



# MIAMIBEACH

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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # 022-2010

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM: *Jorge M. Gonzalez*  
Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: January 22, 2010

SUBJECT: **HAITI RELIEF EFFORT**

As most people understand, the earthquake which struck Haiti on January 12, 2010 was a terrible tragedy which has left the country with thousands of fatalities and its infrastructure severely damaged. Since the earthquake which recently struck Haiti, the City has undertaken several efforts in an attempt to assist with emergency relief efforts.

It is very important to note that as this is a disaster of significant magnitude, recovery will take a long period of time and will be achieved in different phases. At different phases in the recovery effort, different needs for materials, goods and/or donations will be identified and shared by the County, which is the lead agency for emergencies, with each of the municipalities in Miami-Dade County.

At the present time, relief efforts in which the City might participate are limited due to conditions in Haiti. The airport has limited operational capability due to the size of the facility, and the Port facilities which normally would have been a mechanism to move cargo and freight to aid in the disaster relief is still largely out of commission.

Attached, please find correspondence sent by Miami-Dade County officials regarding coordinated efforts for Haiti relief. In addition, the City distributed the attached information flyer, which provides the best information we have on where and how to donate and to obtain information about survivors. At this point in time in the disaster relief, cash contributions are the most effectively used assistance for earthquake disaster victims in the country of Haiti. Included in the information list is a contact for the American Red Cross, which is one of the lead assistance agencies with a presence in the country of Haiti. The mailer also indicates the central locations in the City that have been established which can be utilized by individuals wishing to donate goods and materials to help the Haitian relief efforts. Only those items identified are being collected at this time.

The mailer also contains contact information for those seeking specific information about friends or relatives in Haiti.

The City's outreach efforts to distribute information on donations and contributions to assist in Haiti relief efforts have included contacting our respective homeowners associations, members of the faith-based community and the business community in the City. It has also been posted on the City's website.

As further needs are identified and transmitted through Miami-Dade County to the City, we will pass that information on to our citizens and various contact sources in order to facilitate and assist in the collection of either donations or the specific goods and materials needed at that point in time in the disaster.

Also attached for the Mayor and City Commission information is the Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> situation report which is provided to the City by the Miami-Dade Emergency Management group. The City is in routine contact with the County relative to the Haitian relief efforts and utilizes the County's resources and contacts as the most direct and most accurate means of assessing how best to assist the citizens and the country of Haiti.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me or Assistant City Managers Robert C. Middaugh or Hilda Fernandez on relief efforts.

  
JMG\RCM\sam  
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Attachments



Many residents and businesses have approached the City about how they can help the victims of the devastating disaster in Haiti. The City of Miami Beach is coordinating Haiti Earthquake Relief efforts alongside Miami-Dade County and other municipalities and local organizations.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

### **Financial Donations**

Persons interested in helping relief efforts in Haiti are being encouraged to make financial donations. Many worthy organizations are working on relief efforts and are accepting donations. Please make sure to do your research before making donations so you do not become a victim of fraud. The American Red Cross, one of the largest international relief organizations, is accepting financial donations. You can donate \$10 to the American Red Cross – charged to your cell phone bill – by texting "HAITI" to "90999." To contribute on-line to the American Red Cross, visit their website: [www.american.redcross.org/supporthaiti](http://www.american.redcross.org/supporthaiti). Donations can also be sent by check to:

American Red Cross of Greater Miami  
335 SW 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Miami, FL 33135

### **Drop-Off Sites / List of Goods**

As requested by Miami-Dade County's Office of Emergency Management, the City is **ONLY** collecting the following goods:

- ◆ Non-perishable food
- ◆ Surgical Masks
- ◆ Gloves (surgical and work)
- ◆ Water
- ◆ Camping tents

Collection sites in the City of Miami Beach are as follows:

