



FEMA

# National Situation Report

As of 5:30 a.m. Tuesday, August 30, 2005

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Homeland Security Threat Level:

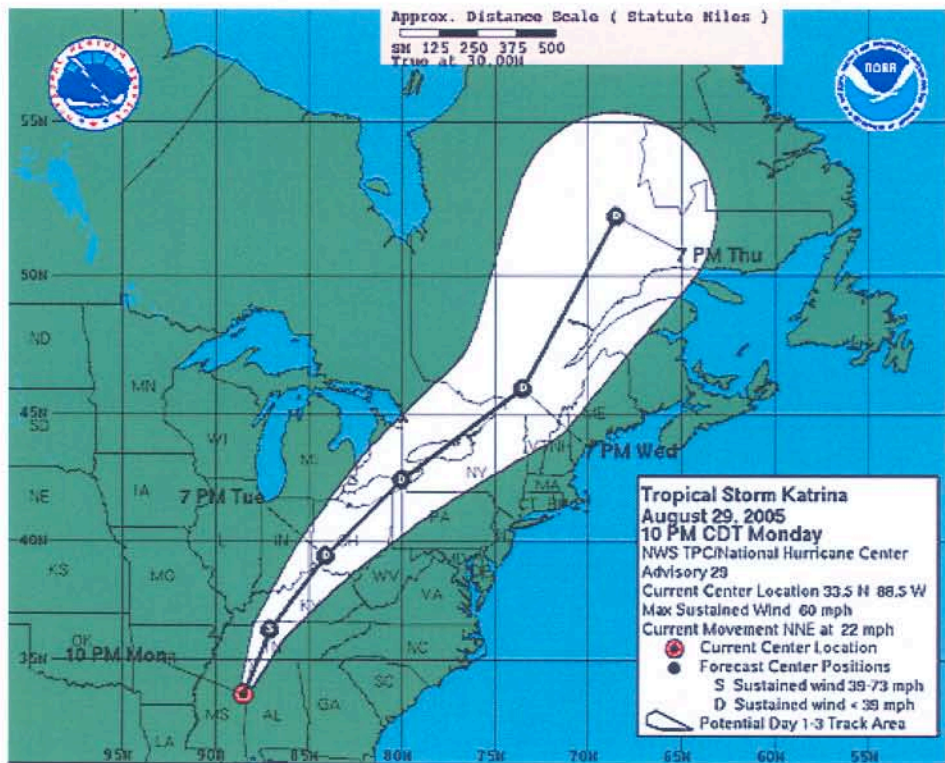
**ELEVATED**



## Katrina Continues To Weaken Over Northeastern Mississippi

At 5 am EDT (0900Z) the center of tropical storm Katrina was located near latitude 34.7 north longitude 88.4 west or about 35 miles northeast of Tupelo Mississippi.

Katrina is moving toward the north-northeast near 18 mph. A turn toward the northeast and a faster forward speed is expected during The next 24 hours. This motion should bring the center of Katrina Through the tennessee valley today.



Maximum sustained winds have decreased to near 50 mph with higher gusts. Further weakening is expected during the next 24 hours and Katrina should weaken to a depression later today.

Tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 105 miles 165 km from the center. Wind gusts of 60 to 65 mph have been reported from portions of northern Alabama during the past several hours.

Estimated minimum central pressure is 981 mb (28.97 inches). Tupelo recently reported a pressure of 980.4 mb (28.95 inches).

Coastal storm surge flooding along the northern and northeastern Gulf of Mexico will slowly subside today.

Additional rainfall accumulations of 2 to 4 inches with isolated maximum amounts of 6 inches will accompany Katrina across the Tennessee and Ohio Valleys, the lower Great Lakes, and into northern New England.

