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PARTICIPANTS: David Paulison, FEMA Administrator
Joseph Becker, Senior VP of Disaster Services, American Red Cross
Glenn Cannon, FEMA Assistant Administrator, Disaster Operations
Eric Smith, FEMA Assistant Administrator, Logistics Management Directorate
Dave Garrett, Assistant Administrator, Disaster Assistance Department

ABBREVIATIONS: [U/I] = Unintelligible
[UF] = Unidentified Female
[UM] = Unidentified Male

David Paulison: Good afternoon. Want to give you a couple of updates, one on where we are with Gustav and then we'll talk about Hanna a little bit. And of course, we have Ike and Josephine out there also. So we're going to have an interesting couple of weeks.

Gustav, right now for the next 24 to 48 hours, we're focusing on several things: one, immediate sheltering making sure that people have a safe place to stay until they can get back into their homes; power restoration, and I'll cover that in a minute. A large part of Louisiana and several other states do not have power. We're doing damage assessments. In fact, we have already given individual assistance declaration for 36 parishes. The President signed off on 34 yesterday and another two today.

We're doing disaster assistance recovery, temporary housing for people tactical communications, moving some of

our communications around to some of the parishes. In fact, I moved an urban search and rescue team into Houma today or last night actually to make sure they've got the assistance they need for communications and coordination in a -- in a particular place. And, then also working with the State of Louisiana for the orderly return of people coming back into the State.

Right now in Louisiana, we have a -- still have over a million people without power, but that's down from 200,000 from yesterday. So, power is coming back on in some areas. About 40,000 without power in Mississippi and almost 80,000 without power in Arkansas. The damage in Louisiana is significant. I saw pictures today of some of the large transition lines; the towers are actually down and twisted. So, it's going to be a while before everyone gets power back.

The power company is telling us it could be over three weeks before they get power back to pretty much everyone in the state. Shelters, right now Joe Becker is going to talk about shelters in a few minutes, but, we have almost 43,000 people still in shelters in several states. Some of the stuff that we've given out to the different citizens -- almost three-quarters of a million liters of water have been passed out, one and a half million meals, 230,000 tarps, couple hundred thousand blankets and cots. We have given out generators, too. And we are making sure people are comfortable.

We've had over 90,000 people register for assistance in Louisiana and we're processing all of those now. Tonight, we'll have a train coming back from Memphis. We'll have almost 1,000 people on that train and then there'll be another train coming back from Memphis tomorrow to bring all those people back in there.

I do want to caution people again like I said earlier, a lot of the, state is without power and some of the parishes not only do not have power they don't have water or sewage. So make sure you're checking with your parish president, listening to the television set and the emergency managers, because what we don't want you to do is to come back and, and not have power, not have food, not have water, those types of things that are necessary for you to have a comfortable way of living.

What I'd like to do right now is to quickly shift over to Hannah. That's coming up very quickly. It's going to be a very fast storm. Could be moving as far as 30 miles an hour at one time, what it moves through this area. It's going up the east coast, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and probably into Virginia, maybe even further up the coast before it goes outside.

I have talked to governors, talked to the Staff -- the Chief of Staff of Georgia, I've talked to the Governor of South Carolina, I've talked to the Governor of North Carolina today and making sure that they had everything they need to be ready, and they all said they did. We also had video conferences with the states from Florida, all the way north to Maine, and the states are ready for this storm.

What I'd like to do also is encourage people in those states to make sure that you are personally ready and that your home is ready for this storm. Although right now, it looks like it would only be a strong tropical storm or a category one storm, it can still inflict a lot of damage. So, we want to make sure that you have your basic needs for at least 72 hours of food, water and that you have flashlights, batteries, first-aid kits and things for your children. If you have pets, make sure you have food for them and all the stuff your pets need. So, make sure you're ready when that storm does come through.

