



FEMA

National Situation Report

As of 5:30 a.m. Friday, August 26, 2005

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Homeland Security Threat Level:

ELEVATED

Hurricane Katrina Makes South Florida Landfall and Becomes Tropical Storm

The eye of Katrina came ashore at 6:30 p.m. EDT Thursday near the Broward/Dade County line as a category one hurricane with sustained winds of 75 mph. Hurricane force winds extended outward up to 10 miles from the center and tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 70 miles meaning that several hours before the eye made landfall tropical storm force winds and the accompanying rains were already impacting the south Florida area. By 1 a.m., maximum sustained winds had decreased to 70 mph and Katrina had again become a tropical storm.



Media reports attribute Katrina with four fatalities, three due to blown-down trees. Florida Power & Light said more than a million customers were without electricity, including 777,000 customers in Miami-Dade County, 533,000 in Broward County and 64,000 in Palm Beach County. Florida Power and

Light has said it will restore power as soon as possible but it does not dispatch workers when winds are greater than 30 miles per hour. No damage is reported to power generating facilities.

Severe flooding was reported in Key Biscayne and Homestead in Miami-Dade County. Some flooding was also reported in Broward County, and flood watches are in effect for Charlotte, Desoto, Hardee, Highlands, Lee, Manatee, Martin and Sarasota counties. Radars indicated up to 15 inches of rain fell in Key Biscayne, Sweetwater and the Coral Gables-Kendall area of Miami-Dade County. Rainfall in Miami-Dade was significantly higher than in Broward County. Before Katrina hit land, water management officials lowered canal levels to avoid possible flooding, and pumps were activated in several low-lying areas of Miami-Dade.

At 5 a.m. EDT, the eye of Hurricane Katrina was located just offshore of southwestern Florida over the Gulf of Mexico about 50 miles north-northeast of Key West. Katrina is moving west near 5 mph. This motion is expected to continue for the next 24 hours with a slight increase in forward speed. Now that Katrina has emerged over the Gulf of Mexico maximum sustained winds have again increased to 75 mph and Katrina is once again a category one hurricane.

Katrina will regenerate on Friday over the Gulf of Mexico and head west northwest and then turn northward up into the northern Gulf of Mexico. Hurricane winds and flooding rain is a threat late Sunday into early next week in the northern Gulf and up into the Southeast.

Total rainfall accumulations of 6 to 10 inches with isolated maximum amounts of 15 to 20 inches are possible. Isolated tornadoes will also be possible over eastern Florida and the Florida Keys. (*National Hurricane Center, media sources*)

State and Federal Preparation for Hurricane Katrina

FEMA Headquarters: The FEMA National Response Coordination Center (NRCC) Red Team was activated at a modified Level II on Thursday, August 25 at 0700 EDT with ESFs 1 (with an Air Ops Element), 3, 4, 5, 7, 15, and a Military Liaison.

FEMA Headquarters is conducting daily video-teleconferences with FEMA Region IV, the National Hurricane Center, Florida, and other potentially affected States.

The Logistics Readiness Center (LRC) has adequate initial resources on hand in Florida to meet emergency commodity requests. State resources are staged at the Palm Beach Fairgrounds. Florida plans to deploy a combination of PODS and comfort stations for victim relief. Homestead, Palm Beach and Lakeland Florida are FEMA emergency commodity staging areas capable of initially delivering 100 truck loads of water, 75 truck loads of ice and 24 reefers within a 24 hour window. A 50-pack of generators is in route. The LRC has also executed contracts for additional water, ice, reefers and carriers.

FEMA Region IV: At 1200 EDT on August 25, operations transitioned from the FEMA Region IV Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) activated at Level III in Thomasville, GA, to the RRCC in Atlanta activated at Level II. Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) activated at the RRCC are: ESF 1, 3, 4, 7, 14, 15 and Department of Defense (DOD).

Region IV is anticipating back up support from Region X for Individual Assistance (IA) and Logistics for a full Emergency Response Team (ERT) at a Joint Field Office (JFO) in the event of a declaration. In the event of the need for a second ERT-A team, Region IX will field the team.

Alabama: Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is at Level 4 (Normal) Operations.

Florida: Florida's (EOC) is at Level 1 (full activation). The Governor issued a State of Emergency on August 24, 2005.

Mississippi: EOC is at Level 1 (Normal) Operation.

Georgia: EOC currently operating at Level I (Monitoring).

