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TWO LAKE OSWEGO FIREFIGHTERS ASSISTING HURRICANE KATRINA RESPONSE

LAKE OSWEGO- Two local firefighters with the Lake Oswego Fire Department are lending their time and expertise to the emergency response operations resulting from Hurricane Katrina.

Wayne Pieschel, a 17-year veteran of the department, and Michael Nicholson, a 13-year veteran of the department, have been deployed to assist in the aftermath of the catastrophic natural disaster. The two left on Sunday morning for training in Atlanta, Georgia.

On Monday, they completed a class and orientation alongside 800 firefighters from across the country. A field assignment will be given today and they are expected to be deployed for up to 30 days.

“We are very proud of the two firefighters selected as well as the others who volunteered to serve in what is sure to be a difficult and emotional assignment,” said Emergency Manager/Battalion Chief Larry Goff.

Lake Oswego Fire Department joins several agencies from around the state in this assignment. Firefighters assigned to this deployment will be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for expenses.

The Lake Oswego Fire Department has assisted with statewide requests for firefighters in the past for wild land fires, but this is the first time the department has participated in a nationwide response.

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Attachment: photo of Pieschel and Nicholson