

September 2005



FEMA

National Situation Report

As of 5:30 a.m. Thursday, September 1, 2005

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Homeland Security Threat Level:

ELEVATED The threat level indicator consists of four colored squares: a blue square, a yellow square, a red square, and another red square.

Military Providing Full-Scale Response to Hurricane Relief Effort

Joint Task Force Katrina is setting up today at Camp Shelby, Miss. , as the Defense Department's focal point to support the Federal Emergency Management Agency's relief efforts along the Gulf Coast, Air Force Maj. Eric Butterbaugh, a U. S. Northern Command spokesman, confirmed today.



Army Lt. Gen. Russel Honore, 1st U. S. Army commander, will head the task force to coordinate DoD active-duty support for disaster relief efforts in the hurricane's aftermath, much of it already under way or in the works. Meanwhile, the number of National Guardsmen on duty in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida rose to almost 8,300 today.

National Guard units and members in 17 more states remained on standby today, ready to provide assistance as required in the wake of extensive damage, rising floodwaters, and power and

communications outages throughout the region, Air Force Lt. Col. Ellen Krenke, a DoD spokeswoman, said.

The guardsmen remain under their respective governors' control, which enables them to provide law-enforcement support in the affected regions -- something the Posse Comitatus Act prohibits active-duty forces from doing within the United States. While under state control, the National Guard is not bound by Posse Comitatus, NORTHCOM officials explained.

While establishing Joint Task Force Katrina today, NORTHCOM was already providing or coordinating a full range of support involving active-duty forces and assets.

As of this morning, four MH-53 Sea Stallion and two HH-60 Seahawk helicopters from USS Bataan were flying medical-evacuation and search-and-rescue missions in Louisiana, and Bataan's hospital was preparing for possible use for medical support. Bataan, based out of Naval Station Ingleside, Texas, is in the waters off the Louisiana coast. High Speed Vessel Swift, also based at Ingleside, sailed to the waters off Louisiana to provide support, as well.

Three helicopters from the Army's 3rd Corps, in Fort Hood, Texas, are in Baton Rouge, La. , and two more in Mississippi to help with searches and rescues and damage assessments, NORTHCOM officials reported. In addition, five Air Force helicopters from the 920th Rescue Wing, from Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. , and 347th Rescue Wing from Moody Air Force Base, Ga. , are in Mississippi for search-and-rescue missions, officials said. These aircraft are capable of nighttime searches and rescues and also will transport FEMA assessment teams over the area to gather critical information for state and federal emergency managers. Meanwhile, eight U. S. Transportation Command swift-water rescue teams, each with 14 members, were headed from California to Lafayette, La. , today to rescue stranded civilians from flooded areas, NORTHCOM officials reported.

A wide range of other military members and assets were also bound for the Gulf Coast to provide more support, NORTHCOM officials reported. The Iwo Jima Amphibious Readiness Group was preparing to sail from Norfolk, Va. , loaded with disaster response equipment and was expected to reach the Louisiana coast in five days, officials said. The group consists of USS Iwo Jima, USS Shreveport, USS Tortuga and USNS Arctic.

The hospital ship USNS Comfort was preparing to leave Baltimore to bring medical assistance to the Gulf region and was expected to reach the area in seven days, officials said. Plans were being made bring USS Grapple, a Navy rescue and salvage vessel, to the region to support maritime and underwater survey and salvage operations.

NORTHCOM also established federal operational staging areas at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. ; Naval Air Station Meridian, Miss. ; Barksdale Air Force Base, La. ; Alexandria, La. ; and Fort Polk, La. , to expedite the movement of relief supplies and emergency personnel to affected areas, officials reported. In addition, NORTHCOM liaisons are operating in Clanton, Ala. ; Baton Rouge, La. ; and Jackson, Miss. , to coordinate efforts between the command, other DoD elements and FEMA.

Standing Joint Forces Headquarters North will provide an augmentation cell and its command-and-control vehicle to Joint Task Force Katrina, and JTF Civil Support will provide a joint planning augmentation cell, officials said.

