

Howard County News Release

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County Executive Ken Ulman Dispatches Fire and Rescue Unit to Louisiana to Aid in Hurricane *Gustav* Evacuation

Ellicott City, MD—Howard County Executive Ken Ulman will be sending a Medic Unit from the Department of Fire and Rescue Services to Louisiana to assist with evacuation and emergency medical services in preparation for the arrival of Hurricane Gustav.

The unit will carry a crew of four emergency medical providers, which will allow the Howard County team to provide 24 hour service during the 14 day deployment.

“Howard County government is not hesitating to send our support to our friends down South,” said County Executive Ken Ulman. “When Chief Herr asked for an EMS unit to deploy to Louisiana, many of our first responders volunteered – of course, that doesn’t surprise me. I appreciate the work they do, and the work they are going to do. I wish them good luck and a safe trip.”

“Our county leadership has always allowed Howard County Fire and Rescue personnel to assist others in need,” said Howard County Fire Chief Joseph Herr. “I’m very proud of our highly trained and skilled personnel, and their courage to volunteer to take on assignments such as these which could possibly place them in harm’s way.”

The unit will be part of a 5-unit Medical Strike Team sent from Maryland, operating under the authority of the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS), which received a request for help through the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), a state-to-state Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC).

Two of the Howard County crew members carry Advanced Life Support certification, and two are certified at the Basic Life Support level.

The Strike Team departed from the Baltimore City Fire Department Training Academy on Saturday, and expects to arrive in Louisiana by Monday. Howard County expects to be reimbursed for costs by MEMA.

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