



Memorandum

Memorandum No: 25-039

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission
FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*
DATE: April 18, 2025
SUBJECT: **FEMA- TF2 return from Kentucky Floods**

This memo serves to inform the City Commission that FEMA Task Force 2 (TF2) has completed its deployment to assist with the Kentucky floods and received demobilization orders.

During this deployment, Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue Captain Kevin Galt served as part of the Incident Support Team (IST) in the role of Safety Officer. This position was instrumental in the daily deployment of FEMA teams throughout the affected areas and ensured their safe return home. We are pleased to report that Captain Galt has returned home safely to his family and our department.

Allowing members of Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue to deploy when called upon provides a level of training in a real-life environment that is invaluable. These deployments offer our personnel the unique opportunity to operate in complex and dynamic disaster scenarios, working alongside highly-skilled professionals from across the nation. The experience gained in such environments, facing real-world challenges and applying their expertise, significantly enhances their capabilities and decision-making skills.

We recognize the commitment and dedication of our firefighters who serve on FEMA task forces and the significant contributions they make both during national emergencies and upon their return to our city. Their participation not only aids those in need during times of crisis but also strengthens our own department's ability to serve and protect the citizens of Fort Lauderdale.

Just this past week another member of our department, that is rostered with FEMA TF2, trained over 100 of our firefighters in flood water search patterns, raising our readiness so we are always prepared for the next potential event. This direct transfer of knowledge and skills, acquired through firsthand experience with FEMA TF2, is crucial in elevating the overall preparedness and effectiveness of our firefighters. The insights and best practices brought back by our deployed personnel are disseminated throughout our ranks, ensuring that all our firefighters benefit from this training.

Please contact Fire Chief Stephen Gollan, at sgollan@fortlauderdale.gov with any questions or concerns.

c: D'Wayne M. Spence, Interim City Attorney
David R. Soloman, City Clerk
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor
City Manager's Office
Department Directors