South Carolina: EOC currently operating at Level 5 (Normal). (*FEMA Region IV*)

Kansas Flooding

Fifteen inches of rain in the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday has caused flooding in Butler and Greenwood Counties in southeast Kansas. The extended forecast is for additional rainfall through Friday. A release of water by the USACE on the Walnut River may increase the flooded area in the Butler County seat of El Dorado.

Butler County has evacuated 24 persons in two apartment buildings. Three American Red Cross shelters are open in El Dorado. Butler County Emergency Management reports they sheltered 35-40 people at the Senior Center in El Dorado. Officials are concerned that additional flooding may impact water treatment plant in El Dorado which provides over 60 per cent of the water for Butler County.

Power service in the area was interrupted Thursday but is now restored. El Dorado and Douglas schools were closed today because of power outages.

Greenwood County has reported flooding on the Fall River with projected impact to ten homes. No shelters are open in Greenwood County.

Butler County has opened an EOC in El Dorado. The County has issued a Local Emergency Declaration. No request for state assistance has been received.

No requests for Federal assistance have been received. (*FEMA Region VII*)

Southern California Rolling Blackouts

High temperatures, a spike in electricity demands and the loss of a key transmission line forced power officials in Southern California to impose rolling blackouts, leaving as many as half a million regular, or "firm-load", customers without power. The California Independent System Operator (ISO), which operates the electric grid in California, declared a Stage 3 transmission emergency at 1557 PST. It marked one of the most serious power emergencies since the 2002 power crisis.

The ISO ordered Southern California Edison to reduce demand throughout its territory, prompting initial blackouts in areas of Fontana, La Puente, Cathedral City, Huntington Beach, Long Beach and Ontario, California. The utility scatters the outages to lessen the impact. The blackouts were expected to last about an hour before being shifted to other areas.

At 1635 PST, California ISO ordered restoration of power to the firm-load customers; however outages to the voluntary, interruptible customers may still occur. Interruptible customers pay less for electricity with the understanding they may experience service interruptions during periods of high demand.

The Pacific DC Intertie (PDCI), a 500,000 volt transmission line that runs between Southern Oregon and Southern California suddenly and unexpectedly dropped out of service just before 1600 PST. The loss of more than 2,800 megawatts of power coming in to Southern California, coupled with the area's high demand required a reduction in system load to keep the grid in balance. Loads on Southern California were running about 2,000 megawatts higher than anticipated due to temperatures that were up to 14 degrees higher than forecast. At this time, there are no details available about what caused the PDCI to

trip offline; however it is believed to be a simple malfunction. No malicious intent is suspected. (DHS NICC)

Other Significant National Weather

Parts of the South not effected by hurricane Katrina can expect hot temperatures producing high heat indexes and marginal air quality.

The Midwest will experience more active storms through Friday. Flood watches are in effect for parts of southern Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri. More rain and thunderstorms are likely in these areas as a vigorous cold front approaches from the northern Plains.

Minor quake rattles southeastern U.S., causing little damage

A magnitude 3.8 earthquake rattled homes in the southeastern U.S. but appeared to have caused little serious damage, officials said.

The minor quake, which struck at 11:09 p.m. EDT Wednesday night was centered about two miles southeast of Hot Springs, according to the U.S. Geological Survey's National Earthquake Information Center.

Rocks crashed down on a highway North Carolina but the road remained open. The quake also damaged the foundation of a mobile home and knocked pictures off walls in western North Carolina, but there were no reports of injuries, officials said.

The temblor could be felt as far as Athens, Georgia, about 150 miles to the south, and along the North Carolina-Tennessee border, officials said.

The Southeast has scores of faults, the most famous of which is the Brevard Fault, which runs through the eastern edge of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Tropical Cyclone Activity

Tropical Depression Hilary is no longer organized and National Weather Service reporting has ceased.

Tropical Depression 9E moving is south of Mexico in the Pacific Ocean and does not threaten land.

