



International Association of Machinists
And Aerospace Workers
Local Lodge No. 2902
P.O. Box 11036
Pensacola, FL 32524

Brothers and Sisters,

I hope all of you, your family members and friends are safe following the destructive impact of hurricane Sally. I'm sure that most of us were caught somewhat off guard by the arrival of a category II hurricane early Wednesday morning. If you were like me, until the storm got fairly close, I had been planning for a glancing blow by a tropical storm. I was not expecting 105 miles per hour winds on a direct impact to our area.

After driving around the local area near the I-10 corridor where I live, it seems that damage has been widespread, but relatively minor here. There are plenty of trees that were toppled, along with many power lines taken down. The worst residential damage that I have seen has been caused by toppled trees that fell into houses causing structural damage to roofs and sometimes more. Fortunately, this type of damage is limited near me. Not much solace however if you are in this category. What I did not see was the type of widespread damage caused by Ivan where shingles were stripped, water inundated houses and ceilings fell in. For the most part, shingle damage seems to be light and blue roofs limited. I have heard that there is much more serious damage near the coast however.

By now, many of us have power back. According to Gulf Power's website, the vast majority of non-rural Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties are expected to back on line by midnight on Tuesday. If you live in a rural area, it could be longer unfortunately. Ours came back yesterday. Amazing how much we take electricity for granted until we don't have it.

For some of our members, there will be expenses to repair damage to their homes. For those who may need financial assistance repairing their home, our Union has a Disaster Relief Program designed to provide relief to members who suffer hardships as a result of natural disasters. This fund can provide grants to members in good standing of up to \$500 to assist with repairs to their primary residence. These grants only apply to house repairs due to limited resources. Our Chief Stewards have been given information to pass along to you to assist with applying for this aid. Based on the fact that Sally came ashore on September 16th, any application for aid would have to be received by October 16. However, don't wait. Get it in as soon as possible is my advice. If you can't reach your Chief Steward, feel free to contact me (joevirg474@aol.com) or our Business Rep Brad Smith (bsmith@iam75.org) to request an application. If you need the help, don't put it off.

My wife and I spent the last three days cleaning up our yard. I suspect most of you did the same. If for some reason you need help with your clean-up, let me know. I'm sure we can pull together a team of volunteers to come by and help with your situation. Or, if someone has immediate need for critical items such as water or food and has no way to get them, please let me know. We'll do our best to get you what you need.

In Solidarity,

Joe Virgilio
President, IAM LL2902