Tornadoes are possible today over western South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia. (*NWS National Hurricane Center*)

### **National Weather Forecast**

**South:** Hurricane Katrina made two landfalls earlier today, one south of Buras, Louisiana at 6:10 am CDT and the other along the Louisiana/Mississippi border around 10:00 am CDT. Top winds for the first landfall were 140 mph and 125 mph for the second landfall. New Orleans, eastern Louisiana and southern Mississippi took the brunt of Katrina's fury. There was a report of a storm surge of at least 27 feet in Gulfport, Mississippi as Katrina moved in. The concern now turns to inland locations of Mississippi and Alabama. Tropical storm force winds could last well into the day today into Tennessee. Heavy rainfall, wind gusts to 50 mph and isolated tornadoes are possible along and to the east of Katrina's center. Rainfall amounts of 4 to 8 inches are possible in the heaviest rainfall, which would lead to flash flooding. Tonight and tomorrow the remnants of Katrina should lift into the Ohio Valley/eastern Great Lakes. By tomorrow the South should have a chance to dry out, with the exception of Florida where scattered thunderstorms are possible. Temperatures should warm back into the mid 80s to lower 90s with a moderate amount of humidity for midweek clean up efforts. The remainder of the south should have a sunny and hot day today and tomorrow.

**Northeast:** A rainy period is in store for the eastern Ohio Valley and the Northeast through much of this week. A stalled frontal boundary should produce scattered showers and thunderstorms across the area today. The remnants of Katrina should move into the Ohio Valley tonight and the Northeast tomorrow. Rainfall will be heavy along the path of the system, which could lead to flooding. Temperatures should remain typical for late summer with highs in the 70s in the mountains and in the 80s in the lower elevations.

**Midwest:** Outside of the Katrina's remnants in the Ohio Valley, most of the Midwest should have a nice day. A cold front is forecast to push out of the Rocky Mountains through the northern Plains this afternoon and evening. A band of showers and thunderstorms could develop along the front in central North and South Dakota. Another area of scattered showers is possible in the Great Lakes due to low pressure spinning by to the north in southern Canada. The Plains cold front could spread showers and thunderstorms from the western Great Lakes to the southern Plains tomorrow. Temperatures should run 5 to 10 degrees below average through midweek along the Canadian border with highs mostly in the 60s and 70s. Farther south readings should be closer to average with highs in the 70s and lower 80s.

**West:** A cold front should push through the northern Rocky Mountains during the day producing an area of scattered showers and thunderstorms over Montana and Wyoming. After that front clears the western third of the country high pressure should take over producing glorious weather through the end of the week. Temperatures are forecast to run near average with daytime highs ranging from the 60s and 70s along the Northwest coast, northern California coast and higher elevations to the 110s in the deserts in Arizona, California and Nevada. (*NWS, Media Sources*)

## **Federal Government Responds to Katrina**

Federal emergency response efforts kicked into high gear after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast and surged northward, while President Bush considered tapping U.S. emergency petroleum stockpiles to ease the storm's impact on affected refineries.

Administration officials said Bush was expected to authorize a loan of at least some oil from the nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserve. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly, said Monday that final details were being worked out.

The storm shut down oil and natural gas operations in the Gulf of Mexico, representing about 8 percent of U.S. refining capacity or about 1 million barrels, further driving up gasoline prices.

Energy Secretary Samuel W. Bodman said, "Over the next few days, we will continue to gain more information on the specific needs and then be able to make a better determination on how we can help."

The reserves would be used to provide refineries a temporary supply of crude oil to replace interrupted shipments from tankers or offshore oil platforms affected by the storm.

Bush, on a visit Monday to Arizona and California, pledged extensive federal help for victims of Katrina to "get your lives back in order." The government put into effect a massive emergency assistance program that included rushing baby formula, communications equipment, generators, water and ice into hard-hit areas.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency sent medical teams, rescue squads and groups prepared to supply food and water into the disaster areas.

The president made emergency disaster declarations for Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. White House spokesman Scott McClellan said Bush had spoken with the governors of those states "to make sure they were getting what they needed from the federal government."

In other storm-related developments:

The American Red Cross said it had thousands of volunteers mobilized for the hurricane. It was the "largest single mobilization that we've done for any single natural disaster," spokesman Bradley Hague said. The organization set up operational headquarters in Baton Rouge, La.

The Environmental Protection Agency dispatched emergency crews to Louisiana and Texas because of concern about oil and chemical spills.

The Coast Guard closed ports and waterways along the Gulf Coast and positioned craft around the area to conduct post-hurricane search and rescue operations.

The Agriculture Department said its Food and Nutrition Service would provide meals and other commodities, such as infant formula, distilled water for babies and emergency food stamps.

