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CBP Responds to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria

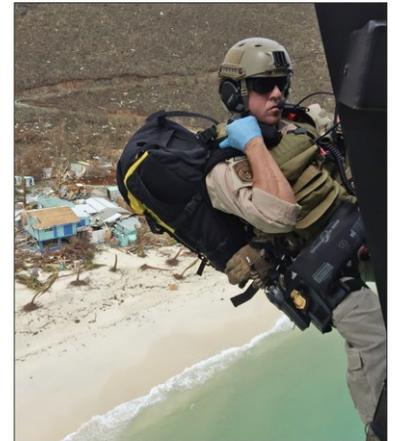


BORSTAR operators conduct rescue operations during Hurricane Harvey

Although Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria have moved on, they left a trail of extensive damage. CBP's highest priority in any emergency situation is the safety of people in the impacted area. As such, CBP officers and agents immediately joined local, state, tribal, and federal partners in maintaining an emergency operations center and providing search and rescue services during the storm and recovery assessments, security, and support in the aftermath. As in previous natural disasters, CBP's emergency response to both hurricanes was conducted in accordance with the Department of Homeland Security's [National Response Framework](#).

Hurricane Harvey – In response to [Hurricane Harvey](#), CBP deployed more than 500 officers and agents, including more than 100 agents with emergency medical training to assist local, state, and federal search and rescue operations. In anticipation of the potential devastation Hurricane Harvey could bring, Border Patrol Search, Trauma and Rescue (BORSTAR) operators were preemptively deployed to the Coastal Bend area. After the deadly storm made landfall and travelled inland, BORSTAR operators continued rescue efforts in the newly impacted areas. In addition to personnel, CBP deployed more than 52 boats in search and rescue missions as well as air assets from across the country with search and rescue hoist capabilities. CBP's Air and Marine Operations (AMO) deployed 10 fixed wing aircraft and 10 helicopters specialized in search and rescue missions and law enforcement support. AMO air assets and U.S. Border Patrol riverine units and special operations division personnel have participated in rescues of more than 1,360 persons.

Hurricane Irma – Without a break from Hurricane Harvey, CBP turned its sights on [Hurricane Irma](#), which landed blows against the Bahamas, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Florida Keys. On September 18, CBP dispatched a team to Puerto Rico to assess damage, assist with security, and help the ports resume business. CBP officers, agents and agriculture specialists are also assisting in evacuating employees from St. Thomas, one of the hardest hit locations. AMO deployed 24 aircraft, which are now conducting



An AMO agent prepares to conduct a rescue mission near the U.S. Virgin Islands following Hurricane Irma

damage assessments in the Florida Keys, where ten-foot storm surges flooded many areas. As a result of the destruction caused by both hurricanes, fuel shortages remain extensive and at emergency levels.



Stockpiled gas cans await AMO delivery to Puerto Rico

Hurricane Maria – In the recent wake of [Hurricane Maria](#), CBP continues to respond to the call for support and aid. Locating and assisting employees and others affected by the storm remains CBP's top priority. AMO is shuttling several [P-3 aircraft](#) between Miami and Puerto Rico, bringing in gas cans and supplies and then returning with evacuating employees and their families. The P-3s, which are also relaying communications and coordinating air traffic, are from the AMO Jacksonville and Corpus Christi [National Air Security Operations Centers](#). Aircraft from the Miami Air and Marine Branch are also involved in the relief. On the ground, CBP Special Response Teams are working to account for employees. CBP has also engaged cruise ships to bring supplies to the island and return to Miami with CBP evacuees. On September 28, in recognition of the severe impacts on Puerto Rico from Hurricanes Irma and Maria, the Secretary of Homeland Security signed a 10-day [Jones Act waiver](#). The waiver covers all products being shipped to Puerto Rico. A Jones Act waiver was issued earlier this month for [petroleum products](#).

For additional information, images, and videos of CBP response efforts related to Hurricanes [Harvey](#), [Irma](#), and [Maria](#), please visit CBP.gov or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.



CBP Trade Enforcement: Ensuring a Level Playing Field

An Excerpt from the [Commissioner's Blog](#), by Acting CBP Commissioner Kevin K. McAleenan, September 2017

When imported merchandise is sold in the United States at a below market value, that's called "dumping," and it can have severe impacts on domestic producers and manufacturers. To prevent the effects of dumping, additional duty rates are assigned by the Department of Commerce to ensure that trade in certain goods is fair and equitable. As the agency responsible for collecting antidumping duties, CBP is at the forefront of holding importers who sidestep their legal obligations to pay these duties accountable, helping to ensure a level playing field for American companies and American workers.