Meanwhile, in Colorado Springs, Colo. , NORTHCOM's Joint Operations Center remains on 24-hour duty to expedite any additional requests for help from FEMA representatives, officials said. *(Media Sources)*

Lee Weakening Over The Central Atlantic

At 11 pm EDT (0300Z) the center of Tropical Depression Lee was located near latitude 31.2 north longitude 49.1 west or about 925 miles (1490 km) east of Bermuda and about 1340 miles (2155 km) west-southwest of the Azores.

The depression is moving toward the north-northeast near 10 mph (17 km/hr) and this motion is expected to continue during the next 24 hours with a gradual decrease in forward speed. Maximum sustained winds are near 35 mph (55 km/hr) with higher gusts. Little change in strength is forecast during the next 24 hours. Estimated minimum central pressure is 1009 mb (29.80 inches).
(National Hurricane Center)

Typhoon Nabi Passes Near Saipan – Damage Unknown

Typhoon Nabi passed through the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands August 30-31, 2005. Preliminary reporting indicates the eye of the storm passed appr. 35 miles north of Saipan. Highest sustained winds appears to have been 60 knots per hour. Approximately 600 people entered shelters in anticipation of the Typhoon. No reporting of damages has been received at this time.

Saipan EOC was activated. Shelters were opened in anticipation of the typhoon. A FEMA representative from the PAO was liaison to CNMI EOC. Possible request from CNMI for PDA Team. Pacific Area Office and FEMA R9 Duty officer will continue to monitor.

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At 11pm EDT the position of Typhoon Nabi (TY 14W) was near 17.5N 141.0E, or approximately 280 nm west-northwest of saipan. Nabi is tracking west-northwestward at 11 knots. Maximum significant wave height of 40 feet. *(FEMA Region IX, Joint Typhoon Warning Center)*

National Forecast

Northeast: The remnants of Katrina continue to march through the Northeast with heavy rain to the north and bands of showers/thunderstorms to the south. The heaviest rainfall has been focused where Katrina's moisture is running into a stalled front over northern New York and northern New England. Rainfall could pile up another 1 to 2 inches in spots before finally tapering off. Some early morning rain and showers are still possible in eastern New England with clearing skies expected by this afternoon. High pressure building in behind Katrina will remain in the Northeast through the holiday weekend providing sunny, warm days and clear nights for you to enjoy. Daytime highs should be mainly in the 70s and 80s with overnight lows ranging from the chilly 40s over the mountains to the middle 60s along the coast.

South: Katrina's hardest hit areas across the Gulf Coast should have somewhat quiet weather for recovery and clean up efforts into Labor Day weekend. Skies should be mostly sunny with the slight chance of an afternoon thunderstorm each day. The bad weather news is that temperatures should easily climb into the 90s and combined with the moderate to high humidity it should produce heat index values of 100 to 105 degrees. Most of the South should see mostly sunny skies and very warm temperatures into the upcoming holiday weekend. The main exception will be Florida where scattered thunderstorms will erupt each afternoon with locally heavy rain and lightning through the weekend.

Midwest: A cold front will push through the Midwest with very little fanfare today. Thanks to a very dry air mass ahead of the front no widespread shower or thunderstorm activity is expected. Some clouds and a shift in the wind direction from the southwest to the northwest will be the only indication that the front has moved through. Once the front clears the area high pressure will take over and be in control of the weather into the holiday weekend. Skies should be mostly sunny with pleasant temperatures.

West: Upslope winds behind a southward moving cold front will increase the threat of thunderstorms across the southern Rockies into the weekend. The activity should be fairly isolated with about 20 to 30 percent coverage each afternoon and early evening. An onshore flow along the Canadian border should keep skies mostly cloudy with a few showers over western Washington into the early part of the weekend. The remainder of the western part of the country should enjoy sunny skies with mild temperatures in the mountains and along the coast, while it will remain hot over the deserts. (*NWS, Media Sources*)

Wildfire Update

CURRENT SITUATION: Initial attack activity was light nationally with 101 fires reported. Seven new large fires were reported, three in the Rocky Mountain Area, two in the Northern Rockies Area, and one each in the Western Great Basin and Northern California Areas. Nine large fires were contained, four in the Northern Rockies Area, two in the Northern California Area, and one each in the Northwest, Eastern Great Basin, and Rocky Mountain Areas. Very high to extreme fire indices were reported in Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, 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. An Area Command Team (Williams-Rhodes) is deployed to the Regional Response Coordination Center in Atlanta, GA. for Hurricane Katrina Support.

