Intermountain Division



**Colorado Springs, CO (04/15/2019)** – On 12 April, FedEx donated a customized \$114,000 disaster response vehicle to the Intermountain (IM) Division of The Salvation Army.

The new vehicle’s smaller size and four-wheel drive capabilities allow for emergency response in areas unreachable with the larger mobile feeding units or during severe winter weather or in treacherous mountain terrain. The new vehicle is also more cost effective to operate and maintain.

With the utilization of modern materials and manufacturing, the vehicle is expected to withstand the stresses of disaster response better than older models, while still providing ample room for supplies, and the ability to go from day-to-day local emergency support to hauling supplies for a large-scale response. The unit is outfitted with a portable generator interface, tents, mobile charging stations, a commercial microwave, coffee makers and hand washing stations.

“With the addition of the new disaster response unit, we will be better prepared to serve than ever before,” Intermountain Divisional Commander Major Mike Dickinson said.

FedEx has a long history of supporting disaster relief and recovery efforts. This is the 22nd vehicle FedEx has donated to The Salvation Army in its long history of supporting disaster relief and recovery efforts throughout the United States, the United Kingdom, Mexico, Canada, Puerto Rico, and Australia.

“FedEx is proud to support The Salvation Army’s emergency response programs through our FedEx Cares Delivering for Good initiative,” said Jenny Robertson, Vice President Corporate Communications, FedEx. “This new unit will be able to deliver critical relief to victims and other first responders when they need it most.”

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