I would also ask the residents to pay close attention to the news. Pay close attention to the weather reports and close attention to your local officials so you -- in case there is a need for evacuation. Some of the states will be calling for voluntary evacuations. There possibly could be mandatory evacuations in some areas. So, you need to pay attention to the local official to see where those are.

Other storms coming in --As I said earlier, Ike is around the corner. Ike looks like it is a very, very dangerous storm, right now a category four. A very small compact storm. It really kind of reminds me of the type of storm that Andrew was when it went through South Florida, very strong, very powerful, could be very dangerous. So we're going to be watching that very closely. We have a lot of things going on obviously with Gustav, Hanna, Ike and Josephine all coming

back to back. We're in the process of moving supplies from one side of the country to another. We are actually in pretty good shape with supplies, and pretty good shape with people. Like I said yesterday, we have 10 regions out there and we have not tapped all those yet, and we'll continue to do that. And, we will be ready for these storms.

Now, what I'd like to do is ask my friend, Joe Becker, Vice President for Operations for the American Red Cross. Joe?

Joe Becker:

Thank you. Good afternoon, I'm Joe Becker and I lead the American Red Cross Disaster Relief and I'll speak for our organization, but also for all of the partners in the non-governmental sector who are doing so much to care for these people. First, I will speak about Gustav and then as the administrator did, I'll go forward and talk about the -- the brothers and sisters of Gustav that are coming.

At this point we're caring for people in Gustav with three different types of needs. First, would be people who took care of themselves, they evacuated, they stayed with mom or dad or a friend and now they're returning home to a home that just doesn't have power. The home is fine, but there's no power so they can't cook food, and it's hot and they just need, someone to help feed their family right now. That's the first group.

The second group that the Administrator spoke about are those who evacuated to shelters who are going to be able to go back home, and they're moving and we're happy to see them moving. They're tired of being in a shelter, they're frustrated, they just want to know if their home's okay; they just want to get back to their homes. And, we ask their patience please, because that doesn't necessarily mean home is a good place to be right now. If you've got a home and there's no power there and the water doesn't work there, that's not necessarily better than the shelter that you were in. And so we ask their patience.

But, the third group of people are those who took care of themselves or stayed in a shelter, but they don't have a home to go back to right now. The home is destroyed or the home has such major damage they're not going to be able to live in it for quite a while and, and those are the three groups of people with varying ranges of needs.

The Administrator talked about our shelter numbers and the good news is the shelter numbers are coming down, particularly of those who self-evacuated. What we don't know about the ones who left our shelters and are leaving our shelters, is whether they have a home to go back to or not. So, we need to be ready for both cases and we're opening more shelters in the southern part of Louisiana to accommodate people that are coming back.

We're working very closely with FEMA and with our parish presidents and parish OEM's, emergency managers because they need to help us identify buildings to put these people in. We knew what the right shelters were before the storm hit but that doesn't mean that they're in good enough shape to take people right now. So we're working closely with parish emergency management to identify where else we can open shelters to care of people if they need it.

The vast majority of the people in the State of Louisiana, the biggest impact for them is minor damage to their home and power outage, and so, what you're seeing the Red Cross do particularly in these early days is a very large scale feeding effort to care for people who can't cook food. For those people, I don't want to minimize their damage; if it's your roof that's got damage or a tree that's on the roof of your house, that's big. But, if you ask them what they feared might happen when this storm was coming, I think they -- they'd tell you that they're happy with the damage that they have compared to what might have happened.

We're ramping up a very large-scale feeding effort, a capability to do over 400,000 meals a day. It started coming online yesterday and today. Yesterday, we served, I believe, 120 or 130 thousand meals, and it will continue to grow depending on whatever that need is and for as long as that need is there, we will make sure that the people have a meal. We're distributing supplies in the affected areas you would think. Those Red Cross trucks are fanning out into neighborhoods, as soon as we're able to get in to make sure that we can give people the supplies they need too.

