

Collection effort for Puerto Rico set for Sept. 27 at New Bedford police headquarters

Help us make a difference for our friends in Puerto Rico!

The New Bedford Police Department, New Bedford Fire Department, United New Bedford and the Bristol County Sheriff's Office are hosting a fill the truck event from 5-9 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 27 to help hurricane victims in Puerto Rico.

The event will be held at police headquarters, 871 Rockdale Ave.

Hurricane Maria caused widespread devastation on the island, which had already suffered power outages from Hurricane Irma earlier in the month.

Officials estimate that it could take weeks or even months to restore power to all parts of the island. Roads have been flooded, agriculture has been devastated and basic services disrupted. Supplies are rapidly dwindling.

Specific items being requested are: Batteries of all types and sizes, lanterns and flashlights, new bed linens, towels and blankets, non-perishable food and baby formula, personal hygiene products, baby and adult diapers, baby and cleaning wipes, first aid kits and OTC medication, gloves, toilet paper, candles, matches, sleeping bags and tarps.

The items collected will be sent to Puerto Rico by boat or plane.