

The JEMS/PennWell - "Adopt an EMS Family Program"

To assist EMS families severely impacted by the Hurricane Harvey in Texas and Louisiana, *JEMS* is activating its "Adopt-an-EMS-Family" Program, established in August 2005 during Hurricane Katrina. This program is designed for EMS Agencies, their staff and other participating individuals to provide direct, personal support to individuals in EMS agencies who were significantly affected by a large-scale disaster.

More specifically, it gets gift cards to families that need supplies, food, clothing and other necessities essential to them in their time of deepest need. While we have found that many families in need frequently request gift cards like American Express, Home Depot, LOWES or others to purchase essential items, many do complete areas on the attached form and provide ages, sizes and special request by age, sex and size, particularly for their children.

This program affords you the opportunity to personally shop and send gift cards and box(s) to a contact person and specified address shown on the program form (often to their EMS agency headquarters). This is the *very rewarding aspect* to this *JEMS*/PennWell program.

If your agency is interested, and responds affirmatively to me by email, I will "assign" you a family (or families – if you offer) to "adopt" and take care of. An official from affected EMS Agencies will send me a completed family form (see blank, sample copy attached) that will exhibit the urgent needs or requests from a family. I will then send a form (EMS FAMILY) to you to handle. You can then assign administrative staff or divide the requested items, or specific family members needs/requests, out to interested staff to voluntarily fulfill the family members' requests. (The form shows them as Family Member #1, Family Member #2, etc.)

We ask that:

- 1) The items in the boxes you send to the address specified on the form clearly identify the family member the items are meant for by individual family member name so there is no confusion when the boxes are opened. You should also insert a card that identifies who the donating agency or individual is and exhibit an address and/or email where they can send a thank you note to if they so desire. Note: You are not obligated to purchase/supply all items on the family's "wish list". I'm sure they will be appreciative of whatever you are able to supply to them in this time of need.
- 2) Please email me (aheightman@pennwell.com) when you send the boxes to your adopted family so we are aware that the "mission" has been accomplished and can so advise their EMS agency.

It may take a few days or weeks until the families get properly re-located and establish an address where items can be sent. So please be patient and I will get back to you as soon as we have a family or families for you. You can choose to sponsor more than one family when you email me if you choose to participate. If you choose to adopt more than one "EMS Family", please tell me how many when you email me.

In the event that there are sufficient (or too many) "adopting agencies" to meet the needs for families affected by this disaster, I can place you on hold and in cue for "adoption" of an EMS family in need of assistance after a future incident.

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THIS IS WHAT THE AFFECTED EMS AGENCIES RECEIVE FROM JEMS/PENNWELL

The *JEMS* San Diego-based office, and our parent company, PennWell Corporation, headquartered in Tulsa, OK, as well as your many EMS "family members" are poised to help your affected EMS personnel by supplying gift cards, clothing and/or specially requested items via our JEMS/PennWell "*Adopt an EMS Family*" program. (See attached form)

Please have personnel from your agency who have been affected by this disaster complete a form (by computer or by hand depending on what resources they have available to them right now) and return it to a Coordinator assigned by your department.

Then, have your Coordinator email the form(s) to me. (You can email completed forms to me as soon as they are turned in so we can assign them to an "Adopting Agency" waiting to assist them. You do not have to wait to send them to me as a batch.)

I will assign each family in need to EMS agencies and JEMS/PennWell Staff members that sign up to "Adopt an EMS Family".

The department or individual person(s) that "Adopts" the affected EMS family submitted will then obtain as many of the items and/or gift cards financially possible and have them sent to the contact person and address specified on the form for that family.

We have found that when a disaster such as this happens - many of our staff (and the greater EMS family) want to help - but do not know what to do.

This is a great way for JEMS/PennWell – and "Adopting EMS Agencies" – to provide direct, personal financial and/or material support to Texas and Louisiana EMS personnel RAPIDLY in their time of greatest need via a personal "Adopting" EMS agency-to-EMS provider approach.

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