



Familiar with hurricanes, New Orleans businesses help Sandy victims

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Help from New Orleans was either on the ground in the Northeast on Tuesday or on the way there.

Hundreds of local businesses said they are dedicated to helping storm victims recover.

"It's really important for us to pay back and to have trained Red Crossers in place ready in the area because we've been through hurricanes before," said Kay Wilkins, of the American Red Cross.

The New Orleans American Red Cross has sent several volunteers to the storm-damaged area.

"Some (are) in shelters feeding (storm victims), some (are) helping with logistics," Wilkins said.

More volunteers are getting ready to go.

"It's very important to have a Red Cross presence in those areas with feeding," Wilkins said. "So we're making sure that our truck, which is a feeding truck, is ready to roll."

Local Red Cross crews were packing up more trucks and waiting for the call Tuesday night.

"We were able to get 11 volunteers deployed by Saturday, and we have another 25 whose bags are packed and waiting on word that it's safe enough for them to make the plans to go help," Wilkins said.

The story at Entergy is much the same.

"We're sending a wide variety of people," said Philip Allison, with Entergy. "We're sending linemen... We are actually sending mechanics, and customer service people, as well."

A group of 150 emergency workers left on Saturday. The second wave of hundreds of emergency workers from Arkansas and Louisiana left Monday night and early Tuesday, headed to different states to begin work when it's safe.

"Crews come in and help us, and we are returning the favor and helping when others need help," Allison said. "So it's all hands on deck in the utility industry."