OUTLOOK: Red Flag Warnings: For the northern and central Sacramento Valley and surrounding foothills (below 3000'), and for Lake County, through 6 PM PDT Wednesday. Warning is for gusty north winds and low humidity.

Weather Discussion: An upper level low pressure system will move across the northern Plains today with strong gusty winds, showers, and thunderstorms. Cooler conditions will spread eastward across the Rockies today. Winds will die down behind the front in the Great Basin and western Rockies, and the dry offshore flow in the northern Sacramento Valley of California will weaken. Showers will continue in Alaska mainly over the eastern portion of the state.

Idaho

NEW Patterson (Salmon-Challis National Forest): 1,185 acres at zero percent contained. This fire is two miles north of Patterson. Structures and cultural sites are threatened. Precipitation limited fire behavior.

Frank Church (Payette National Forest): 23,652 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. Smoldering and creeping was observed.

Montana

Seepay #2 (Flathead Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs): 3,200 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. Torching with short crown runs and spotting were observed.

Selway-Salmon Complex (Bitterroot National Forest): 12,121 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. Creeping and smoldering was reported.

Hazard Lake (Lewis and Clark National Forest): 747 acres. This lightning-caused Wildland Fire Use (WFU) fire is 33 miles near Choteau. This fire is being managed to accomplish resource objectives. Private land is potentially threatened. Structure protection is being planned. Creeping and smoldering was reported.

Nevada

Grass Springs (Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest): 547 acres at 50 percent contained. The fire is burning eight miles southeast of Austin. No further information was received.

Chance (Northern Region, Nevada Division of Forestry): 23,709 acres at 75 percent contained. The fire is six miles northeast of Elko. Creeping and smoldering was reported.

Firefighters made significant progress building containment lines.

NEW North Road (Winnimucca Field Office, Bureau of Land Management): 10,000 acres at 70 percent contained. The fire is five miles southeast of McDermitt. A sage grouse habitat and cultural resources are threatened. Creeping and smoldering was observed.

Oregon

Granite Complex (Wallowa-Whitman National Forest): 29,750 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. Overall fire behavior was low. Burn out operations were completed.

Utah

North Neola (Uintah and Ouray Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs): 4,036 acres at 95 percent contained. The fire is two miles north of Neola. A community watershed and a wildlife habitat are threatened. Occasional flare-ups were observed. No further information was reported.

Wyoming

NEW Bixby (Converse County): 1,500 acres at zero percent contained. The fire is east of Glenrock. Three structures were lost. Residences and outbuildings are threatened. Extreme fire behavior was observed. (*National Interagency Fire Center, National Interagency Information Center*)

FEMA Regional Activity

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management received a report from the Fauquier County Office Emergency Management that a high wind event, possibly a tornado, damaged 5-6 residences rendering 3 uninhabitable due to wind damage. There were no injuries reported. No further actions by the State are anticipated at this time.

The National Weather Service will investigate the weather conditions at the time of the incident to determine presence of a tornado. Federal assistance not requested at this time. Region III Operations will continue to monitor the situation. Region III will continue to monitor and provide information as it becomes available. (FEMA Region III)

Multiple light earthquakes occurred today, August 31, 2005, between the hours of 1800 EDT and 1932 EDT, the largest being 4.5. The earthquake was located in Southern California. The depth was estimated to be 2 miles. There are currently no reports of injuries or damage. There is no anticipated State or Local response, and no request for Federal assistance has been received. (*FEMA Region IX*)

Other Tropical Cyclone Activity

In the Eastern/Central Pacific, no storms threaten land or any U.S. interests.

