

Florida Launches Massive Cleanup

Sunday, August 15, 2004

PUNTA GORDA, Fla. — Residents left homeless by Hurricane Charley's 145 mph winds dug through their ravaged homes on Sunday, sweeping up shattered glass and rescuing what they could as President Bush promised rapid delivery of disaster aid.

With temperatures in the 90s and humidity that made it feel hotter, people waited with carts in long lines to buy ice. Supermarkets gave away water in five cities as just fewer than 1 million people remained without power and 2,300 stayed in emergency shelters.

As the storm weakened off the coast of New England, Bush surveyed the devastation in Florida, where the storm caused billions of dollars in damage and killed at least 16 people.

Emergency officials pronounced Charley the worst hurricane to hit Florida since Andrew in 1992; 26 deaths were directly linked to Andrew and \$19.9 billion in insured property losses.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was sending teams of medical, urban rescue and communication workers; at least 60 semi trailers containing cots, blankets, meals, portable toilets, wash kits and other necessities; and truckloads of water and ice.

FEMA said the state has requested catastrophic housing for 10,000 people, and more than 4,000 National Guard troops have been activated. American Red Cross had established eight mobile kitchens and five feeding centers capable of serving 9,000 meals a day by Monday. Officials have said hundreds of people were unaccounted for but still had no official count on Sunday.

1. About how many people are presently staying in each individual emergency shelter?
2. Create a Venn diagram to accurately compare and contrast the differences and similarities between Hurricane Andrew and Hurricane Charley.
3. At their present level of assistance, approximately how many meals are the American Red Cross capable of providing in a 30-day time period?
4. At a consistent rate of speed of 145 mph, approximately how far might one anticipate any small (weight is not a factor for the purpose of this question) object to be carried in the wind over a 2 hour and 45 minute time period?
5. With responsibilities ranging from combat overseas to providing assistance in local state emergencies, what duties might the National Guard perform in Florida?