In August, CBP concluded its first [Enforce and Protect Act](#) (EAPA) investigation, a new process established by Congress in the [Trade Facilitation and Enforcement Act](#) (TFTEA). CBP held Eastern Trading, an importer of wire hangers, accountable for evading antidumping duties. The importer claimed the wire hangers it was importing were manufactured in Thailand, but following CBP's review, it was determined that the wire hangers had been transhipped from China through Thailand in order to conceal their true origin.

Following the success of our initial investigation, the only remaining U.S. manufacturer of wire hangers, M&B Metal Products Company, filed eight additional allegations of evasion of wire hangers suspected of being routed through Malaysia to avoid antidumping duties. In August, CBP also issued a decision on interim measures in a similar duty evasion investigation of an importer of wooden bedroom furniture. The final determination for all of these investigations are expected next March, unless the investigations are extended. In the meantime, we have implemented interim measures to protect the revenue while the investigations proceed. These complex, coordinated evasion schemes are bad for U.S. business and ultimately bad for our economy. Our investigations involving wire hangers alone have prevented the evasion of more than \$33 million in unpaid antidumping duties annually.



If you suspect an importer of duty evasion, I encourage you to submit an allegation through our [online portal](#). Our trade specialists and subject matter experts review each allegation carefully and have already initiated 14 investigations since the process was adopted in August 2016. I commend the CBP Office of Trade on these successful actions. We will continue to work closely with other government agencies and foreign governments to make sure the global supply chain is strong, secure, and transparent and we remain steadfast in our commitment to our [trade enforcement mission](#).

For additional information, please read the full story at [CBP.gov](#), or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.



CBP Officers Intercept Tiger Cub at Otay Mesa Port of Entry

On August 23, CBP officers [rescued an illegally trafficked tiger cub](#) from a traveler who attempted to bring it into California from Mexico. When the driver and vehicle were referred for further inspection, the CBP officer discovered the tiger cub lying on the floor of the front passenger side. U.S. Fish and Wildlife agents took custody of the tiger cub and are working with the San Diego Zoo Global to ensure its well-being. The United States is a party in the [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora](#), commonly known as [CITES](#). This treaty regulates trade in endangered species of wildlife, plants and their products.



Coming Soon: New Trusted Traveler Programs Website

CBP recently announced plans to launch a new [Trusted Traveler Programs](#) website. Next month, CBP will transition from the [Global Online Enrollment System](#) (GOES) to the Trusted Traveler Programs System, which will facilitate the enrollment and membership of the Global Entry, NEXUS, SENTRI, and Free and Secure Trade (FAST) programs. CBP's Trusted Traveler Programs now have more than 7 million members and receive nearly 17,300 new applications a month, necessitating improvements to the navigation and functionality of the application for prospective and current members.



- [Global Entry](#) allows expedited clearance for pre-approved, low-risk travelers upon arrival in the United States. Members use automatic kiosks, located in 53 U.S. airports and 15 Preclearance airports, to verify fingerprints and complete a customs declaration. U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals and U.S. Lawful Permanent Residents may apply for Global Entry as well as citizens of [certain countries](#) with which CBP has trusted traveler arrangements.
- [NEXUS](#) was launched in 2000 as a joint effort between CBP and the Canada Border Services Agency. NEXUS members experience expedited clearance through dedicated processing lanes at designated northern border ports of entry, NEXUS kiosks when entering Canada by air, and Global Entry kiosks when entering the United States via Canadian Preclearance airports.
- With [SENTRI](#), the first Trusted Traveler Program, members may enter the United States by using dedicated primary lanes into the United States at Southern land border ports of entry. U.S. citizens and U.S. lawful permanent residents also receive Global Entry and TSA Pre✓™ benefits.
- The [Free and Secure Trade](#) (FAST) program is a commercial clearance program for known low-risk shipments entering the United States from Canada and Mexico. FAST enrollment is open to truck drivers from the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Certain Global Entry, NEXUS, and SENTRI members are also eligible to participate in [TSA Pre✓™](#). Current Trusted Travelers will need their PASS ID to create a new account to use the Trusted Traveler Programs site to manage or renew their membership. Prospective applicants who have not fully completed their application using the GOES site will have to do so before the transition to the Trusted Traveler Programs website or their progress will be lost. For additional information, please visit [CBP.gov](#) or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

The Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA) serves as the single point of contact within CBP for communications between CBP and Congress.

OCA is committed to addressing any question or concern you may have related to CBP's complex mission. Please contact us:

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Please visit CBP's [Congressional Resources](#) webpage for Frequently Asked Questions, News and Events, and other CBP Resources.