



FEMA

National Situation Report

As of 5:30 a.m. Sunday, September 4, 2005

This information is provided as a public service. Information presented is considered public information and may be distributed or copied. Use of appropriate byline/photo/image credits is requested. Published daily by the FEMA National Response Coordination Center (NRCC). Available on the internet at: <http://www.fema.com/emanagers/natsitup.shtml>. For questions or comments, call the NRCC at (202) 646-2828/4541 (staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week).

Homeland Security Threat Level:

ELEVATED

Exhaustion And Illness Adding To The City's Death Toll

Thousands of angry, exhausted and desperate storm victims gained a measure of deliverance Saturday as the evacuation of New Orleans continued and troops poured in to restore order after almost a week of near-anarchy. By yesterday evening, significant progress had been made clearing the Superdome and the city's convention center, two potentially dangerous flash



points of anger where as many as 50,000 people had spent five grueling days since Hurricane Katrina struck.

Having largely emptied the cavernous Superdome, which had become a squalid pit of misery and violence, officials turned their attention to the convention center, where people waited to be evacuated as corpses rotted in the streets. The death toll in the city is not known, but the dying continues as people succumb to illness, exhaustion and days without food and water.

Craig Vanderwagen, rear admiral of the U.S. Public Health Service, said one morgue alone, at a prison in the town of St. Gabriel, expected 1,000 to 2,000 bodies. Search-and-rescue operations continued

throughout New Orleans. State officials said thousands more remained trapped in the city and a full evacuation could take weeks.

Almost 13,000 Coast Guard personnel are in the city performing search-and-rescue operations and another 3,000 are expected to join them Monday. At the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, about 1,000 people — tired and dirty from living for days on the sidewalks outside the center — were loaded into air-conditioned buses in the first two hours of the evacuation operation Saturday morning. An estimated 25,000 people have been waiting for help outside the center.

Food and water arrived there on military trucks for the first time Friday. People were relieved to get some supplies, but they were more interested in escaping the dreadful conditions. The National Guard said the evacuees will be taken to shelters in Houston, San Antonio and Baton Rouge. People were allowed to take whatever belongings they could carry onto the bus. Some carried or dragged bags and suitcases loaded with possessions from home; others took ice chests, food and blankets.

Louis Armstrong International Airport served as a massive clearing house for some of the storm's sickest victims Saturday. Military and Coast Guard helicopters flew a steady stream of evacuees from hospitals and rooftops to the airport southwest of downtown.

Inside the four triage tents, medical personnel tended to people who had gone for days without their medication, some of whom were not lucid enough to describe their ailments.

With the evacuee situation stabilizing somewhat, and increasing numbers of armed soldiers and police on the streets, officials said Saturday they would start aggressively dealing with the bands of armed looters who pushed the city to the brink of complete breakdown. Frustration at the slow rate of recovery and the federal response to the disaster also mounted Saturday in Mississippi and Alabama, where storm victims voiced resentment that New Orleans seemed to be getting most of the attention. *(Medida Sources)*

Maria Still A Tropical Storm But Could Become A Hurricane Expected To Pass Well East Of Bermuda

At 11 pm EDT (0300Z) the center of Tropical Storm Maria was located near latitude 27.1 north longitude 54.9 west or about 695 miles (1115 km) east-southeast of Bermuda.

Maria is moving toward the north-northwest near 14 mph (22 km/hr). This general motion is expected to continue during the next 24 hours.

Maximum sustained winds are near 70 mph (110 km/hr) with higher gusts. Some strengthening is forecast during the next 24 hours and maria could become a hurricane today. Tropical Storm force winds extend outward up to 115 miles (185 km) from the center.

Estimated minimum central pressure is 995 mb (29.38 inches). *(National Hurricane Center)*

Homes and Crops Damaged by Typhoon Nabi in CNMI

At least 114 houses were either completely destroyed or sustained major and minor damage due to the onslaught of Typhoon Nabi, the American Red Cross-CNMI chapter reported yesterday. As of Friday, over a hundred people still remained at emergency shelters.

Some 70 to 80 percent of Saipan's agricultural crops were also destroyed, according to a Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service consultant. A complete survey is being conducted.

Teams of local Red Cross personnel conducted disaster assessments on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian, and said 37 homes have become unlivable because they were either completely destroyed or severely damaged. Most of the damaged houses are on Saipan.

FEMA is conducting Individual Assistance and Public Assistance PDA's, which began Friday, September 2.

Tropical Storm Nabi intensified into a typhoon and slammed into CNMI around 10 pm EDT Wednesday, with 105 mph winds. At least 575 people took refuge at emergency shelters. (FEMA HQ)

National Weather

Northeast: The weather pattern is looking great for all outdoor activities across most of the nation. A large area of high pressure building in to the eastern-half of the nation will bring mostly sunny skies, pleasant temperatures, and less humid air to the Northeast's and Middle-Atlantic's last unofficial weekend of summer. Afternoon high temperatures will peak in the 60s and 70s across New England, Upstate New York and northern Pennsylvania. The 70s and lower 80s will extend from New York City to the Virginias. Lows Labor Day morning will be generally in the 40s and 50s with a few low 60s in New York City and around Delaware Bay, Chesapeake Bay and Tidewater Virginia. The early autumnal feel will remain in the Northeast through the middle part of the week.