That last group of people that I talked about though, those who suffered the damage to their home, it's destroyed or they can't live there, they just can't make repairs, minor

repairs and move right back in; we'll do all of what I just described but these are the folks that we're going to be spending a lot of time with in the next weeks. And, the folks that FEMA's gonna be doing so much to support in the next weeks. We'll make sure that we're helping them get in the process for government assistance, for FEMA assistance in particular. We'll make sure that they've registered. We'll help them get into that process. And, if there are any gaps or any additional needs that they might have, we would stand ready to offer financial assistance for those people when the time is right. That would be for people who have a home that's destroyed or have such major damage that they can't live in it. We have a team of people, teams of people fanning out across the damage area to assess who those people are and where those homes are, at this point.

For Hanna, one of the things that we said we were doing as Gustav was approaching, we did not move any of our people from the southeast states and we did not move any of our supplies from the southeast states. We thought it was important to be ready because we knew Hanna was coming. We feel confident that we're ready for Hanna. There's a lot more people behind the volunteers that are serving on Gustav. We've deployed, in addition to the people in our local chapters that are on the ground in Gustav, we've added about 7,000 total workers to the gulf work force that we have. There's another 50,000 or so of volunteers who travel anywhere in the country on a half a day notice. That's what's behind them and if we need more people for Gustav, that's who's on their way now and that's who would be the next -- or I'm sorry for Hanna -- that's who would be the next wave.

And then frankly, we're a lot more concerned about Ike. As the Administrator said, that's a dangerous storm. We don't know where it's going yet and we want to make sure that we are on scale for Ike. Should Florida be in the crosshairs, that's a state that's a bit tired right now from Faye and all the results of Faye and, and how long that storm took to move. We want to make sure that we're all there to back up the people in Florida and make sure that they're ready to respond.

I been asked a lot about the scope and scale of the Red Cross response, how much is this costing? How big is it?

What can you compare it to? Just briefly, this is the biggest relief effort we've mounted since Katrina, obviously. Way bigger than the Midwest floods, those seven or eight state floods we had a few months ago. Way bigger than the California wildfires that you remember from last year.

Our cost so far for what we know we have could exceed \$70 million for the American Red Cross. You've heard us talk about the fact that our disaster relief fund is out of money and we are borrowing the money to mount this relief effort at this point. And, I wish I could report better results, but as of this morning, we've raised about \$5 million towards that \$70 million cost. So, we need America to help right now.

Our volunteers are ready for what's going to come; it's a long hurricane season. They told us it was going to be a big hurricane season, and now we're in the middle of it, and all of our jobs collectively here, and with a lot of other organizations around the country is to make sure we're there to take care of people when they need it. We feel confident that we'll continue to do good work in the gulf and wherever else we're needed. Thank you.

David Paulison:

I'd like Glenn Cannon, Director of Operations to come up, please.

Glenn Cannon:

Thank you, Joe. Good afternoon, thank you. I, just quickly, one last point on, on our area. Disaster Operations is the group that goes out the door immediately when something happens and we're pretty much finished with our mission from Gustav with the exception of -- I still have teams and as the Chief mentioned, Tennessee Task Force One, and my national IMAT East Team are deployed into Houma, Morgan City and Thibodaux in what are the impact areas of that storm.

And, as a result, we're really there supporting the local responders, and today they fanned out in the bayou country to look at 2,000 residences to make sure that everyone has been accounted for and no one's missing in that area. But with Hanna, we started planning, actually about 10 days ago or as soon as we saw the potential for Hanna, knowing how - - well, at that point in time, I tell you, we thought Gustav was going to be a lot worse. When I went to bed the night

before, it was already predicted still to be a category four and we were very lucky to see that it went in at a much lower level.

So, we were planning for Hanna, which if you followed Hanna, keeps going up and down. It was tropical storm then it became a hurricane, it's back to a tropical storm. We think it's going to be a low-level hurricane as the Chief said, but we are preparing and we always prepare for at least one level above. And, that's how our states are preparing. So we developed a concept of operation for an Atlantic Coast storm strike that goes from Florida up -- up really into New York and New England.

