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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

More staff, equipment head to the panhandle to assist communities devastated by Hurricane Michael

October 11, 2018 – A growing list of Flagler County team members and equipment are headed to the panhandle to assist communities devastated by Hurricane Michael.

“The requests are pouring in,” said Deputy Fire Chief Joe King during a Thursday staff meeting. “There are a variety of different strike teams that are going to be needed throughout the affected area.”

Chief Don Petito spent much of the day on Thursday helping to coordinate efforts. Two tanker-tender strike teams from Region 3, which includes Flagler County, left early Friday and were on-scene in Tallahassee by 8:00 a.m.

One team is made up of resources from Flagler County, Putnam and Clay counties, while the other is from Jacksonville. From Tallahassee, Strike Teams 301 and 302 were then assigned to fire suppression and search and rescue efforts in downtown Panama City Beach.

“Fire Rescue is also sending two certified team leaders, Lenny Ensalaco and Tony Guerin,” Petito said. “These teams have to be self-sufficient, and ready for anything. One of the teams has already been redirected to assist with local air operations.”

Firefighter James Cosgrove was deployed Thursday, but as a member of the Army National Guard. Jesse Robinson, who works for Flagler County’s IT Department was also deployed as a member of the Army National Guard.

Bob Snyder, Administrator for the Florida Department of Health in Flagler County, also left Thursday to assist in one of the special needs shelters in the hard-hit panhandle. He was in charge of operations of the Special Needs Shelter in Flagler County during Hurricane Matthew and Hurricane Irma.

Charles Ericksen, Jr.
District 1

Greg Hansen
District 2

David Sullivan
District 3

Nate McLaughlin
District 4

Donald O’Brien Jr.
District 5

<http://www.flaglercounty.org>

Government Operations Consultant Edwin Baltzley, also of the Florida Department of Health, Flagler County has been deployed to the Gadsden County Emergency Operations Center to assist with public health and medical services.

Julie Murphy, Flagler County Public Information Officer, and Michael Esposito, Special Projects Manager, will be deploying on Saturday to Calhoun County. There they will join County Emergency Management Chief Jonathan Lord to provide assistance in emergency communications.

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