

# Action Update

## EMERGENCY DISASTER SERVICES

[Disaster.SalvationArmyUSA.org](http://Disaster.SalvationArmyUSA.org)



*The Salvation Army personnel across the country are preparing for, responding to and helping communities recover from disaster events year round. The information in this update provides a snapshot of the work of our dedicated emergency disaster services professionals who work tirelessly to meet the needs of disaster survivors and first responders.*

## THE SALVATION ARMY OF ATLANTA RESPONDS TO I-85 BRIDGE COLLAPSE

**Atlanta, GA (March 31, 2017)** – The Salvation Army Metro Atlanta Command responded to a collapsed bridge on I-85 caused by an extensive fire by serving over 200 meals, snacks, and drinks to emergency personnel. A Salvation Army canteen (mobile feeding kitchen) from the Metro Atlanta Area Command’s Red Shield Shelter was deployed on site from 10:00pm to 4:00am.

“We were in continuous contact with GEMA and the Fulton County Emergency Management team,” said Major Jack Butler, Emergency Disaster Director for The Salvation Army’s Georgia Division. “They were delighted we were there to provide services to emergency personnel.”

Service efforts to emergency personnel extended as needed throughout the night until 4:00am, at which time Fulton Emergency Management thanked The Salvation Army for their timely service. In the times of disaster, Salvation Army officers and staff provide food, hydration, spiritual care, and if needed, shelter for impacted individuals, families, and emergency personnel. Mobile kitchens and canteen units are capable of reaching disaster sites quickly to serve those in need.

“We were able to serve fire and police as they contained the disaster and made the area safe,” said Sergeant Janeane Schmidt, Director of The Salvation Army’s Metro Atlanta Red Shield Shelter. “The city of Atlanta can rest assured that The Salvation Army stands ready to help at a moment’s notice to help in times of need.”

Adapted from a press release by Donald Felice [donald.felice@usw.salvationarmy.org](mailto:donald.felice@usw.salvationarmy.org)







## SALVATION ARMY SUPPORT CONTINUES IN SUPPORT OF ONGOING WILDFIRES

**Oklahoma City, OK (March 9, 2017)** – The Salvation Army continued its support of the Oklahoma Forestry Service and multiple firefighting task forces from numerous counties as wildfires escalated in northwestern Oklahoma. As of the evening of March 8th, over 118k acres had burned down in Harper and Woodward counties as well as 715k acres burned in north Harper and Beaver counties crossing the Kansas/Oklahoma state line.

Throughout the day additional fire resources continued to roll in to the staging area. The Salvation Army was based at the staging center, serving on site as well as sending meals to the frontline firefighters. The Salvation Army provided over 1,000 meals, 2,500 drinks and 1,500 snacks. Two Salvation Army Officers, three employees and one volunteer provided 99 hours of service on March 8th.

Major Ernest Hull, Commanding Officer for The Salvation Army of Enid, states “We are taking care of the first responders who are fighting these raging wildfires in northern Oklahoma. We are blessed to be in a community who is helping us with supplies so we can meet the needs of those who are relying on us during this event.” When asked what it means to him to have the Advisory Board Chair volunteering, Major Hull responded

“To have my advisory board chair so invested in The Salvation Army means a lot to me. He truly loves our work and had no problem responding to the call to serve in Woodward and place his business on hold so we could serve people in need.”

Demetrius Office, The Salvation Army of Enid’s Advisory Board Chair, explains how he became plugged in to The Salvation Army, “I received an invitation to see what The Salvation Army was doing in Enid and I just fell in love with the mission and programs. I went to a couple of disaster trainings and found I could be of service to people in our community in times of disaster as well as others times of need.” When asked about his experience serving on this event, Office replied “Firefighters from all over the state are here to fight these fires. It’s an honor to serve them and the support we are receiving from the Woodward community is amazing.”

The Salvation Army continues to work closely with Emergency Management and the Oklahoma Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster to ensure the response is closely coordinated. Our support will continue until assistance is no longer needed.

Adapted from a press release by Cindy Fuller  
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## SALVATION ARMY ASSISTANCE CONTINUES FOR SURVIVORS OF HISTORIC SAN JOSE FLOODS

**Santa Clara, CA (February 28, 2017)** – Staff, officers, and volunteers from The Salvation Army Silicon Valley Command spent several days and nights providing much needed care, comfort, warm clothing, and nourishing meals to hundreds of victims of the historic San Jose floods.