<b>FIRE STATION #1</b> 1051 JEFFERSON AVENUE 24 hours a day, 7 days a week	<b>FIRE STATION #3</b> 5303 COLLINS AVENUE 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
<b>FIRE STATION #2</b> 2300 PINETREE DRIVE 24 hours a day, 7 days a week	<b>FIRE STATION #4</b> 6860 INIDAN CREEK DRIVE MIAMI BEACH, FL 3341 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
<b>MIAMI BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT</b> 1100 WASHINGTON AVENUE 24 hours a day, 7 days a week	<b>MIAMI BEACH CITY HALL</b> 1700 CONVENTION CENTER DR. 4 <sup>th</sup> FLOOR City Manager's Office & Mayor & Commission Office Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
<b>MIAMI BEACH REGIONAL LIBRARY</b> 227 22 ST. Monday – Thursday: 9:30a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Friday, Saturday: 9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Sunday 1:00p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	

### **Other Efforts**

Some local faith-based organizations have pre-established donation shipments to Haiti. The following organizations are collecting certain goods for shipment to Haiti at these designated locations:

- **St Johns Methodist Church** - 4770 Pinetree Drive  
**Only** collecting: rice, black beans, cooking oil, sugar, toiletries, clothes, and water
- **Jesus Es Rey** - 1133 71<sup>st</sup> Street  
**Only** collecting: rice, black beans, cooking oil, sugar, toiletries, clothes, and water

***To Get Information About Friends or Family***

Communications within Haiti remain very difficult at this time. The State Department Operations Center has set up the following phone number for Americans seeking information about family members in Haiti: 1-888-407-4747. Due to heavy volume, some callers may receive a recording.

The American Red Cross has set up a system called Family Links at [www.icrc.org/familylinks](http://www.icrc.org/familylinks) to assist in locating family members.

For more information, please visit Miami-Dade County's Office of Emergency Management website at <http://www.miamidade.gov/oem/haiti.asp>, call 3-1-1 or contact George Navarro, City of Miami Beach Emergency Management Coordinator, at 305-673-7120.



Charlie Crist  
Governor

# Operation Haiti Relief

## Situation Report # 7

Tuesday, January 19, 2010, at 1300 hrs EST



David Halstead  
Interim Director

### Federal Actions/Reports:

- USAID and the U.S. State Department are the lead federal agencies for international events. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has been tasked with assisting in the coordination of the U.S. response.
- The Region IV RRCC in Atlanta is currently at a Level II (Partial Activation); Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) 1, 6, 8, 11, and 13 have been activated.
- Any flight from the U.S. to Haiti will be considered by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as an international flight, requiring the FAA's approval of flight plans and flight activity. The State of Florida does not regulate pilots or aircraft.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency has tasked:
  - The Florida-Task Force 1 (82 personnel) and Florida-Task Force 2 (84 personnel) are on the ground in Haiti conducting search and rescue.
  - Region IV has resources in Haiti: an Incident Response Coordination Team, International Medical Surgical Response Team, 5 Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (3 more alerted), and a Fatality Management Assessment Team.
  - Region IV Incident Management Assistance Team is at the State of Florida Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
- 72 rescues made by U.S. Search and Rescue teams.
- The Transportation Security Administration and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Liaisons are on-site at the Florida EOC.

### Areas of Concern:

- A 5.8 magnitude earthquake occurred near the British territory, the Cayman Islands, at 0923 EST today. There is no tsunami warning and no damage reports yet.

### Emergency Support Function 15:

- ESF 15 is providing direction to all non-governmental organizations (NGOs) running charity drives through [www.volunteerflorida.org](http://www.volunteerflorida.org).
- Royal Caribbean Cruises has donated space on their cruise ships to NGOs in order to move supplies from Florida ports to Port Labadee, Haiti.

### State Actions:

- Executive Order #10-06.
- State EOC is at a Level 2 (Partial).
- Regional Coordinators (RC) 2, 6, and 7 are in Miami-Dade County. RC 5 is in Orange and Seminole Counties. RC 4 is in Hillsborough County and RC 1 is on standby.
- SERT is conducting daily conference calls with county emergency managers and emergency management partners.
- The Florida Emergency Information Line has been activated (1-800-342-3557).

