



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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EMA ANNOUNCES CHANGE TO EVACUEE PLAN

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency announced today that the Federal Emergency Management Agency has halted evacuation flights of Hurricane Katrina victims currently in temporary shelter in Texas.

As a result, the 1,000 evacuees tentatively scheduled to arrive in Cincinnati, Cleveland and Columbus this week will instead remain in Texas.

This change does not preclude Ohio from receiving evacuation flights in the future. However, Ohio is not currently listed as a destination for evacuation flights originating in Louisiana or Mississippi.

Ohio EMA will provide further updates as events warrant. They advised any Hurricane Katrina evacuees who have arrived in Ohio and were not part of a FEMA-organized relief effort to call and register for federal assistance.

Former residents of the Gulf Coast who were forced from their homes are advised to call 1-800-621-3362 to become eligible for federal disaster assistance and relief funds. Individuals with speech or hearing impairment can use the TTY number of 1-800-462-7585. If storm survivors have access to the Internet, they can register online at www.fema.gov.

Ohio EMA reminded Ohioans that the best way to make donations to assist Katrina victims is by making cash donations to either the American Red Cross at 1-800-HELP-NOW or the Salvation Army at 1-800-SAL-ARMY.

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