The Federal Aviation Administration said airports were closed in New Orleans and Baton Rouge; Biloxi, Miss.; Mobile, Ala.; Pensacola, Fla., and Eglin Air Force Base in Florida.

The Defense Department dispatched emergency coordinators to Alabama, Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi to provide communications equipment, search and rescue operations, medical teams and other emergency assistance.

The Health and Human Services Department sent 38 doctors and nurses to Jackson, Miss., to be used where needed, and 30 pallets of medical supplies to the region, including first aid materials, sterile gloves and oxygen tanks.

Some 6,000 National Guard personnel from Louisiana and Mississippi who would otherwise be available to help deal with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina are in Iraq.

Even so, Pentagon spokesman Lawrence Di Rita said the states have adequate National Guard units to handle the hurricane needs. He said about 6,500 National Guard troops were available in Louisiana, about 7,000 in Mississippi, nearly 10,000 in Alabama and about 8,200 in Florida.

The 1st U.S. Army, based at Fort Gillem near Atlanta, has 1,600 National Guard troops who were training to go to Iraq. They will be available to assist the states, if necessary. *(Media Sources)*

### **Fire Management Assistance Grant Awarded**

The CHANCE Fire is northeast of Elko, NV. A voluntary evacuation is in effect with 150-200 people from 60+ residences having evacuated. National resources are at a shortage and most assistance will be 1-2 days away. A type 2 Incident Management Team is on order. The fire is within 1/4-1/2 mile from the community of Ryndon. The communities of Osino and Elburz are also currently threatened. The fire is now at the Humboldt River, but with strong winds the fire might jump the river and Interstate 80. The current estimated size of the fire is approximately 4,000-6,000 acres.

State and Federal fire agencies are coordinating fire fighting efforts and public announcements to residents. *(FEMA HQ, Region IX)*

### **Wildfire Update**

National Preparedness Level 3 (On a scale from 1 to 5)

#### **CURRENT SITUATION:**

Initial attack activity was light nationally with 146 fires reported. Four new large fires were reported, two in the Northern Rockies Area and one each in the Western Great Basin and Southern Areas. No large fires were contained. Very high to extreme fire indices were reported in Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington and Wyoming. An Area Command Team (Rounsaville) has been tasked by the National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group to evaluate radio communications on incidents with consideration to training and education, maintenance and replacement of equipment, narrow banding, communication and coordination with cooperators, and usability.

#### **OUTLOOK:**

Fire Weather Watch: In the afternoon and evening over portions of Wyoming and western South Dakota for winds, very dry relative humidity and fuels. Red Flag Warnings: Expect both watches and warnings for central Idaho and Montana for cold front passage with high winds, low humidity and dry lightning. Gusty winds and low relative humidity for the northern two-thirds of Nevada, east of and along the entire Cascade-Sierra crest from Oregon to Lake Tahoe.

Weather Discussion: Hurricane Katrina will make landfall early today as a major hurricane of category 5 strength on the southeast Louisiana coast. An upper level low pressure system will move across the Northwest today with a surface cold front moving across the western portions of Montana, Idaho, and Nevada. Although the front will bring cooling conditions with increasing relative humidity, along and ahead of the front will be very dry and windy conditions extending from the Rockies through the Great Basin and into northeastern California. Showers and thunderstorms should be confined mainly behind the front across Washington, western Oregon, central Idaho, and into the western portion of the Northern Rockies. In Alaska, showers will move east across the state today with best precipitation amounts across the south.

## Alaska

**Coleen Mountain** (Alaska Fire Service, Upper Yukon Zone, Bureau of Land Management): 65,261 acres at an unknown percent contained. This fire is 40 miles northeast of Chalkyitsik. Native allotments and cabins at Canyon Village and Old Rampart are threatened. Structure protection measures are in place. Burn out operations were completed. This will be the last report unless new information is received.

## California

**Blaisdell** (San Bernadino National Forest): 4,980 acres at 10 percent contained. The fire is located seven miles north of Palm Springs. Residences, commercial property, and the Palm Springs Tramway are currently threatened. Containment efforts are hampered due to steep rocky terrain, limited access, and gusty winds. Slow to moderate rates of spread was reported.