At 11:00 pm EDT, Typhoon (ty) 14w (Nabi) position near 15.7N 145.8E, or approximately 35 nm northeast of Saipan. Typhoon Nabi has tracked west-northwestward at 10 mph over the past six hours. Maximum sustained winds - 103 mph, gusts 127 mph, and significant wave height is 35 feet. (*National Hurricane Center, Joint Typhoon Warning Center*)

Earthquake Activity

No additional earthquake activity occurred during the past 24 hours. (*USGS National Earthquake Information Center*)

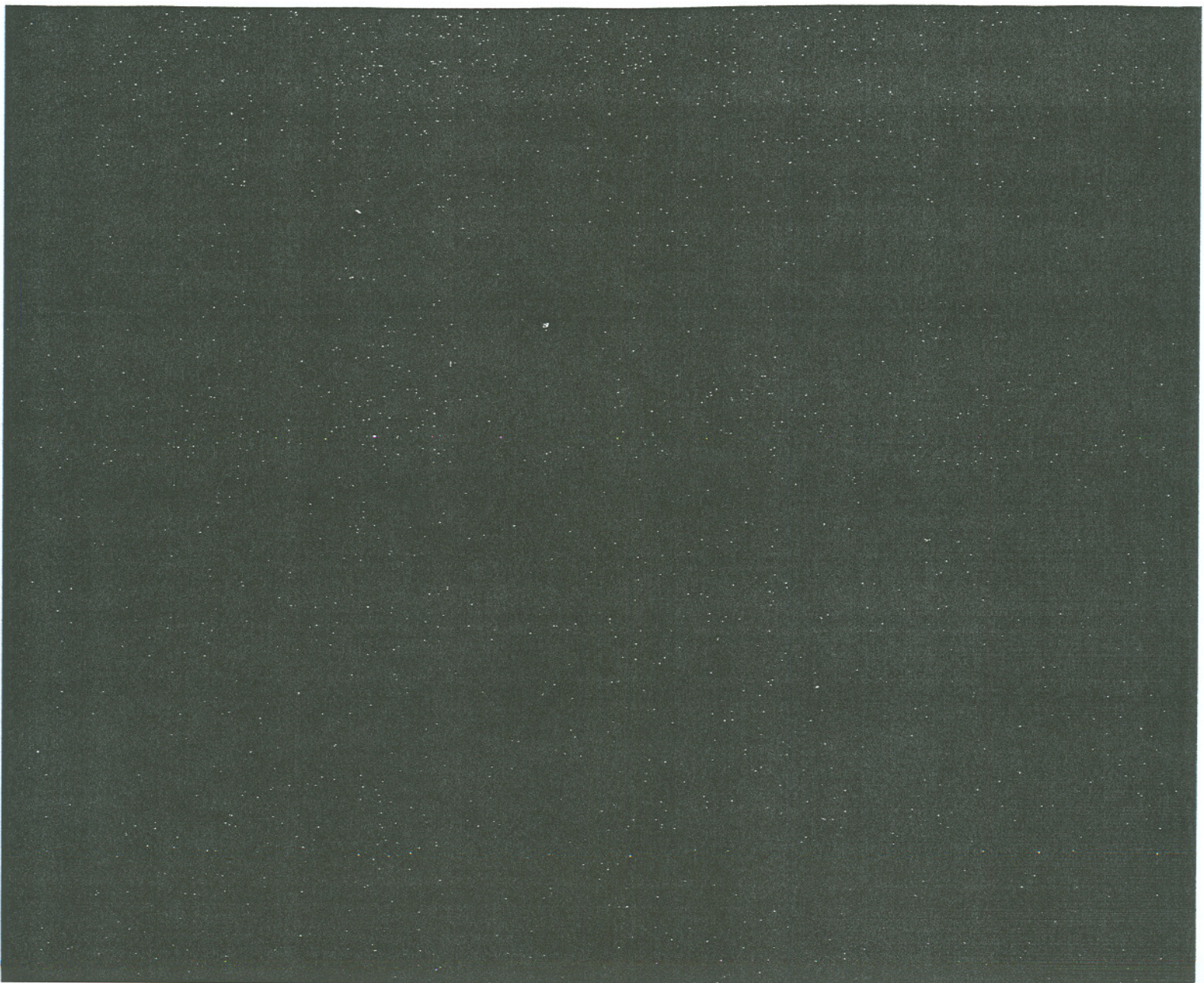
Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs)

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

Disaster Declaration Activity

No new information during the past 24 hours. (*FEMA HQ*)

