

Greetings All,

We are nearly out of the hurricane season. We've been very lucky with no major storms coming ashore. Yes, it makes some of us happy because we have no destruction, and yes, it makes some of us sad because we are not working on a Disaster Relief Operation to help those in need. We do know that in these "down" times it is so important to keep up our training and skills up to date. The Fall Escapade in Sedalia, Missouri, 2012, is right around the corner. We will be offering training there.

We also plan to offer training this January 16th- 18th in Quartzsite, Arizona. Please check our web site at: www.dovebof.org for the upcoming schedule and sign-up information. We will also have available our parking location for those of you who would like to park with our BOF. After the classes you will have time to attend the all-chapter Escapee gathering on January 19th. We do hope that you take this opportunity to not only take classes but see and meet other DOVE's. Recently we had an issue come up regarding non-DOVEs deployed to a Red Cross Disaster Relief Operation, in their RV. This brought much concern to DOVE members who were on the operation and parked as DOVE's in the Headquarters parking lot. After a conversation with our lead at National Headquarters, it was determined that anyone can be deployed in any personal vehicle to a disaster. And if the Red Cross determines that these individuals are to be reimbursed for mileage, utilities and/or campground fees, it is up to the operation to make this determination. We follow set rules and regulations within our current Memorandum of Understanding as DOVEs. Other RVers deployed to an operation are not bound by our agreement as they are NOT members of the Escapee RV group nor are they a member of the DOVEs. If the Red Cross decides to grant mileage, campground fees and utilities to non-DOVE members, that is their business, not ours.

Example, a boat pulls into port and would like to drop anchor. We have no ownership of the port. Anyone can drop anchor.

I'm sure your first question is going to be "Why be a DOVE? ". This is a good question.

1. We will be reimbursed for mileage.
2. We will be reimbursed for campground fees.
3. We will be reimbursed for utilities and/or fuel costs to run utilities.
4. We will not need to hassle getting permission from our higher ups for National approval for reimbursements.
5. As DOVE's there are no liability issues for the American Red Cross to be concerned about.
6. We are a BOF and we need to remain as a group. We are an "Escapee special-interest group". Our interest and common denominator is the American Red Cross. We get together and talk about Disaster Relief Operations and our experiences while on them.

For those of you who are DSHR Members, please be sure to visit CrossNet for viewing of the new DSHR Handbook. We will be posting it on the DOVE website shortly.

As the year is ending, please check with your Chapter and make sure your Health Status Verification document is current. Please view your DSHR Profile at : <https://dshr.redcross.org/Login.aspx> and update if needed.

Thanks to all of you for your continued dedication to the American Red Cross.
Happy and Safe Traveling,

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