We think now that Hanna's probably going to go into the Carolinas and skirt up along the coast and pretty much be a rain, wind storm, but we have to plan for it as if it were worse than that. And so, assets that we had mobilized for Gustav that we can begin to, redeploy are already being shifting towards the east coast. But, because of Ike, we're not shifting as much as we would have. We're bringing in some other resources from around the country. So we have a dynamic regrouping of response resources.

During Gustav, we activated 18 of our USAR teams and 180 water rescue units. We are redeploying nine of those teams over towards the east, but nine of them are still remaining in Texas because we don't know where Ike is going to go at this point. But, as you've heard the Chief say, it's going to be a very dangerous storm. The concept that we do in Disaster Operations is we try to surround the event, as that cone of err is, excuse me, unsure. As that cone tightens up, we begin to pull in our resources, closer and closer and closer. And actually to the point, we had people in New Orleans when the storm struck. You get in, you hunker down, you find a safe haven and then as soon as the storm is passed, it's safe to come out, you come out and start to go to work.

And, so some of the things we do is look for that early situation awareness, what really happened on the ground? You know are there massive damages? Let me just give you an example of what we did this time for Gustav in New Orleans. We overflowed all the levies before this storm so that we had a situational report on how they looked at that time.

Then during this storm, from fixed camera locations and hardened buildings, we monitored all the levies. Now, you were seeing broadcast video of what was going on. We were seeing dedicated cameras to what was going on.

And then the moment the storm passed and we could get up in the air, we flew all the levies again with an unmanned predator making sure that we could get an assessment of what had happened. Our whole concept is, that we're there before, something happens or we're there in place to be ready the moment it's over, so we can respond. If you wait until the event happens, you'll never respond in time with enough resources. We don't need to relearn those lessons.

So we are in place now for Hanna. We are in place now in multiple locations for Ike. And, we're keeping our eye on Josephine as it comes across. Uh, but I wanna assure you that we've got plenty of resources. We have lots of partnerships with both our interagency partners and the Department of Defense, and so with our organic capabilities and our partners, I'm not concerned that we don't have the resources. And everything we do is to be prepared before the event so that we're there the moment they're needed after the event. Any --

David Paulison: We'll do questions at the end.

Glenn Cannon: At the end, thank you.

David Paulison: Now, I'd like to have Eric Smith come up, he is the Director for Logistics.

Eric Smith: Good afternoon. Like the Chief said, I'm the Director of Logistics and my responsibility is to support the agencies and particularly Mr. Cannon's operational mission in supporting the incidents and particularly in this case, Gustav and the storms we have affecting the east coast.

What we've done differently than we've done in the past, is again as Mr. Cannon previously mentioned, is that we have a planning team now in logistics which we didn't have before that works with the states, and works with our partners, to preplan, to assure that we were ready for an incident when it occurs. In this case, through our planning efforts we established nine different storage sites, prepositioned

storage sites throughout the Midwest that allow us to provide immediate support, resource support requirement when Gustav hit. We also -- our plans call for us to have enough supplies on the ground for a 72-hour response. Once we were into that response effort, then we worked -- initiated our plans then for the sustainment effort.

And at this moment we have two sites and, in Louisiana that we're supplying supplies to. Our goal is to establish three days of supplies on the ground and replenish that supply effort there, as long as it needs to be replenished. Well, once that's completed, we continue to work with the state and our planning team to readjust our plans and readjust the commodities, as needed. As the citizens are -- their infrastructure comes up in Louisiana; we will meter down or decrease our supplies that we're sending to that area.

Now, simultaneously to that, we have a planning team and always look 48 to 72 hours out, looking ahead, what's going to face us ahead. And what I have that team start to do two days ago was start looking towards Hanna and the storms that are coming to us now on the east coast. And what that team has done, is work with our regions, one, two, three and four on the east coast to revalidate their requirements and, start to reposition supplies that we did not use, for instance in Mississippi and in Alabama for the potential strike there. That team has worked with the regions to reposition those supplies to the east coast.

