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Port, Industry Partners Send Supplies to the Bahamas

Additional Contributions Being Sought Following Hurricane Dorian

NORFOLK, VA – The Port of Virginia® is among a group of port and maritime industry partners coming together to send critical supplies to the Bahamas following Hurricane Dorian.

The hurricane wreaked havoc on the Bahamas, destroying thousands of homes and leaving many residents without electricity or running water. Essential services are impaired, many transportation routes are inaccessible and access to food, water and household goods is limited.

MSC Group — one of the world's leading container shipping and logistics conglomerates, as well as the parent company of MSC Cargo — requested assistance from major industry partners to quickly fill two, 40-foot shipping containers in Charleston, S.C., with critical supplies to send to the Port of Freeport on Grand Bahama Island.

The Port of Virginia was among the many maritime partners that collaborated to fill shipping containers with more than 200 gas generators, tarps, gas cans, canopy tents, power cords, extension cords, batteries, water, toiletries, baby wipes, diapers, cleaning supplies and other related items.

The containers were filled Saturday through Monday (Sept. 14-16) by industry partners in Charleston, SC, and then loaded on a vessel in Port Everglades, FL, Monday night. They are scheduled for arrival at the Port of Freeport today.

“Despite our global presence and large-scale operations, MSC is ultimately a family company and we are fully committed to supporting both immediate and longer-term relief and recovery efforts in the Bahamas,” said Fabio Santucci, managing director MSC USA. “MSC’s extensive land and sea operations and services, our regional knowledge and our gracious partners have allowed us to quickly mobilize to collect and deliver these items of necessity.”

MSC runs the Freeport terminal through a joint venture with its subsidiary, Terminal Investment Ltd., and Hutchison Ports.

The industry partners contributing to the effort include: Virginia Port Authority, South Carolina Ports Authority, U.S. Maritime Alliance Ltd., DCLI, South Atlantic and Gulf Coast District - International Longshoremen’s Association, Port of Miami/Miami-Dade County, Port of Houston Authority, TICO Tractors, Moran Towing, Charleston Branch Pilots Association, Stevedoring Services of America, S.C. Stevedores Association, Maritime Association of South Carolina and Container Maintenance Corp./CMC Logistics.

“We have seen the devastation a hurricane can have on entire communities,” said John F. Reinhart, CEO and executive director of the Virginia Port Authority. “After seeing Hurricane Dorian’s destruction, it was important that we band together and take action in this assistance effort. We live with the possibility that this could happen to any one of us (ports) and it is important that we think and act as a community in these situations.”

Supplies were purchased from Costco and Lowe's, with their extensive cooperation.

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The Virginia Port Authority (VPA) is a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The VPA owns and through its private operating subsidiary, Virginia International Terminals, LLC (VIT), operates four general cargo facilities Norfolk International Terminals, Portsmouth Marine Terminal, Newport News Marine Terminal and the Virginia Inland Port in Warren County. The VPA leases Virginia International Gateway and Richmond Marine Terminal. A recent economic impact study from The College of William and Mary shows that The Port of Virginia helps to create more than 530,000 jobs and generated \$88.4 billion in total economic impact throughout the Commonwealth on an annual basis.