



## NEWS & EVENTS

Progress never stops. And neither do we. Explore the latest news and recent events in the world of Caterpillar.

### FIRST RESPONSE TEAM OF AMERICA

The greatest hour of need many Americans may face in their lifetime occurs in the immediate wake of a devastating storm or any number of other natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, wildfires and tornadoes that destroy homes, infrastructure and local life saving support services.

Tad Agoglia, a disaster response contractor and founder of the First Response Team of America (FRTA), has invested his life savings to make the work of this team possible. Armed with logistical expertise and more than \$1 million of specialized, heavy-duty disaster relief equipment, Agoglia and his team move from town to town, working in communities devastated by natural disasters.



Video courtesy of KPRC Local 2 and Click2Houston.com

Caterpillar products are part of FRTA's equipment fleet, deployed to eliminate the interval following the time a natural disaster strikes and local first responders and humanitarian aid organizations are able to reach affected people with the emergency care needed. The First Response Team is supported by Caterpillar Dealers, who provide rugged and reliable products, service and access to rental equipment.

Among the numerous public recognitions for his philanthropic commitment, Agoglia received the **2008 Jefferson Award for Public Service**. He was also honored by People Magazine's Heroes Among Us, and was one of 10 finalists for **CNN Hero of the Year**.

Prior to CNN's **All-Star Heroes Tribute** broadcast on Thanksgiving Day, CNN hosted an individual tribute ceremony on November 17 in Agoglia's hometown of Huntington Station, New York. Surrounded by fire and police department personnel in full uniform, Tad was cheered as the hometown hero he has become. He was also publicly praised by the Parkersburg, Iowa police chief and the Butler County sheriff. The progress made possible by the First Response Team, who came to Parkersburg's aid free of charge following a huge F5 level tornado, was the central story in the October, 2008 edition of **Cat Folks**, Caterpillar's employee newspaper.

In front of a cheering crowd, this humble hero received a two-year financial pledge from the Caterpillar Foundation of up to \$250,000. The pledge includes a dealer matching gift challenge and a corporate matching gift challenge.

Agoglia's vision is to replicate his existing team by pre-positioning specialized heavy equipment, trained and fully prepared personnel, and advanced technological communication systems in strategic geographic locations throughout the United States, as well as other parts of the world.

### EQUIPMENT DEPLOYED BY THE FIRST RESPONSE TEAM

- Specialized High Capacity Grapple Trucks
- Mobile Support Truck for Self-Sufficiency
- Search & Rescue Audio/Visual Technology
- Generators & Water Pumps
- Caterpillar Loaders
- GPS & Satellite Communication Equipment
- Off-Road Scouts
- Hovercraft

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