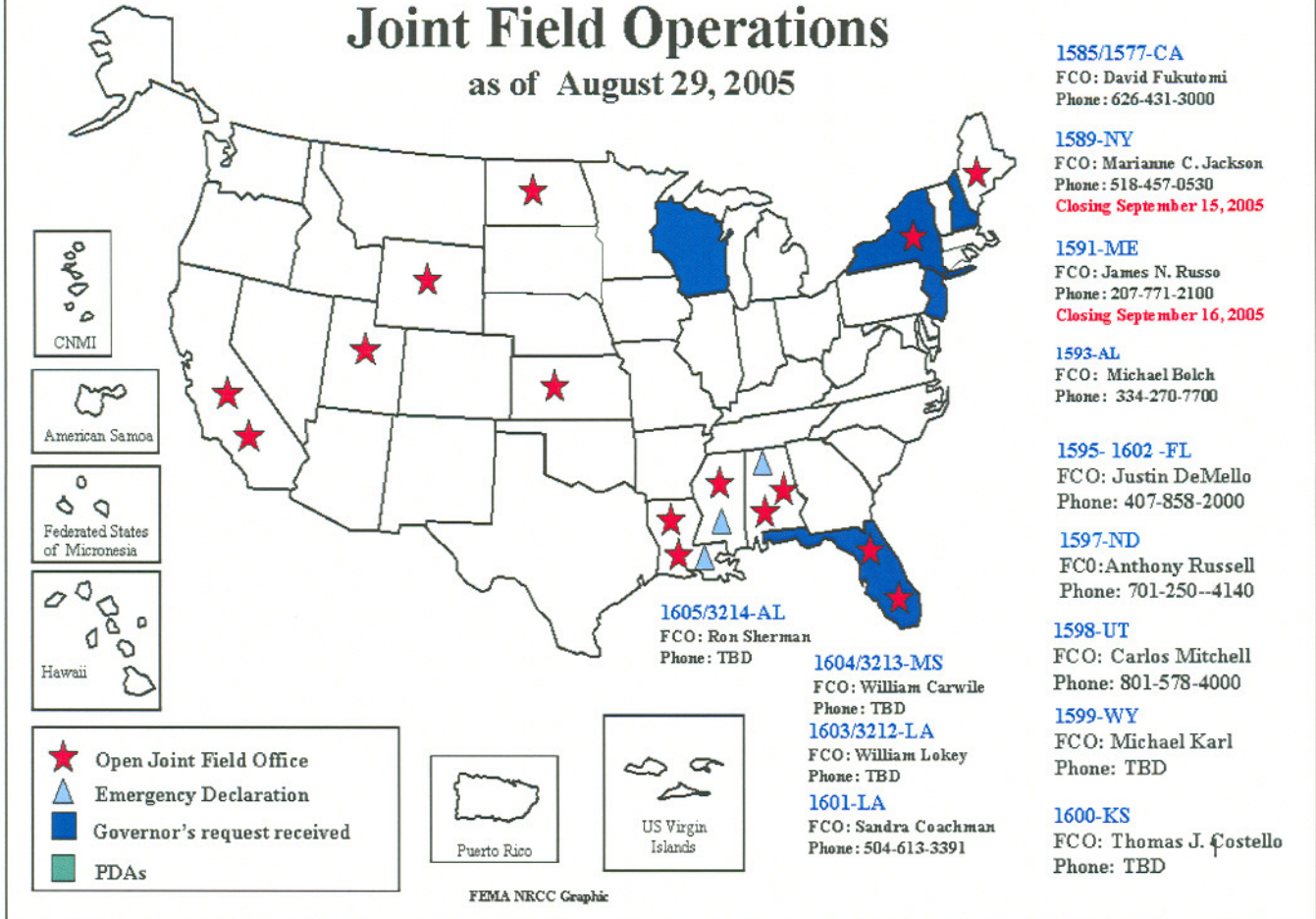
FEMA Readiness Alert Status:



Disaster Teleregistration Activity Chart

DR	Incident Type	08/30/05	Cumulative
1605-AL	Hurricane Katrina	3,578	3,971
1604-MS	Hurricane Katrina	1,448	1,735
1603-LA	Hurricane Katrina	11,964	13,149
1599-WY	Tornado	5	184
1595-FL	Hurricane Dennis	64	39,349
1593-AL	Hurricane Dennis	27	13,734
Total		17,086	72,122

Joint Field Operations as of August 29, 2005



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.