

# Wild weather wreaks havoc on U.S. Carriers urged to donate to PERF to assist postal employees in need

**T**his spring, Americans across the Midwest and South have borne the brunt of an unusually severe weather season.

The massive tornado outbreak that occurred during the last week of April was one of the deadliest on record. In just two days, dozens of twisters passed through Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, North Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia, leaving scores dead and thousands homeless.

“With the tornadoes, we were really lucky,” said Region 8 National Business Agent Peter Moss, whose region covers Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee. “There was some limited damage to a few postal facilities, but fortunately, we didn’t hear of any injuries, only damage to homes and automobiles.”

The story was similar for carriers in North Carolina, Region 9 NBA Judy Willoughby reported. Tornadoes damaged the homes of North Carolina carriers in Fort Bragg and Spring Lake. Region 9 encompasses Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

Then in May, torrential downpours brought severe flooding along the Mississippi River, from Illinois and Missouri on south through Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana. As this issue of *The Postal Record* was going to press, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had opened spillways along the river—a measure that flooded sparsely populated regions along the way, forcing thousands to evacuate the river’s banks—in an attempt to spare the lives and property of millions of residents downriver in Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

“With the floods coming now,” Moss said, “we still don’t know what’s going to come out of all that yet.”

## Turning to PERF

In the face of nature’s worst, letter carriers have access to a measure of certainty and help, thanks to the Postal Employees’ Relief Fund (PERF).

PERF was created by the NALC, the Postal Service and other union and

management organizations following a number of natural disasters in the late 1980s. The fund helps all postal employees—craft workers and managers—who receive substantial damage to their homes and property as a result of catastrophes including tornados and floods, but also hurricanes, earthquakes, wildfires and even house fires.

The fund provides grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$35,000, after insurance and other relief assistance are paid out. PERF payouts depend on the total amount of qualified loss. Millions of dollars in grants have been issued to postal employees since PERF’s inception.

NALC President Fredric V. Rolando is a PERF trustee, as are Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe and the presidents of the participating unions and management associations.

Linda Giordano, who serves the NALC as assistant to the president for community services, is our union’s appointed representative on the PERF executive committee. That body handles the fund’s day-to-day operations, reviews requests for assistance and authorizes grants.

Contributions to PERF are received primarily from payroll deductions made through the annual Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), although individual and group contributions also are welcome. PERF’s CFC number is 10268.

For more information or to obtain an application form for assistance, go to [postalrelief.com](http://postalrelief.com), call 202-408-1869, or write Postal Employees’ Relief Fund, P.O. Box 34422, Washington, DC 20043-4422. ☐



Photo by Jamies Rabbits

You can contribute to the Postal Employees’ Relief Fund at P.O. Box 34422, Washington, DC 20043-4422 or at [postalrelief.com](http://postalrelief.com)