Satellite images and surface observations indicate that an area of low pressure associated with a tropical wave about 1000 miles east of the Leeward Islands remains well-organized. A tropical depression could form Friday or Saturday as the system moves toward the west-northwest over the open Atlantic. (National Hurricane Center, Joint Typhoon Warning Center)

Earthquake Activity

No significant activities. (USGS National Earthquake Information Center)

Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs)

No new activity reported. (FEMA HQ)

Disaster Declaration Activity

No new activity reported. (FEMA HQ)

FEMA Readiness Alert Status:





Disaster Teleregistration Activity Chart

DR	Incident Type	08/24/05	Cumulative
1599-WY	Tornado	59	71
1595-FL	Hurricane Dennis	146	38,571
1593-AL	Hurricane Dennis	39	13,581
Total		244	52,223

Joint Field Operations

as of August 25, 2005

1585/1577-CA
 FCO: David Fukutomi
 Phone: 626-431-3000

1589-NY
 FCO: Marianne C. Jackson
 Phone: 518-457-0530
 Closing September 15, 2005

1591-ME
 FCO: James N. Russo
 Phone: 207-771-2100
 Closing September 16, 2005

1592-ID
 FCO: Lee Champagne
 Phone: 425-482-3700
 Closing August 26, 2005

1593-AL
 FCO: Michael Bolch
 Phone: 334-270-7700

1595-FL
 FCO: Justin DeMello
 Phone: 407-858-2000

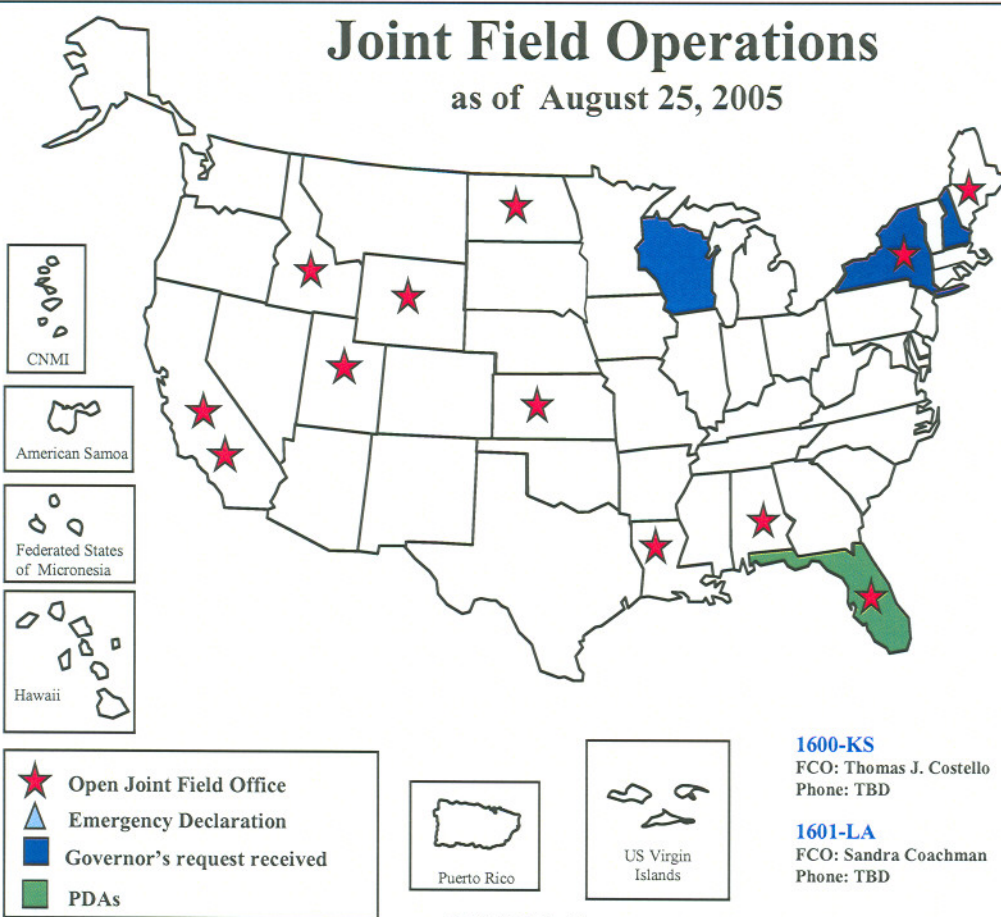
1597-ND
 FCO: Anthony Russell
 Phone: 701-250-4140

1600-KS
 FCO: Thomas J. Costello
 Phone: TBD

1598-UT
 FCO: Carlos Mitchell
 Phone: 801-578-4000

1601-LA
 FCO: Sandra Coachman
 Phone: TBD

1599-WY
 FCO: Michael Karl
 Phone: TBD



The FEMA Homeland Security Daily Operations Report is prepared by the FEMA National Response Coordination Center (NRCC). Questions can be addressed to NRCC watch officers via phone at 202-646-2828/4541 (staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week), via fax at 202-646-4617, or via e-mail at FEMA-NRCC@dhs.gov.