



Clark County Fire Department = 575 E. Flamingo Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89119

Phone: 455-7338



For Immediate Release

December 13, 2005

## What: "Comfort Critters" Donations

Contact: Robert Leinbach

**Public Information Officer** 

## When: Wednesday, December 14, 2005 at 10:00AM

## Where: Applebee's Restaurant, Rainbow Blvd. @ Spring Mtn.

Applebee's Restaurants is giving Clark County Fire Department approximately 100 "Comfort Critters" that will be used to assist small children during times of trauma. Emergency personnel frequently give cuddly animals to persons (including adults) who are suffering emotional distress from traumatic events.

"We have been able to offer meaningful support to many children who have had to endure very difficult situations by giving them a stuffed, soft cuddly critter," said Kathy Risdon, Fire Department Employee Assistance Specialist. "This simple act can help paramedics and firefighters gain a greater sense of accomplishment that goes beyond medical care," Risdon emphasized.

The "Critters" will be distributed to all 25 CCFD stations for use year round. These are not meant as gifts for the Christmas season.

In addition to the generous offering of the stuffed animals, Applebee's will be feeding breakfast to the crews at Fire Station # 22.

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