Right now, we're working with eight different locations on the east coast that we positioned supplies to and as Mr. Cannon said, I think we have -- well I'm sure we have enough supplies to meet these three storms that are facing us now. Right now, as we preposition, the way we stand now, we have over 300 truckloads of MREs, over 100 truckloads of tarps, and over 100 truckloads of water for immediate response. When in conjunction with our partners, which is something that we do differently here now, we work with our partners, and mainly the American Red Cross, DLA, GSA and a core of engineers to be ready to go into a sustainment mode once the storm passes.

So, once we use the initial supplies -- we start the initial supplies in the first 72 hours -- we have immediate sustainment flow to come in to those areas that I mentioned

to you, that is in the east coast. Again, I'm pretty confident that we have the ability to not only sustain Gustav for a period of time. But also to turn our attention to the coast storm and be prepared to support whatever the requirements that face us for these storms that are coming up on the east coast.

David Paulison: Okay, now, Dave Garrett, uh, Assistant Administrator for our Disaster Assistance Department.

Dave Garrett: Thank you, Chief. I'm just gonna talk about one program that the Disaster Assistance program implemented yesterday. Following Hurricane Katrina, among the many lessons that we learned, was that we needed to have a very robust and well-oiled capability to move individuals out of congregate shelters and into a hotel and motel situation if they were faced with being displaced for an extended period of time.

Now, congregate shelters are safe, they're sanitary, they're secure. But, they're great for the short term, but they're not ideal for long-term habitation. Yesterday, Secretary Chertoff announced that we'd be implementing what we call our transitional sheltering program. This program is designed to subsidize hotel and motel stays for individuals who are likely to be displaced from their homes for an extended period of time. That program was announced yesterday. We implemented that program. And individuals can report to hotels and motels once they've registered for assistance, then determined eligible for this form of assistance and FEMA will provide a subsidy for those hotel and motel stays for up to 30 days or until they can return to their homes. Thank you, Chief.

David Paulison: I think you can see that from the partnership we developed a different -- different attitude, different style of responding to disasters and I guess what we'd like to do is answer questions.

FEMA: Yes, we'll go to the room first and then we'll go to the phone, so any questions in the room? Yeah.

Leanna: Yes, CNN, will you be holding any briefings over the weekend?

David Paulison: Oh yes, we're holding two video conferences a day now. We're holding one for Gustav to make sure we don't drop that recovery piece of it and we're having a separate one for Hanna and Ike. So we just finished two of 'em today and we'll have those same two Friday, Saturday and Sunday and on until we don't have hurricanes anymore. Which may be December the way it's looking right now.

FEMA Could you identify yourself? Where you are from -- too, before your question, thank you.

David Paulison: She did. She said she was from CNN. I heard her.

Leanna: Leanna.

Axle Sarding: Axle Sarding with Fox News. I was just wondering with the new program that you guys are using to give people hotels to stay in, is that something that is only for people who are determined to have lost their living facility? I know that you had said that you are determining -- you have sent groups out to determine if people couldn't live in their homes. Is that something for the hotels they're using or --

David Paulison: At this stage of the game, many of the individuals who have been displaced from their homes don't know if their homes have been destroyed or damaged or otherwise. Many of them have been evacuated and are being sheltered out of state. So no, it is not just for individuals for whom we've made a determination that their home is uninhabitable. For those individuals, once we've made such a determination, they may be eligible for rental assistance, in which case they can then be provided that assistance and move into a more permanent long-term, accommodation such as an apartment.

But this program is strictly for those individuals who are likely to be displaced from their homes for some period of time -- until such a determination can be made.

UF: I just want to follow up on those briefings. Will there be a press briefing as well or --

David Paulison: Yes, we,

FEMA We'll determine that, but it -- we'll have a briefing either

telephonically or full press briefing. We'll let you know through an Advisory.

UF: Okay.