In mid- February, the Army, in partnership with the City of San Jose and the American Red Cross began responding to the needs of nearly 300 evacuees staying at two emergency shelters. Salvation Army staff and volunteers worked tirelessly, preparing dinners, lunches, snacks and hydration. To date, The Salvation Army has provided 1,217 meals, 1,800 clothing items, 260 shoes, 250 socks, and 50 blankets.

“We are blessed to be able to help so many devastated by the floods,” said Major David Yardley who leads the

Army’s Silicon Valley Command. At the height of the flood concerns, an estimated 14,000 residents were under mandatory evacuation orders, many of whom were rescued

by fire officials in boats when neighborhoods were submerged under water after swollen Coyote Creek overflowed.

Going forward, The Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services management is assessing how

best to assist the most vulnerable in the community. “Need is great, especially among those who lost everything,” said John McKnight, Director of Emergency and Disaster Services.

Adapted from a press release by Sally Haims Sally.  
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## EASTERN TERRITORY HOLDS EDS DIRECTORS MEETING

**West Nyack, NY (March 3, 2017)** – Emergency Disaster Service directors and personnel from across the Northeast gathered at Territorial Headquarters for their annual Eastern Territorial Divisional EDS Director Meetings.

These gatherings allow the territorial disaster directors to talk about what they did right over the past year, their plans for the coming year, and to look at what can be done better in the future. Cincinnati Area Command EDS Director, Major Bob Klenk stated, "The make-up of the territory varies greatly and the actions that happen in New York are vastly different than what is encountered in Southern Ohio."

Major Klenk added, "It helps us do a better job in our own areas when we hear how others are doing this work in theirs."

The workshop sessions included a myriad of topics including future training opportunities, both internally and with our external partners. Several sessions were held to talk about the lessons learned from the past years work, including the Salvation Army's

efforts at both the Republican National Convention, which was held in Cleveland, and the Democratic National Convention, which was held in Philadelphia. The directors spent time discussing the core capabilities of EDS and how these might intersect with other Salvation Army initiatives. These dialogs included a working session with territorial administration to discuss the future of disaster services in this territory.

The work of Emergency Disaster Services within The Salvation Army is a vital part of the overall mission of the organization and allows those served to experience the love of Christ in a physical way, and this has

to be done well. Territorial EDS Coordinator, Mike Orfitelli, added "We need to constantly get better at meeting people and serving them where they are at and these territorial meetings of our disaster personnel creates a space for this to happen."

Adapted from a press release by Thad Hicks  
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## EMOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL CARE AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF DISASTER RESPONSE

**Oklahoma City, OK (March 13, 2017)** – As wildfires became somewhat contained in northwestern Oklahoma, The Salvation Army was released, following three full days of service. Local families and ranchers have seen a tremendous level of devastation with loss of life, livestock, hay supplies, homes and more.

The Salvation Army was located at the staging center of the operations for the firefighting response. Many of the various firefighters and members of task forces came in for meetings and to take a break from the smoke and heat. Although food and hydration were important to the wellbeing of responders, emotional and spiritual care was just as important. As wildfires continued to be fought and responders continued to come by the canteen for a meal, a snack or a drink, Salvation Army Officers were available to provide a ministry of presence.

Last Wednesday morning, Major Ben Walters visited with some of the Forestry and Firefighter personnel who had arrived from Louisiana. Their job was to operate bulldozers on the front lines of a fire and escort brush fire trucks to where they needed to be. They clear breaks as well as set fires to create breaks ahead of wildfires. Sometimes it works – sometimes it doesn't. These men put their lives in danger every time they drive into the fire to guard the rest of those involved, including those being affected from the destruction. After they explained to Major Walters what they did, he asked if he could pray with them before they left for the day. After he

prayed, one of them told Major Walters “I’ve been doing this for years and I’ve never had someone pray for me before going out there.”

Each morning, Major Walters watched trucks replenish their water tanks; as he watched, he noticed the words “To guard my every neighbor” on the hood of a truck.

Those words spoke deeply to Major’s heart. “There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” John 15:13 NLT. Major Ben Walters states “I thank the Lord for allowing me to do this work.” As Major Walters prepared to leave, he said “It was an amazing experience. Through the handshakes and the hugs, the kindhearted words, the mutual appreciation of service, I go home a very blessed man.”



As The Salvation Army crew packed up to leave, there were many words of appreciation and blessings being shared. Major Ernest Hull stated “The crew serving with me in Woodward was super!”

