

MEDIA RELEASE



Governor Bob Taft

TAFT SENDS OFF STATE EMPLOYEES TO HELP IN HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORT *ODNR Sends Personnel and Resources to Louisiana; Ohio Prepares to Provide Housing for Evacuees*

COLUMBUS (September 4, 2005) – Governor Bob Taft today helped send off a group from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources who are headed for Louisiana to assist in the hurricane response and relief effort.

“I want to thank these state employees for their extraordinary service and the important role that they will play in the recovery effort,” Taft said. “They are among thousands of Ohioans who are doing their part to help the hurricane victims and Ohio will continue to stand by and be ready to assist in any way that we can.”

A caravan of 24 law enforcement officers from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, along with 10 boats, a command truck and support trailer, left from the State of Ohio Emergency Operations Center in Columbus on Sunday afternoon. They are expecting to spend the next two weeks in the New Orleans area where they will provide law enforcement assistance on the water and help in the search and recovery mission.

Also today, Governor Taft announced that Ohio is preparing to provide temporary housing for approximately 1,000 evacuees who are expected to arrive in Ohio later in the week. The Ohio Emergency Management Agency is working with numerous state and volunteer agencies to coordinate this effort. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

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