## Idaho

**Red River Complex** (Nez Perce National Forest): 2,207 acres. This lightning-caused Wildland Fire Use (WFU) complex, comprised of the Burnt, Center and numerous other fires is 23 miles southeast of Elk City. This complex is being managed to accomplish resource objectives. A fire lookout and trailhead facilities are threatened and structure protection is in place. Torching and short runs were observed.

**Frank Church** (Payette National Forest): 13,344 acres. This lightning-caused Wildland Fire Use (WFU) incident, comprised of the Bear Creek, Root Creek, West Fork/Joe, Missouri Ridge and several other fires is 50 miles northeast of McCall. The fire is being managed to accomplish resource objectives. Commercial property, residences and historical structures are threatened; structure protection is in place. Active fire behavior was reported with moderate rates of spread.

## Montana

**Prospect** (Lolo National Forest): 3,210 acres at 80 percent contained. This fire is 12 miles south of Superior. Poor access, steep terrain, and heavy fuels continue to hinder containment efforts. Structures and historic features remain threatened. The fire continued to creep and smolder.

**Cottonwood Creek** (Southern Land Office, Montana Department of Natural Resources): 3,485 acres at 60 percent contained. The fire is eight miles east of Columbus. Residences, rangeland, and cropland are threatened. Low rates of spread were reported.

**Rockin** (Bitterroot National Forest): 4,500 acres at 60 percent contained. The fire is 10 miles northwest of Darby. Fire activity increased due to higher temperatures, lower humidity, and windy conditions. Active surface fire was reported.

**NEW Seepay** (Flathead Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs): 1,000 acres at zero percent contained. The fire is two miles southwest of Perma. A microwave communications site, structures, and cultural sites are threatened. Road closures are in effect. Fire behavior included running and crowning.

**NEW Power** (Southern Land Office, Montana Department of Natural Resources): 1,000 acres at 40 percent contained. The fire is 16 miles north of Billings. Residences and powerlines are currently threatened. Extreme fire behavior was observed.

**Selway-Salmon Complex** (Bitterroot National Forest): 10,142 acres. This lightning-caused Wildland Fire Use (WFU) complex, comprised of the El Capitan, Wapiti, Beaverjack, Reynolds Lake and numerous other fires, is 26 miles southwest of Hamilton. This complex, burning on both the Salmon-Challis and Bitterroot National Forests, is being managed to accomplish resource objectives. A ranch, campground, work center, historic ranger station, cabin and two lookouts are potentially threatened. Structure protection remains in place. Magruder Corridor Road is closed to through traffic. Trail closures remain in effect in active fire areas. Increased fire activity continued.

## Nevada

**NEW Chance** (Northern Region, Nevada Division of Forestry): 1,500 acres at five percent contained. The fire is six miles northeast of Elko. Residences, powerlines, and radio communication equipment are threatened. Boyd-Kennedy Road and Lamoille highway are closed. Extreme fire behavior was reported.

## Oregon

**Deer Creek** (Southwest District, Oregon Department of Forestry): 1,636 acres at 60 percent contained. This fire is eight miles north of Cave Junction. Residences and other structures remain threatened. Steep terrain and hot, windy weather are hampering containment efforts. The fire burned actively yesterday.

**Park** (Central Oregon District, Oregon Department of Forestry): 150 acres at 90 percent contained. The fire is burning seven miles north of La Pine. Numerous residences and state park facilities are threatened. Evacuations were lifted. The Deschutes River is closed to river traffic. Smoldering, ground fire, and torching was reported.

**Granite Complex** (Wallowa-Whitman National Forest): 20,706 acres. This lightning-caused Wildland Fire Use (WFU) incident is 30 miles east of Enterprise. This complex is being managed to accomplish resource objectives. Structure protection remains in place for historic cabins in the area. An area closure remains in effect. Active fire behavior with moderate rates of spread was reported.

## Utah

**North Neola** (Uintah and Ouray Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs): 4,038 acres at 75 percent contained. The fire is two miles north of Neola. One residence was lost and structures and a commercial property are threatened. Road closures are in effect. Moderate fire activity was observed. (*National Interagency Fire Center, National Interagency Coordination Center*)

## **Other Tropical Cyclone Activity**

In the Eastern/Central Pacific, no storms threaten land or any U.S. interests. Tropical Depression 13 is dissipating and there will be no further advisories from the National Weather Service.