David Paulison: And when you asked, I thought you were talking about a video conference as a -- just got off of my line a little bit. Okay, any other questions in here?

FEMA Can we go to the phones, Operator? Do we have any questions on the phone?

Operator: At this time if you would like to ask a question, please press star then one on a touchtone phone. You'll hear a tone to confirm that you've entered the list. If you decide you want to withdraw your question, please press star then two to remove yourself from the list. The first question comes from Derrill Hughes of Dow Jones Newswires. Please go ahead.

Derrill Hughes: Hi, this is what [U/I], is there a projected figure on how much, recovery in the gulf coast this has cost FEMA?

David Paulison: We have not determined that yet. We're trying to monitor that and we don't have a figure yet of what it's costing. It's going to be significant, no question about it. But we do have a large amount of money in our disaster relief fund so we're in pretty good shape for this storm and also the next one coming down the road. But, as soon as we get some idea -- some idea of what this is going to cost, we'll put that out.

Derrill Hughes: Thanks.

Operator: The next question comes from Ben Evans of the AP. Please go ahead.

Ben Evans: Yes, I have another question for Administrator Paulison. Secretary Chertoff said I think earlier this week or over the weekend, that he couldn't remember a time when FEMA was juggling so many different disasters at once. He talked about Gustav and Hanna, the fires, and earlier flooding. How much is this stressing the agency to have these three additional storms coming?

David Paulison: Other than getting no sleep? Well, I think we're in good shape right now. We, like I said, we have 10 regions out

there we have not tapped into yet. The agency is twice the size that it was during Katrina. So we have a lot of resources we did not have before. So right now we're in good shape. We have the ability to call in people. We called Disaster Assistance employees that are hired for a particular disaster and we can hire thousands of those should we need to do that. I think during Katrina we had up towards eight or 10 thousand. Is that correct, David? So there's a lot of resources out there for us, we are much more organized and -- and much more in the mode of using partners to assist us in response.

The National Guard has been out in force. North Com has been assisting us with issues. The Customs Border Patrol, TSA, all the other federal agencies, HHS and HUD, all of them are helping us with these types of disasters. So, the response is more coordinated, it's much more professional. It's much more streamlined and it doesn't require the numbers of people that we -- we normally have had, had we used the old system.

UF: Operator, do we have any more questions on the phone?

Operator: Yes, the next question is from Julie Hemestad of the Christian Emergency Network. Please go ahead.

Julie Hemestad: Thank you. I have two questions. My first is what is the recommended, process for self-evacuating? For instance, east coast people that aren't going to avoid it -- Hanna -- do they get out now to not tie up the roads? And how do they get permission from schools, businesses, and the like? That's my first question. The second one is for faith-based groups, what do the emergency management groups now need from them to respond responsibly?

David Paulison: Okay, the first one is the call for evacuation -- for voluntary evacuation is done by the local community or by the state. So, they need to pay attention to that. But that's why we ask people to have a plan in place prior to a storm coming in. You should know if you're called to evacuate, that you know where you're going to go, how you're going to get there and where you're going to stay when you get there. So having that plan in place makes your life much, much easier if you do have to evacuate your home.

The second piece is, maybe I should let Joe, answer that from the Red Cross. Since Joe is the expert in that type of thing.

Julie Hemestad: Mm-hm.

Joseph Becker: In terms of what the faith community can do, it's amazing. There's all the governmental organizations. There's the Red Cross and there's the usual disaster responders. But when something really big happens, it's amazing who all steps forward to help. And none more so than the faith communities to supplement what's going on. And so what's needed ahead of time is what's important. It's not just that on the fly we'll open up our doors and become a shelter or we've got a kitchen, we'd love to serve some meals --

Julie Hemestad: Mm-hm.

