

Mandatory Stand-Up Talk

Sept. 27, 2017

Caribbean update — how you can help

In the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, the Postal Service remains focused on the most important element of its infrastructure: the 2,808 postal employees of Caribbean District. Postal officials continue to work tirelessly to assure the welfare of our fellow employees in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Their safety is the first step on a road to recovery.

Since the hurricane, mail and packages have not been delivered in Puerto Rico, however, package and mail handouts have begun in the San Juan immediate area. Access to PO Box mail and package pickup services were available today at eight offices, along with limited mail handout service in St. John and St. Thomas, which could expand to St. Croix on Thursday.

Donations of physical items and supplies are not being accepted at this time. They cannot be delivered to the island or transported inland due to blocked roads and hazardous conditions.

The lack of power and downed cell towers across the region have made it difficult for employees to check in. So far, the Inspection Service has accounted for under one-third of all employees. In Puerto Rico, six Post Offices are providing check points for employees who cannot call in and Postal Inspectors are supplementing those efforts with visits as necessary.

Across the Caribbean, conditions remain unstable. Power and supplies are in short supply and curfews limit the hours for people to leave home, including our own employees. We have food and water supplies to help employees get back on their feet and some have already returned to duty to support our recovery efforts.

There is a way for you to help! The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has authorized a special solicitation to assist hurricane victims. This special solicitation is outside the annual Combined Federal Campaign charity drive. The Postal Employees' Relief Fund, also known as PERF, has been designated as the charity to receive contributions from USPS employees, through Oct. 13, 2017.

PERF helps postal employees and retirees whose homes have been damaged by natural disasters or fires. Voluntary donations can be made online at www.postalrelief.com or by mailing a check to:
Postal Employees' Relief Fund, PO Box 7630, Woodbridge, VA 22195.

Thank you for listening and for all that you do every day. We will provide status updates in the near future.

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