During service in Woodward, The Salvation Army provided 1,850 meals, 5,275 drinks, 3,420 snacks and 268 hours of service over the course of three days. Steven Hartsook, Divisional Emergency Disaster Services Director for the Arkansas-Oklahoma Division of The Salvation Army states “We are blessed in this division to have such amazing disaster workers that give of themselves in service to others.”

Adapted from a press release by Cindy Fuller [cindy.fuller@uss.salvationarmy.org](mailto:cindy.fuller@uss.salvationarmy.org)

## THE SALVATION ARMY IS ASSISTING SURVIVORS OF THE PERRYVILLE, MO TORNADO

**St. Louis, MO (February 29, 2017)** – The Salvation Army Midland Division Emergency Disaster Services (EDS) canteen was on site in Perryville, Missouri to help survivors of the Perryville tornado that touched down Tuesday evening, February 28.

The canteen is a mobile kitchen vehicle of The Salvation Army. This canteen was based out of Cape Girardeau and Salvation Army personnel served breakfast, lunch and dinner to survivors and emergency responders. The canteen was located at the Perry Park Center.

Salvation Army EDS personnel also took part in mobile distribution on Highway N in Perryville.

# THE SALVATION ARMY RESPONDS TO WESTERN NEW YORK WIND STORM

**Buffalo, NY (March 9, 2017)** — The Salvation Army is serving those affected by wind related damage and power outages in cooperation with Niagara and Erie County Emergency Management. The Salvation Army has opened a shelter at its Lockport center and is assisting at 10 warming centers across Erie County as temperatures drop and people wait for power to be restored. We have resources deployed across the state to assist with operations in the greater buffalo area and will be providing services throughout the weekend. Those seeking assistance are directed to contact their local emergency management for services in their area.

The Army has also been supporting a warming shelter in Batavia (Genesee County) and will be providing mobile hydration to first responders and utility crews across Genesee County tomorrow.

Adapted from a press release by Michael R. Schwartz  
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## CLEAN UP AND SALVATION ARMY SERVICE CONTINUES IN SAN ANTONIO

**San Antonio, TX (February 24, 2017)** — Staff and volunteers from The Salvation Army San Antonio Area Command spent several days serving snacks, meals, and drinks, and providing clean up kits to residents following four reported tornado touchdowns that caused significant damage to a number of communities earlier this week.

One of the major challenges to service has been the extensive amount of debris on the streets caused by fallen trees and damage to homes and businesses. Much of the service provided was facilitated by pickup truck with staff delivering clean up kits and refreshment on foot from door to door. Meals were served at fixed sites from two mobile kitchens.

“It has been a privilege to help those who are working so hard to clean up their homes and streets,” said Brad Mayhar, Public Relations/Media Manager for The Salvation Army San Antonio Command. “The community has really pulled together and The

Salvation Army is here to help in whatever way we can. Homeowners have really appreciated the clean up kits.”

The Salvation Army has distributed 795 snacks, 653 meals, 1,568 drinks, and 177 clean up kits. Additionally, staff and volunteers have prayed with 111 people during the response efforts.

ShIPLEY Do-Nuts Bitters & Blanco provided donuts and Taco Cabana delivered tacos that were distributed to residents and first responders by The Salvation Army.

“We are so grateful to our community partners

for their continued support of The Salvation Army and our relief efforts,” said Mayhar.

Mobile food service has ended and The Salvation Army in San Antonio continued to assess the situation and provide support and assistance where needed.

Adapted from a press release by Philip Burn  
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# DUAL-PURPOSE DISASTER RELIEF TRAILER DONATED TO WISCONSIN UPPER MICHIGAN DIVISION

**Atlanta, GA (March 31, 2017)** – The Emergency Disaster Services Department of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan is sporting a new, innovative disaster relief trailer. The trailer is equipped with a unique radio mobile communications unit, air conditioning unit, and ample storage for emergency product distribution such as beverages and small meals. It was donated to the Division by Sqwincher Corporation, a leading manufacturer of heat and cold stress hydration products, and presented to the public in January.

The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) system will allow the trailer to serve as the hub for communication transmissions during disaster relief efforts and general ministry outreach throughout the Wisconsin and Upper Michigan area, a first for this region. The trailer can accommodate two to three staff people at any given time.

“This trailer is the first of its kind for The Salvation Army in this territory that provides a dual purpose in terms of support and outreach at an event,” said Major Steven Merritt, Divisional Commander of the Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Division. “Not only are we going to be able to communicate effectively to the residents of a particular community during an emergency, but also help sustain them with supplies of hydration products and other necessities. This trailer really allows us to broaden our reach in

terms of the number of people we can now serve in this area.”

