



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J.  
Morrissey*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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**Julia Scott Valdez  
HR Director/Deputy City Administrator**

**Phone: 815-987-5583**

**E-mail: [Julia.valdez@rockfordil.gov](mailto:Julia.valdez@rockfordil.gov)**

### **INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE (IAFC) CHIEFS GO TEAM**

Rockford Fire Department Division Chief of Training and Fire Prevention, Matt Knott will be serving on the IAFC Go Team in Hartford, Connecticut at the State EOC this week as the region begins to recover from the damage caused by Hurricane Irene. He will be assisting with coordination efforts for the statewide fire and rescue response.

The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) Go Team consists of highly skilled and equipped chief officers who work with allied agencies and elected officials to coordinate and assist in recovery following significant catastrophes. Go Team members are sent by the IAFC as requested by local emergency managers as needed for terms that typically last 7 to 14 days. Chief Knott is one of two GO Team members from FEMA Region V being activated to respond to this situation.

Hartford, Connecticut experienced widespread devastation as a result of Hurricane Irene. The storm left 16,266 Connecticut Light and Power customers in the area without power. It also caused significant flooding in low lying coastal areas and major access issues that were compounded by debris and downed trees. Currently, Chief Knott is working in the capacity of mission support in life safety and rescue for the Go Team. He is scheduled to remain in Connecticut in this role until Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup>. For any further information, please contact Fire Chief Bergsten at 815-987-5799 or [Derek.Bergsten@rockfordil.gov](mailto:Derek.Bergsten@rockfordil.gov).

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