



# Acadian AMBULANCE SERVICE

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM



**Date:** Sunday, September 04, 2005

**To:** All Employees/Owners

**From:** Zuschlag, Richard E

**Reference:** Special Hurricane Katrina Employee Owner Update

## **Special Message to Acadian Ambulance Employees**

Allow me to take just a few minutes to thank each and every one of you for your heroism, your commitment to patient care, and the extraordinary stress and long hours that you have all gone through in the last six days.

I hear over and over again that some of our employees lost everything they had, and in some cases, relatives. I am still not sure if all of our employees are accounted for. Rest assured that many people have called to offer some type of assistance. We are trying to make sure that every life has been saved, and as soon as that is done, specifically within the next 48 hours, we can begin to address our employees' special needs.

I will have a special email address for any employee that has some kind of a need to be able to communicate directly with our senior management group. There is no question that many have lost a lot, some more than others, and we will have to come up with an organized system for trying to help our employees that have been so instrumental in making this company what it is today. I know that many of you will need counseling and shelter and other human needs, and we will be able to help in some way.

I have received a tremendous amount of email and phone calls congratulating our company with getting the military to finally come to the aid of Louisiana. I only wish we could have done it earlier. Nonetheless, they are here now, and I am very proud of our staff and our accomplishments. I was the communicator. You are the ones that did all of the dangerous and stressful work and spent days without sleep even after knowing that you had lost relatives and all that you had. You are the real heroes in this disaster and you deserve more than just a pat on the back.

Words cannot express my deep gratitude, and it is important that we keep each other in our prayers. No matter what has happened to us we each need to be thankful to be alive.

There will be time in the future to reassess the way we could have done better and to improve upon our mistakes, but we must keep marching forward to rescue and save every last life possible.

I commend and thank each of you for your patience and your good work. We will be communicating with you in the next several days.

Heartfelt thanks for a job well done.

Sincerely,  
Richard

Hundreds have asked through emails and phone calls how we are dealing with this devastation—the medics and support staff who are working non-stop, and the employees who have lost their homes. We have put together an Acadian Ambulance Employee Disaster Relief Fund for the approximately 220 employees who live and work in the Hurricane Katrina affected areas in Louisiana and Mississippi. We have verified that at least 50 are displaced currently, and we are still getting word in every day. For your audience that would like to assist, the employee donation fund information is as follows:

Acadian Ambulance Employee Disaster Relief Fund (5013-C)

c/o Community Foundation of Acadian

P.O. Box 3892

Lafayette, LA 70502

[www.cfacadiana.org](http://www.cfacadiana.org)

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