



TEMPLE TERRACE FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

**124 Bullard Parkway
Temple Terrace, Florida 33617
813.506-6700
813.506-6701 FAX
www.templeterrace.com**

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Michael Dunn, City of Temple Terrace PIO @ (813) 506-6406

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIRE DEPARTMENT ASSISTS IN HAITI RESCUE EFFORT

(TEMPLE TERRACE, FL. – 1/28/10) – The Temple Terrace Fire Department was among five agencies Wednesday night that provided emergency medical treatment for Haitian evacuees and helped transport them to Tampa Bay area hospitals.

Twenty-two patients, 21 Haitians and one American, were aboard an Air Force C-130 aircraft that landed at Tampa International Airport around 9 p.m., according to Tampa Fire Rescue, which coordinated the emergency effort.

The patients ranged in age from 3 months to 47 and were treated aboard the aircraft en route to TIA by an intensive care medical team. The 3-month-old girl suffered serious burns on her upper body and face. Others suffered broken bones, burns and spinal injuries with paralysis, officials said.

At TIA, patients were carried to a triage area for evaluation and medical care, before being transported to area hospitals, according to Tampa Fire Rescue. Representatives from the Florida Department of Health coordinated with the hospitals to ensure they could handle the influx of patients.

Paramedic crews from Tampa, Temple Terrace and Hillsborough County, along with several private ambulance companies, helped transport the patients. The Temple Terrace Fire Department transported a 34-year-old female patient with serious arm and leg injuries to Town and Country Hospital's emergency room, officials said.

Crews from the Temple Terrace Fire Department are on standby to fly to Haiti if needed, and will continue to assist as necessary with the treatment and transport of incoming medical evacuees from the earthquake-stricken country, said Temple Terrace Fire Chief Keith Chapman.

The Temple Terrace Fire Department is an internationally accredited fire and rescue agency.

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