



# OESNEWS

## Governor's Office of Emergency Services

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Local Government and Private-sector Partners Provide Assistance to Victims of Mexico Flooding**

PASADENA – Today 1,500 cots and 42,000 Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) were delivered to Mexico to help with flood relief efforts in the Tabasco region, thanks to a coordinated effort between the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), the federal, local and Mexican governments, UC San Diego, and the United Parcel Service (UPS).

"In order to relieve the pain and suffering of our neighbors in Mexico, we worked together in a true public-private partnership to quickly get supplies where they needed to go," said Henry Renteria, director of OES. "UPS stepped up to the plate to provide shipping, UC San Diego helped with staging the supplies, and OES provided coordination with the assistance of the US Embassy in Mexico City, the Mexican government and U.S. Customs and Border Protection."

UPS transported the supplies from their hub in Ontario to Mexico City Saturday afternoon, where the Mexican military will receive and transport them to the impacted region.

"The Tabasco floods in Mexico have been horrific to the Mexican citizens and the world," said Bruce DD Mac Rae, Pacific Region Public Affairs Manager of UPS. "Working with OES is another way we at UPS can support all the efforts by so many Californians to get help to Mexico in their time of need."

In addition to the delivery of food and cots, on November 7, OES and local government fire personnel coordinated the delivery of swift water rescue equipment to officials of the Mexican government. Using the OES Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System, the resources were collected from 13 swift water rescue teams from throughout California. The equipment included inflatable rubber boats, gasoline-powered motors, paddles, personal floatation devices, and dry suits.

Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Task Force 7 members from both the Sacramento City Fire Department and Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District, accompanied by an OES Fire and Rescue representative, transported the equipment to Calexico for transfer to the Mexican government.

"Members of Task Force 7 are more than happy to assist in any way we can to help our neighbors in Mexico," said Tom Neville, captain of Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District. "Normally we are in the forefront of a disaster with a hands-on type of effort, but in this instance we were tasked with providing resources. In partnership with OES Fire and Rescue, local government, and the private sector we were able to provide valuable material support to Mexico's first-responders."

In early September, Governor Schwarzenegger participated in a Border Governor's Conference in Mexico that addressed this issue of providing disaster assistance across borders in times of need. This week's shipment of supplies was in keeping with the goals established at that conference.

For more information, call OES Public Information Office at 916-845-8400.