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1-866-309-3811
Please Deliver To: Regional Municipality of York

Ministry of Community Safety
and Correctional Services

Ministère de la Sécurité communautaire
et des Services correctionnels

Commissioner of
Emergency Management

Commissaire à la
Gestion des situations d'urgence

25 Grosvenor Street
11th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 1Y6
Tel: (416) 327-9734
Fax: (416) 327-9739

25, rue Grosvenor
11^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 1Y6
Tél. : (416) 327-9734
Télec. : (416) 327-9739

REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE

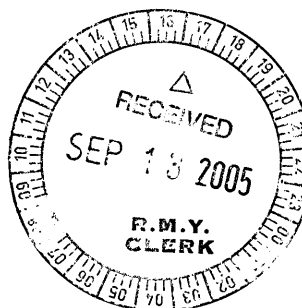
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Chair
CFO



Ontario



September 9, 2005

To the Head of Council,

In the aftermath of the devastating impact of Hurricane Katrina on the southern United States, Premier Dalton McGuinty has generously offered Ontario's assistance with relief operations in the four states most affected by this natural disaster. The Premier has asked me to lead provincial coordination efforts, in conjunction with the federal government, and to focus on recovery and restoration activities.

The province is currently facilitating the participation of provincial government employees, in cooperation with the federal government and the Canadian Red Cross, to assist in relief efforts in a coordinated manner. In particular, we stress that it is essential that liability and cost issues be clearly addressed before deployment.

Please note that the Governors of Virginia and Louisiana have just issued an urgent announcement on the Emergency Email and Wireless Network to other States regarding self-deployment. This is due to an increasing number of fire, rescue and police units self-deploying to assist in relief efforts, creating additional logistic and convergence problems. To curb this, Virginia and Louisiana have asked that States communicate with their fire, rescue and police units to ensure that they follow the prescribed Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Emergency Management Advisory Council (EMAC) procedure when offering aid.

The Canadian Red Cross is working closely with the Province of Ontario to ensure that individuals deployed under the banner of the Canadian Red Cross have been adequately trained, inoculated and screened to ensure their health and safety. You may be hearing of some emergency workers or others assisting in relief efforts but these are individuals who have volunteered to assist of their own volition.

Therefore, we would ask your cooperation in refraining from self-deploying your staff or resources before contacting us. If you have any questions, require information or receive requests for assistance from the United States, please call our Provincial INFO Line at 1-888-886-3998. We will also communicate to you any requests or other relevant information that we receive.

We are asking that you distribute this letter to all of your Departments, Boards, Authorities, Utilities and Services, etc. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Fantino', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Julian Fantino
Commissioner of Emergency Management

c: Don Guy – Premier's Office
Tony Dean – Secretary of the Cabinet
Katherine Ward – Minister's Office
Gerry Stuart – A/Deputy Minister
Bernie Moyle - Fire Marshal of Ontario
Ron Bain – ADM, Policing Services
Jim Cowan – Director of Communications
Patricia Vanini – Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Community Emergency Management Coordinators
Ministry Emergency Management Coordinators
Kate Manson-Smith – Cabinet Office
Melanie Bucking – A/EA to the Deputy Minister
Julie Schisler – A/EA to ADM