Tropical storm 14w (Nabi), located approximately 265 nm west of Saipan, has tracked westward at 11 knots over the past six Hours. There is potential involvement of U.S. Interests during the next 48 hours. Further information will be reported when it becomes available. (*National Hurricane Center, Joint Typhoon Warning Center*)

## **Earthquake Activity**

There was no significant seismic activity during the past 24 hours. (*USGS National Earthquake Information Center*)

## **Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs)**

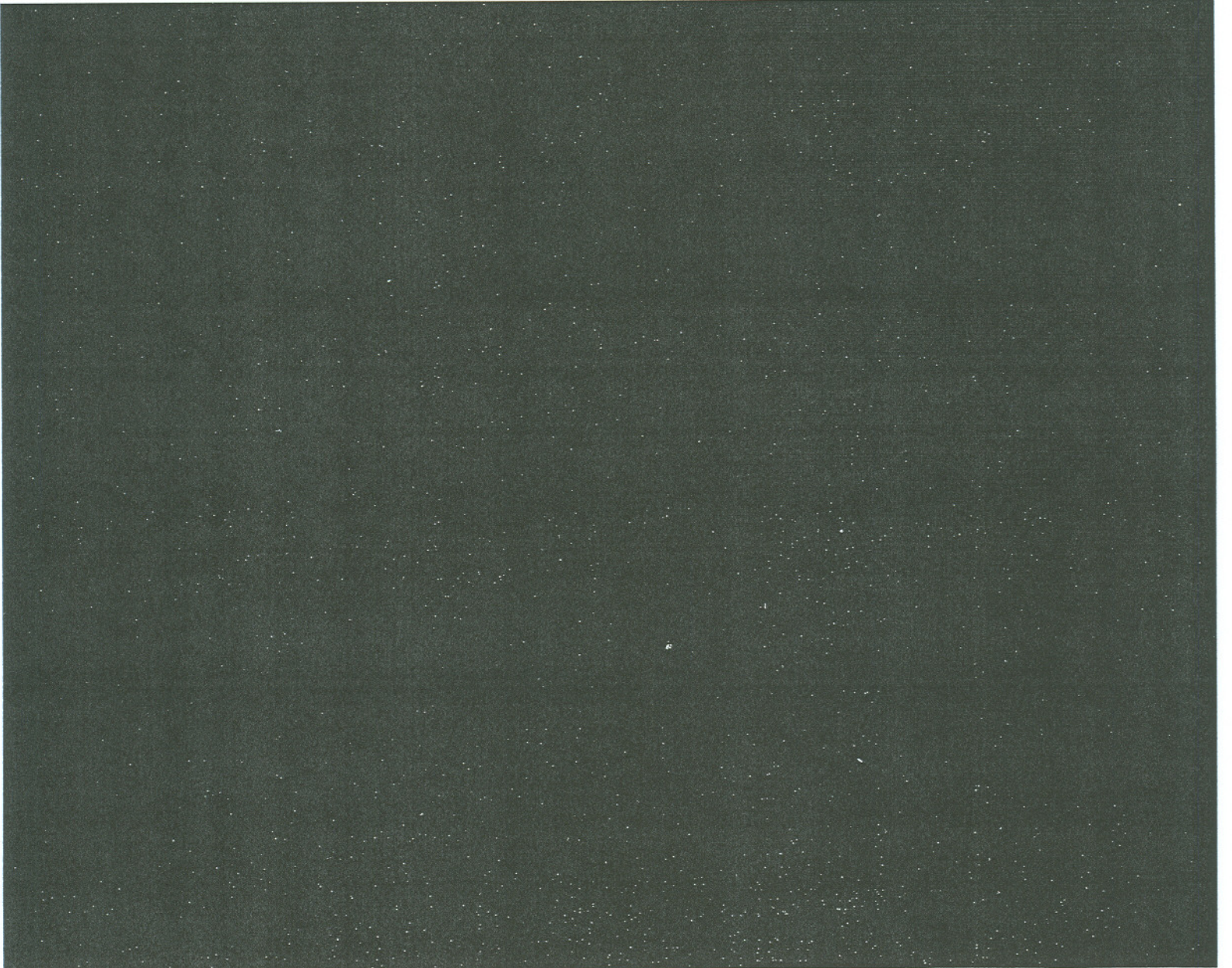
No significant change during the past 24 hours. (*FEMA HQ*)

## **Disaster Declaration Activity**

FEMA-1603-DR-LA was declared on August 29, 2005 for Hurricane Katrina. It provides Individual Assistance for 64 parishes, and Public Assistance for 52 parishes.