The idea for the trailer donation originated when the two companies joined efforts to help storm victims in Baton Rouge, La., following the historic flooding there this past August. Sqwincher had donated 47 pallets of hydrating drinks and other

products to the ongoing relief effort. At the time, Salvation Army volunteers were utilizing numerous drink coolers to store the products as they were being distributed to the Baton Rouge residents.

“We realized immediately how much more effective a product dispensary and vending trailer would be in assisting during a disaster and community outreach situations like this, and we wanted to help,” said Dan Rosado, vice president of

sales and marketing at Sqwincher. “The Salvation Army provides a critical support system for people in need and we are thrilled to be able to help in this effort.”

For now the trailer is being stored in northern Wisconsin. Thanks to Sqwincher, when the next disaster strikes The Salvation Army will be ready to roll, providing disaster relief to all involved.

Adapted from a press release by Terri Leece & Krachel Greenwood, [Terri.Leece@usc.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Terri.Leece@usc.salvationarmy.org), [Krachel.Greenwood@usc.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Krachel.Greenwood@usc.salvationarmy.org)



## SALVATION ARMY IN WESTERN PA BUILDING BRIDGES IN CONNELLSVILLE

**Connellsville, PA (March 31, 2017)** – In August of 2016, both the Connellsville and Bullskin Townships experienced wide spread damage to homes throughout those two communities. The Salvation Army served meals and provided emergency assistance throughout the response phase of that disaster, creating some great partnerships with local agencies. One of those groups is the Connellsville Community Ministries Agency, a faith based group that gave leadership to the long term recovery effort in that area. They sought help from Michael Riemer, Director of Disaster Services for The Salvation Army, Western PA Division, because of the excellent service provided earlier in the disaster.

Using funds from the Lily Foundation, The Salvation Army was able to meet some unmet needs, helping to rebuild access to homes where the floods had made homes totally inaccessible. Homeowners expressed their gratitude to Lily and to The Salvation Army for the compassion and generosity demonstrated throughout this difficult time for the community.

Adapted from a press release by Michael A. Orfitelli, [michael.orfitelli@use.salvationarmy.org](mailto:michael.orfitelli@use.salvationarmy.org)

## SNAPSHOT OF ACTIVITIES

### CENTRAL TERRITORY

#### Northern Division

Breakfast For The Homeless

Meals: 175; Drinks: 200; Snacks: 175

Apartment Fire

Drinks: 24; Snacks: 15

House Fire

Drinks: 118; Snacks: 25

Red Bull Crashed Ice

Meals: 323; Drinks: 241; Snacks: 431

Family Assistance Workshop

Meals: 55; Drinks: 55; Snacks: 55

Homeless Veteran Feeding

Meals: 80; Drinks: 150; Snacks: 150

Scout Day

Meals: 560; Drinks: 700; Snacks: 550

House Fire

Drinks: 65; Snacks: 15

House Fire

Drinks: 136; Snacks: 25

Ice Rescue Training Cass Lake

Meals: 70; Drinks: 60; Snacks: 25

St Patrick Day Parade

Meals: 33

MN VOAD Conference

Meals: 250; Drinks: 200; Snacks: 125

Homeless Veteran Feeding

Meals: 40; Drinks: 75; Snacks: 60

Lexington House Fire

Drinks: 12

Citadel breakfast/Homeless

Meals: 175; Drinks: 200; Snacks: 175

#### Metropolitan Division

Search and Rescue

Meals: 75; Drinks: 141; Snacks: 180

#### Heartland Division

Apartment Fire

Meals: 62; Drinks: 85; Snacks: 37

Ottawa IL Tornado

Meals: 1,195; Drinks: 1,813; Snacks: 809

Washburn IL Tornado

Meals: 330; Drinks: 420; Snacks: 116

Midland Division

Perryville Tornado

Meals: 4,583; Drinks: 8,573;

Snacks: 7,373

### EASTERN TERRITORY

#### Empire States Division

Western NY Wind Storm and Train

Derailments

Meals: 1,650; Drinks: 2,000;

Snacks: 1,000

Winter Storm Stella

Meals: 70; Drinks: 110; Snacks: 40

Syracuse Power Outage

Meals: 56; Drinks: 110; Snacks: 56

Greene County Police Funeral

Drinks: 725; Snacks: 655

Buffalo Lafayette Apartment Fire

Meals: 90; Drinks: 360; Snacks: 180

Milford UMC Fire

Drinks: 75; Snacks: 75

Buffalo Jewett Ave 3 Alarm Fire

Drinks: 152

### SOUTHERN TERRITORY

#### Arkansas & Oklahoma Division

Oklahoma Wildfire

Meals: 1,850; Drinks: 4,275;

