



THE MANY FACES OF ALAN



Flatbed Deliveries Aid Flood Victims

ALAN connects FEMA and Estes Express Lines to aid in Kentucky recovery efforts

During the spring and summer of 2010, severe rains flooded homes and forced Kentucky residents into shelters and temporary housing. The flooding washed out homes and neighborhoods, destroying the utility infrastructure. By late summer, many residents were still unable to return home due to inadequate waste disposal capabilities.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) had waste containment units available, but no flatbed trailers with which to transport them. Aware of ALAN's vast network of logistics professionals, FEMA volunteer and donations specialist Larry Buckner contacted ALAN for assistance. ALAN put FEMA in touch with Estes Express Lines, and, within 24 hours of hearing of the need, Eric Trout, Estes' director of business logistics solutions, volunteered the company's services.

"We have worked with both FEMA and the Commonwealth of Kentucky on prior disaster relief missions," explains Trout. "Through that work, we have first-hand knowledge of the commitment and dedication that FEMA and Kentucky employees have to the citizens in an affected area. Both groups maintain the common goal of putting people's lives back to normal as soon as possible after a disaster event. Knowing that some people could not yet return to their homes, we felt a need to provide assistance in any way possible."

Estes ultimately transported 10 loads of septic systems and parts from Selma, AL to Pikesville, KY—several for free and the remainder at cost. This work earned Estes accolades from FEMA. In a letter of appreciation, federal coordinating officer Terry Quarles recognized the company as having a "tremendous impact on the 'whole of community' approach" to disaster response. He explained that the donation allowed residents to return to their home and gain "a form of closure to a really horrific experience."

One of the challenges that often occurs in disaster situations is the "perishability of interest." The need for relief may become apparent long after media attention for the original disaster event has expired. This decline in interest can make it difficult to secure the necessary resources for relief. In Kentucky, for example, the need for support surfaced several months after the flooding. ALAN's network of resources can be valuable in situations like these.

To learn more about ALAN and our partners, visit us online at:

- www.alanaid.org
- www.fema.gov
- www.estes-express.com



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