

Brent Hall

From: Wayne Thompson
Sent: Wednesday, 9 March 2011 2:13 PM
To: Brent Hall
Subject: Flood Relief

Hi Brent,

I have looked at the status reports and mission reports for the 11/01/11. The day crew myself, scotty and brett came in early at 0630 that day. On arrival we were made told about the transfer pump problem with the aircraft. From memory engineering cleared the aircraft for flight at about 0800 and the QCC were contacted by phone to let them know we were back on line, they said at that time that they had 5 jobs in the system for us and they gave us initially 2 jobs to get us started. A few minutes after getting these tasks they phoned back saying that the clinical co-coordinator had not decided which jobs required priority so they stood us down, we expected to be tasked fairly soon after however we ended up waiting until 1015 to get our first job! Unfortunately I did not send in an updated status report at 0800, however they were aware of our serviceability due to the phone call and subsequent tasking.

After finally completing the tasking we received at 1015 to the Kilcoy area, we went to Redcliffe Airport for a refuel at Heliwork. Enroute to Redcliffe at approx 1415 we heard reports on the QPS radio channel that several people in the Caboolture area were trapped by rising flood water, we contacted the QPS ourselves and asked was there anything we could do to help given we were in the area? The QPS said that they needed our help and gave us details of where the people were stranded, we contacted QCC and asked to be released to undertake some flood relief work for the QPS. Initially they said no that they wanted us to go to Proston, South Burnett to retrieve a male patient with chest pain. We said are you sure that's what you want us to do given what was happening in Caboolture, QCC replied that they wanted us to go to Proston. At this time I said I would call them back, once I had hung up, the crew discussed the phone call and situation and decided to call back QCC and again try to get releases given the seriousness of what was happening down the road. The call was made and eventually they released us to go to Caboolture but only after what was a heated discussion. On arrival in the Caboolture area we ended up winching one home owner off her roof and found several other people stranded who did not want us to lift them out.

At no time during the day were we asked by either QCC, QPS or the Flood Co-Ordination people to assist in what was going on in other areas in Brisbane, Ipswich, Gatton, Toowoomba etc where it certainly appears that we may have been better placed to offer assistance? Given we had a fully serviceable winch equipped BK117 helicopter available from 0800 - last light on the 11/01/11 it was not well utilized asset in my opinion, especially in light of the now very public statements from EMQ about the size of the problem.

Regards

Wayne Thompson
Pilot AGL Action Rescue