Snacks: 3,420

#### Georgia Division

Ellaville Tornado

Meals: 676; Drinks: 847; Snacks: 535

#### Texas Division

San Antonio Tornadoes

Meals: 653; Drinks: 1,568; Snacks: 795

### WESTERN TERRITORY

#### Golden State Division

San Jose Floods

Meals: 1,217

#### Del Oro Division

4 Alarm Apartment Fire

Meals: 838; Snacks: 160

## NATIONAL SATERN LIAISON TO SPEAK AT NATIONAL HURRICANE CONFERENCE

**NHQ (March 31, 2017)** – National SATERN Liaison Bill Feist (WB8BZH), along with several other amateur radio subject matter experts, will conduct an Amateur Radio workshop at the National Hurricane Conference. The workshop will be held from 8:30 AM until 12 noon on Wednesday, March 19, 2017 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in New Orleans, LA. The Amateur Radio Workshop is free and does not require registration for the rest of the National Hurricane Conference.

Feist will present a twenty (20) minute talk on SATERN and the services it provides before, during and after a hurricane. This includes monitoring the International SATERN SSB and Digi-Net frequencies, handling emergency, priority and health and welfare messages and providing The Salvation Army with tactical communications and technical expertise. Feist will also discuss some of the communications resources SATERN can provide in a hurricane response.

In addition to his presentation on the Hurricane Watch Net, Bobby Graves (KB5HAV), Hurricane Watch Net Manager, will also do a brief memorial presentation to honor three people who passed away in 2016. Those remembered have provided significant contributions to hurricane response in past years. They include Dr. Bill Gray, who produced the highly respected hurricane forecasts each year as former head of the Colorado State University's Tropical Meteorology Project; Don Kay (KØIND), long-time member and co-founder of the Hurricane Watch Net and Major Patrick E. McPherson (WW9E), SATERN founder.

The entire Amateur Radio Workshop will be provided in a live stream at <http://www.nsradio.org/stream.htm>. There is an archive of video files for the Amateur Radio Workshops of past National Hurricane Conferences on the Hurricane Watch Net YouTube channel.



## LINKS TO ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

To view all press releases visit: [Disaster.SalvationArmyUSA.org](http://Disaster.SalvationArmyUSA.org)

**February 23, 2107: The Salvation Army Provides Comfort and Food to Evacuees of Modesto Flooding**

<http://disaster.salvationarmyusa.org/news/2017/02/23/the-salvation-army-provides-comfort-and-food-to-evacuees-of-modesto-flooding>

**March 8, 2017: Multiple Units Aid Northwestern Oklahoma Wildfire Responders**

<http://disaster.salvationarmyusa.org/news/2017/03/08/multiple-units-aid-northwestern-oklahoma-wildfire-responders>

**March 11, 2017: The Salvation Army Responds to Large Buffalo Apartment Fire**

<http://disaster.salvationarmyusa.org/news/2017/03/11/the-salvation-army-responds-to-large-buffalo-apartment-fire>

**March 13, 2017: The Salvation Army Responds to Large Church Fire in Otsego County**

<http://disaster.salvationarmyusa.org/news/2017/03/13/the-salvation-army-responds-to-large-church-fire-in-otsego-county>

**March 23, 2017: AEP Supports The Salvation Army's Emergency Preparations**

<http://disaster.salvationarmyusa.org/news/2017/03/23/aep-supports-the-salvation-army's-emergency-preparations>

**March 27, 2017: Columbus, MS Salvation Army Supporting Law Enforcement after Deputy Shot**

<http://disaster.salvationarmyusa.org/news/2017/03/27/columbus>

**March 29, 2017: Salvation Army Teams Begin Cyclone Debbie Response in Australia**

<http://disaster.salvationarmyusa.org/news/2017/03/29/salvation-army-teams-begin-cyclone-debbie-response-in-australia>

**March 31, 2017: The Salvation Army Responds to 3 Alarm Fire in Buffalo, NY**

<http://disaster.salvationarmyusa.org/news/2017/03/31/the-salvation-army-responds-to-3-alarm-fire-in-buffalo>



For more information on The Salvation Army's emergency disaster response efforts visit our website at

[Disaster.SalvationArmyUSA.org](http://Disaster.SalvationArmyUSA.org)