FEMA-1604-DR-MS was declared on August 29, 2005 for Hurricane Katrina. It provides Individual Assistance for 15 counties, and Public Assistance for 52 counties.

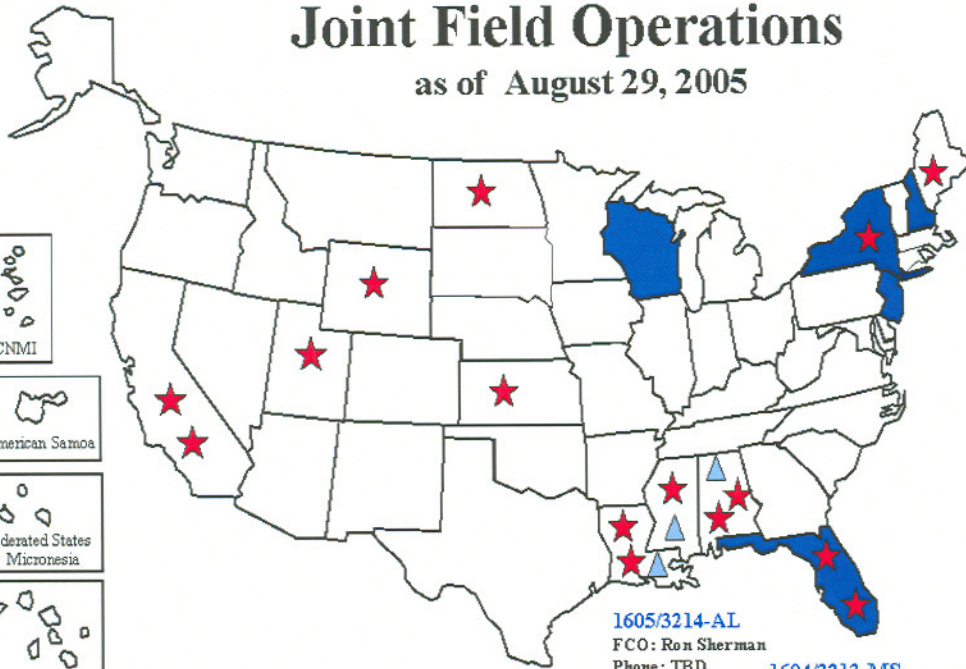
FEMA-1605-DR-AL was declared on August 29, 2005 for Hurricane Katrina. It provides Individual Assistance for three counties, and Public Assistance for six counties. (*FEMA HQ*)



### Disaster Teleregistration Activity Chart

DR	Incident Type	08/25/05	Cumulative
1599-WY	Tornado	31	102
1595-FL	Hurricane Dennis	133	38,704
1593-AL	Hurricane Dennis	33	13,614
<b>Total</b>		<b>197</b>	<b>54,420</b>

# Joint Field Operations as of August 29, 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**

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

**1595-1602-FL**  
FCO: Justin DeMello  
Phone: 407-858-2000

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

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

**1599-WY**  
FCO: Michael Karl  
Phone: TBD

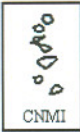
**1600-KS**  
FCO: Thomas J. Costello  
Phone: TBD

**1605/3214-AL**  
FCO: Ron Sherman  
Phone: TBD

**1604/3213-MS**  
FCO: William Carwile  
Phone: TBD

**1603/3212-LA**  
FCO: William Lokey  
Phone: TBD

**1601-LA**  
FCO: Sandra Coachman  
Phone: 504-613-3391



- ★ Open Joint Field Office
- ▲ Emergency Declaration
- Governor's request received
- PDAs



FEMA NRCC Graphic

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