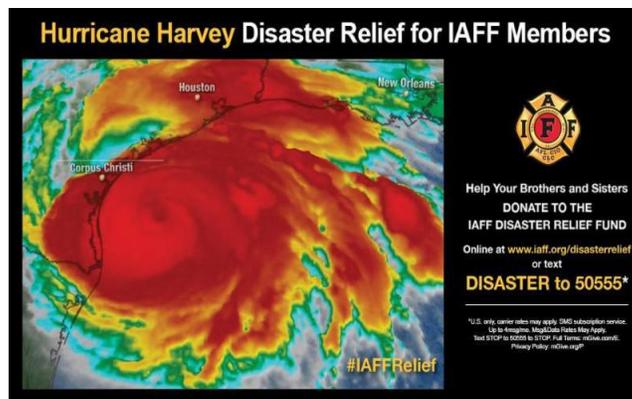


Brothers and Sisters,

The images are unavoidable, fire fighters in boats scouring Houston and the surrounding area rescuing people from an unimaginable deluge of storm water as a result of Hurricane Harvey. Since the beginning of that effort OAPFF members have been on the scene. As part of Ohio Task Force 1 (OHTF1), these members from throughout the Buckeye State were on the road as rain started falling on Southeast Texas. Throughout their deployment OHTF1 has made dozens of rescues and will continue to make more until the flood waters subside. Houston is not the only city to have been served by OHTF1. They have been helping in the surrounding areas as well in cities like Katy, Corpus Christie, and other smaller towns like Tovali and Robstown. On behalf of the OAPFF, I want to thank these members for their service.

The sad truth is that, while OHTF1 and the other USAR teams are in the area helping, IAFF members from Southeast Texas are still on the job despite dealing with their own personal losses. Early estimates are that 1000's of our Brother and Sister Professional Fire Fighters have been impacted by Hurricane Harvey on a personal level. As they continue to serve the citizens making rescues and trying to mitigate flood damage to the public, their own houses are damaged and underwater. One Houston Fire Fighter had not been to his home three days after the flooding began. He only knew that "it was flooded" with no idea how badly damaged it was. Yet he continued to serve the public. He wasn't alone, many others in Houston, Baytown, Galveston, Corpus Christi, Port Arthur, and others are doing the same. This is the hallmark of our profession - *service above self*.

The devastation waiting for these fire fighters in Texas when they return home will be life altering. Fortunately, the IAFF has established a Disaster Relief Fund that will aid these members in restoring their homes and rebuilding. The IAFF already has a team on the ground beginning the initial stages of assistance that these members need.



**In a show of solidarity and support with our Brothers and Sisters affected by Hurricane Harvey, the OAPFF is making a donation of \$5000 today to the IAFF Relief Fund. That is roughly \$20 per OAPFF Local. I am personally asking each of you to make a donation to the Fund. (See donation information below). Ohio is a**

**leader in this IAFF and this is how we show it, by helping other fire fighters in need.**

You can help on a personal level too. By giving to the IAFF Disaster Relief Fund you can ensure that your donation is being used to help fellow fire fighters in their time of need. Donations can be in any amount that you choose. Please consider donating to aid Texas Fire Fighters.

Donations to the IAFF Disaster Relief Fund can be made at [iaff.org/disasterrelief](http://iaff.org/disasterrelief), or make a \$10 donation by texting DISASTER to 50555\*.

Thank you in advance for your support and generosity.

Stay Safe, Stay Involved, Stay United,



Michael P. Taylor  
OAPFF President

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