Joseph Becker: The issue is to reach out, please to your local American Red Cross or your local emergency manager and say we'd like to be part of this community's disaster response. How do we do that? And, and in all the disaster-prone areas and in most of the places in the country, there's a mechanism locally to do that to become part of the local community's response planning. And, and one of the painful, painful lessons of Katrina was if we don't have those relationships ahead of time, it's very frustrating for the faith community to become part of the response. They open the doors, they become a shelter or a kitchen and after two or three days, they run out of food and they run out of workers and they get tired and roads are closed and communications are tough. And they don't know who to turn to. And the answer is to please ask the faith community now, if they want to be a part of the community's disaster response, reach out now. That's the time to do it.

UF: Okay we have time for about two more questions. On the phone, any more?

Operator: Yes, we have a question from Dan Fowler of the Congressional Quarterly. Please go ahead.

Dan Fowler: Yes, this is a question for Mr. Becker. My question is, I was just wondering first of all if you could just clarify what you said. I think you said that you had about -- that you had

spent about \$70 million for Gustav recovery. I just wanted to be clear on that. And then you had also mentioned the number \$5 million. I think that's the number -- the amount of money you had said you had raised for this? So, I guess my question, other than getting some clarification about that is, why are you having such a difficult time getting raising money do you think?

Joseph Becker:

First of all, to clarify the numbers, we think that the total cost of this relief effort for Hurricane Gustav will approach \$70 million. It could exceed \$70 million. There's a whole lot we don't know at this point. How long we're gonna need to feed people, what scale we're going to need to be on and for how long. But, we anticipate the cost could reach or exceed \$70 million. And yes, as of this morning, we've only raised \$5 million. I think there's a great sense in this country that wow, we dodged a bullet. It wasn't as big as we thought it was going to be. And I think if you ask the people in the gulf coast, did you just dodge a bullet, when they're standing in the front yard of what used to be their house, or looking down the street and not seeing any houses, they didn't dodge a bullet. And there's a lot of work that needs to be done by the American Red Cross and by a lot of organizations to help these people. Yes, it wasn't as big as it could have been. But this is a major event that we're responding to. So I, I think the headwind that we have here in raising money is the sense that wow, there must not be that much need down there because it wasn't a category four when it hit. Well it was still a big hurricane when it hit and there is a lot of need. Thank you.

Dan Fowler:

Just one other thing. You had mentioned that you were borrowing money. Can you just address that?

Joseph Becker:

Yes, that's correct. In fact, if you rewind and go back to when we entered the Midwest floods a few months ago, we had had so many mid-sized and small disasters, the kind that you don't see on TV, the kind that don't raise public consciousness, we had drained our disaster relief fund, and it was empty. And, we launched our response for the Midwest floods borrowing the money for that. And the good news is we spent about \$30 million on the Midwest floods. The good news is we raised about \$30 million. The bad news is we just paid back what we borrowed and we entered this big event having no money in the relief fund again. In

fact, we were a little bit in the hole because of what Faye had done and because of what Dolly had done. So, that it is accurate to say that we're borrowing the money for this relief effort. And we're trusting that Americans are going to see the work that we do and value that and see the needs of these people and know that there's more disasters coming and respond generously. We're not a government agency. The American Red Cross is supported by gifts from people and we need their help right now.

Dan Fowler: Great, thank you.

UF: Do we have one more question?

Operator: Yes, a question is from Brendon McKenna of RTT News. Please go ahead.

Brendon McKenna: This is sort of a follow-up from the last question, actually. Is there any anticipation that the Red Cross will get any federal money because of the efforts that you're putting forth for this?

Joseph Becker: I have to tell you, we are just like our partners in FEMA. We're focused on this response right now. And, we want to ask Americans to support that. So it's a bit early to be thinking about asking the federal government to help us. I think what we're looking at at this point, that this is hurricane season issue. Gustav might not be the big one when we look in the rear view mirror at what happened this year. Ike might be the big one or one with a letter further down the alphabet. So we want to make sure that the Red Cross is here to respond to anything that happens, plus the 200 disasters everyday that our local chapters respond to, the single-family fires, the apartment fires, the daily work that we do, the 200 disasters a day, not just the big ones that everybody sees on TV.