



News Release

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RIVERSIDE RALLIES TO SEND HELP TO SUPERSTORM SANDY VICTIMS

RIVERSIDE, CA – Early Sunday morning, Riverside Public Utilities (RPU) sent the first wave of a 6 person crew with 4 trucks to help restore power and bring some normalcy back to storm victims living in and near Long Island, New York. Two crew members are already in New York and the remaining 4 crew members and equipment left yesterday.

Riverside Mayor Ron Loveridge said, “I am proud to be part of a community that stands ready to serve and to help our neighbors when they need it most.”

According to current FEMA estimates there are approximately 1.6 million outages on the east coast, with over 450,000 on Long Island alone. Crews are moving quickly with reports of more bad weather forecast for mid-week.

“Riverside Public Utilities is committed to do whatever it can to help its Public Power Partners restore power on the East Coast,” said Steve Badgett, Deputy General Manager, Riverside Public Utilities. “The number of RPU employees who volunteered to be away from their families to help other families get their power back on has been truly overwhelming.”

RPU is part of a Southern California Public Power agency First Responder effort comprised of personnel from Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Pasadena Water and Power, Anaheim Public Utilities and Burbank Water and Power. Once all crews convene at JFK Airport, 80 crew members and 50 pieces of equipment will convoy to Bethpage, NY, where they will begin restoring power. It is expected RPU will be on the ground in New York for 14 to 20 days.



RPU Crew prepares for departure to JFK Airport from March ARB on Sunday, November 4, 2012

This follows last week’s deployment of Riverside Fire Department (RFD) specialized crews shortly after the storm hit land. RFD Division Chief Dave Lesh is heading the FEMA Red Incident Support Team and Captain Jeff Loveland was dispatched in support of rescue efforts. RFD California Task Force 6 team, a specially trained and equipped Urban Search &

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Rescue Task Force (consisting of firefighters and paramedics, rescue specialists, emergency room physicians, structural engineers, heavy equipment specialists, canine search dogs and handlers, hazardous materials techs, communications specialists and logistics specialists) has been placed on Alert status by FEMA.

Riverside Fire Chief, Steve Earley said, "The Mayor and Council have provided incredible support to Riverside Fire Department's mutual aid efforts. Our teams have provided support for recovery efforts following Hurricane Katrina and after 9-11".

The Inland Empire is sending help from all sectors: public, private and non-profit. American Medical Response sent 32 people from its Inland offices, a local non-profit organization is sending fuel to the east coast, and numerous blood drives have been organized.

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