### Repatriated U.S. Citizens:

(State and local assistance offered upon arrival)

	Arrivals	Served	Hospitalizations
Homestead	2,329	452	N/A
MIA	247	0	N/A
Orlando	123	80	N/A
Sanford	1,709	671	N/A
Ft. Lauderdale	116	27	N/A
Opa-Locka	12	0	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,536</b>	<b>1,230</b>	<b>131</b>

- A unified Flight Coordination Cell is tracking incoming flights from Haiti to Florida 24/7.
- SERT is offering assistance to U.S. citizens returning from Haiti for repatriation. Coordination efforts are ongoing with impacted county emergency management staff in the repatriation effort.
- A State Liaison Officer remains at the Orlando/Sanford International Airport to assist with the 24 hour repatriation operations.
- The American Red Cross is providing food, water, blankets, hygiene supplies, mental health, and health services to repatriated U.S. citizens in Orlando, Miami, Fort Lauderdale, and Palm Beach.
  - Served 2,400 meals and 4,500 snacks.
- Coordination efforts are being conducted between the U.S. HHS and Florida ESF 8 to ensure medical support is available and ready to receive injured U.S. citizens from Haiti.



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**CARLOS ALVAREZ  
MAYOR**

January 16, 2010

Dear Colleagues:

As our neighbors in Haiti continue to recover in the wake of Thursday's terrible earthquake, Miami-Dade County is poised to take the next step in our community's relief efforts.

Beginning on Sunday, January 17, 2010, all Miami-Dade County Police and Fire Stations, as well as Libraries, will serve as drop off sites for the collection of much needed supplies to send to the people of Haiti. At this time, we are asking that donated items be limited to nonperishable food, water, gloves of all types, surgical masks and camping tents.

As we work to extend a helping hand to the island, we are asking for your city's participation in this effort and the utilization of police and fire stations and libraries in your community to serve as drop off sites. To confirm your city's participation or if you have questions, please call (305) 468-5954.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Carlos Alvarez.

**Carlos Alvarez  
Mayor**

Handwritten signature of Audrey Edmonson.

**Audrey Edmonson  
Commissioner, District 3**



**MEMORANDUM**  
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**Commissioner Rebeca Sosa, District 6**

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**TO:** Honorable Members of the Federal, State  
and Municipal Governments in Miami-  
Dade County

**DATE:** January 16, 2010

**FROM:** Rebeca Sosa  
County Commissioner, District 6

**SUBJECT:** Coordination of Haiti Relief & Recovery Efforts  
in Miami-Dade County

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Pursuant to delegated authority granted by the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners to Commissioner Audrey Edmondson who is spearheading the Board of County Commissioners response to the coordination of Haiti relief & recovery efforts in Miami-Dade County. I have been tasked with the project leadership of serving as the liaison with Federal, State, & Local Government Officials, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Colleges & Universities, and Chambers of Commerce in Miami-Dade County to coordinate relief efforts.

Attached, are several documents from both Mayor Carlos Alvarez and County Commissioner Audrey Edmonson that highlight the areas of collection that we should focus on. In order to best provide immediate assistance to Haiti, it is suggested that all of us collect the same products so that we can logistically sort and prepare to ship out ASAP.

The collection drive should focus on the following items:

**Non-perishable food**  
**Water**  
**Surgical Masks**  
**Camping tents**  
**Gloves (surgical and work)**

Miami-Dade County has designated County libraries, police and fire stations to receive donations beginning tomorrow Sunday, January 17, 2010.

At this time, and on behalf of Miami-Dade County government, I respectfully ask you to join the efforts with a coordinated response by collecting these items and opening up similar facilities as donation sites.

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**Coordination of Haiti Relief & Recovery Efforts in Miami-Dade County  
January 17, 2010**

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Please do not hesitate to contact me at 305 439-1049 or my Chief of Staff, Roly Marante at 786 295-1836, if you have any questions.

**All information will be coordinated with Mayor Carlos Alvarez and Commissioner Audrey Edmonson in a timely fashion so they can make decisions as needed.**

Working together we will demonstrate once again to the citizens of Haiti who are in dire need and the world, that the people and governments of Miami-Dade County are the most compassionate community in the world during moments of need.

c.c.

The Honorable Carlos Alvarez, Mayor

The Honorable Chairman Dennis C. Moss, and Members of the Board of County Commissioners

George Burgess, County Manager

R.A. Cuevas, Jr. County Attorney

Harvey Ruvlin, Clerk of the Courts