South: The same high pressure that will bring a touch of fall to the Northeast will bring less humidity and lower pleasant temperatures to the Southeast by the end of the holiday weekend. The northeasterly wind flow around the high pressure will funnel cooler air down along the eastside of the Appalachians through the Carolinas, Georgia, eastern Alabama and northernmost Florida. Gradually by early to mid week afternoon highs from Virginia to the Florida line will reach only into the lower to mid 80s with overnight temperatures in the lower to mid 60s. The high pressure system will keep much of the South and Southeast cloud and rain free this coming week. Unfortunately an onshore wind primarily along the Atlantic and western Gulf Coasts will enhance a chance of thunderstorms over the next several days. The Florida and the Texas coasts will have the best chance for showers and thunderstorms this weekend. Gusty east to northeast afternoon winds are in the forecast along the Florida coast thanks to the high pressure system building north of the Sunshine State. Rip currents are possible along Southeast's Atlantic beaches Sunday and Monday. Hot and humid conditions will persist across Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. More 90s will continue to add to the discomfort of those just trying to survive or else working with relief and law enforcement efforts in the area ravaged by Hurricane Katrina. Low pressure (possibly tropical in nature) could develop along the stalled front somewhere off the east coast of Florida. This situation will have to be monitored closely.

Midwest: The second part of the holiday weekend is looking very good for residents and visitors in the Midwest, the Great Lakes, and the Great Plains. Overall this region of the country will have a warm and dry weekend. There is a chance of morning thunderstorms in southeast Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and northern Illinois but the afternoon will be warm and rain free. Mostly sunny skies and highs in the 80s from Lakes Barkley and Kentucky to the Lake of the Ozarks to Lake Winnebago will bring outdoor enthusiasts, boaters and picnickers out in force. The central and northern Great Plains will be very hot and breezy with highs in the 90s to the low 100s. A few thunderstorms could pop late in the day from North Dakota to western Nebraska. By Labor Day, a cold front will move into the region with increasing cloud cover and an increasing chance for showers and thunderstorms in the Plains. Behind the front temperatures will drop dramatically into the 60s and 70s across much of the northern Great Plains and Upper Midwest.

West: Scattered afternoon and evening thunderstorms will pop from Arizona and New Mexico to Montana today. A cold front will move across the northern Rockies and out into the western High Plains helping to focus thunderstorm development in the interior Northwest. As the front continues to move south and east, cooler and drier air will filter into the Front Range and bring some relief to the Mile-High City of Denver, Colorado, by Tuesday. The Desert Southwest will remain very hot with a shrinking risk for any additional thunderstorms as the upcoming week unfolds. Southern California will

enjoy sunny skies, with some morning low clouds along the beaches, and temperatures in the low 70s along the coast with the low 90s in the Valleys. Another upper-level disturbance will clip the Pacific Northwest Sunday bringing clouds and a few showers to parts of Washington state. By Monday the Pacific Northwest will enjoy partly cloudy skies with highs in the 60s and 70s along the coast and the 70s and 80s east of the mountains. *(NWS, Media Sources)*

Wildfire Update

National Preparedness Level 4

CURRENT SITUATION:

Initial attack activity was light nationally with 120 fires reported. Three new large fires were reported, two in the Eastern Great Basin Area and one in the Rocky Mountain Area. Two large fires were contained in the Rocky Mountain Area. Very high to extreme fire indices were reported in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

A Presidential Disaster Declaration was issued on 8/29 for Hurricane Katrina in Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana. Two Area Command Teams are assigned (Williams-Rhodes and Ribar). Williams-Rhodes' Team is providing incident coordination at the Regional Response Coordination Center in Atlanta, GA for Hurricane Katrina Support. Ribar's team is assigned to the Louisiana Emergency Operations Center in Baton Rouge, LA. Numerous resources are being mobilized as part of the relief effort.

OUTLOOK:

Red Flag Warnings: For southwest and south-central Montana for strong winds and low relative humidity. For most of Nevada (except Mineral County and southern Lyon County) on Saturday afternoon and evening for gusty winds combined with low relative humidity.

Fire Weather Watches: For northeast California for moderate to strong gusty winds combined with low humidity. For central Montana for strong winds and low relative humidity.

Weather Discussion: An upper level low pressure system will approach the Pacific Northwest coast today with showers and isolated wet thunderstorms across northern Washington into northwestern Montana. The surface cold front will move across northwestern Montana, northwestern Idaho and eastern Oregon today. Windy and dry conditions will develop out ahead of the front throughout much of the West. Scattered wet thunderstorms are forecast for the four corners region.

Idaho

Long Black Complex (Clearwater National Forest): 2,610 acres at 25 percent contained. This complex, comprised of the Long Creek and Black Canyon fires, is 38 miles northeast of Pierce. Steep terrain, numerous snags and limited access continue to hamper containment efforts. Fire activity increased due to lower humidity. Reduction in acreage due to more accurate mapping.

Frank Church (Payette National Forest): 28,280 acres. This lightning-caused 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 remain threatened. Structure protection is in place.

Montana

Signal Rock (Beaverhead/Deerlodge National Forest): ,700 acres at five percent contained. The fire is 17 miles southwest of Philipsburg and is burning on both the Bitterroot and Beaverhead/Deerlodge National Forests. Structures remain threatened. Fire activity included crowning and spot fires.

Seepay #2 (Flathead Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs): 7,500 acres at 50 percent contained. The fire is two miles southwest of Perma. Residences and commercial property remain threatened. Steep rugged terrain and heavy fuel loading are hampering containment efforts. Surface fire with isolated torching was observed.

Selway-Salmon Complex (Bitterroot National Forest): 15,320 acres. This lightning-caused 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 historic ranger station, a work center and a lookout remain threatened. Structure protection remains in place. Magruder road is open to restricted travel. Several fires on the complex were active with sustained crown runs due to high winds and low relative humidity. *(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.

In the Western Pacific, no storms threaten any U.S. interests. *(National Hurricane Center, Joint Typhoon Warning Center)*

Earthquake Activity

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

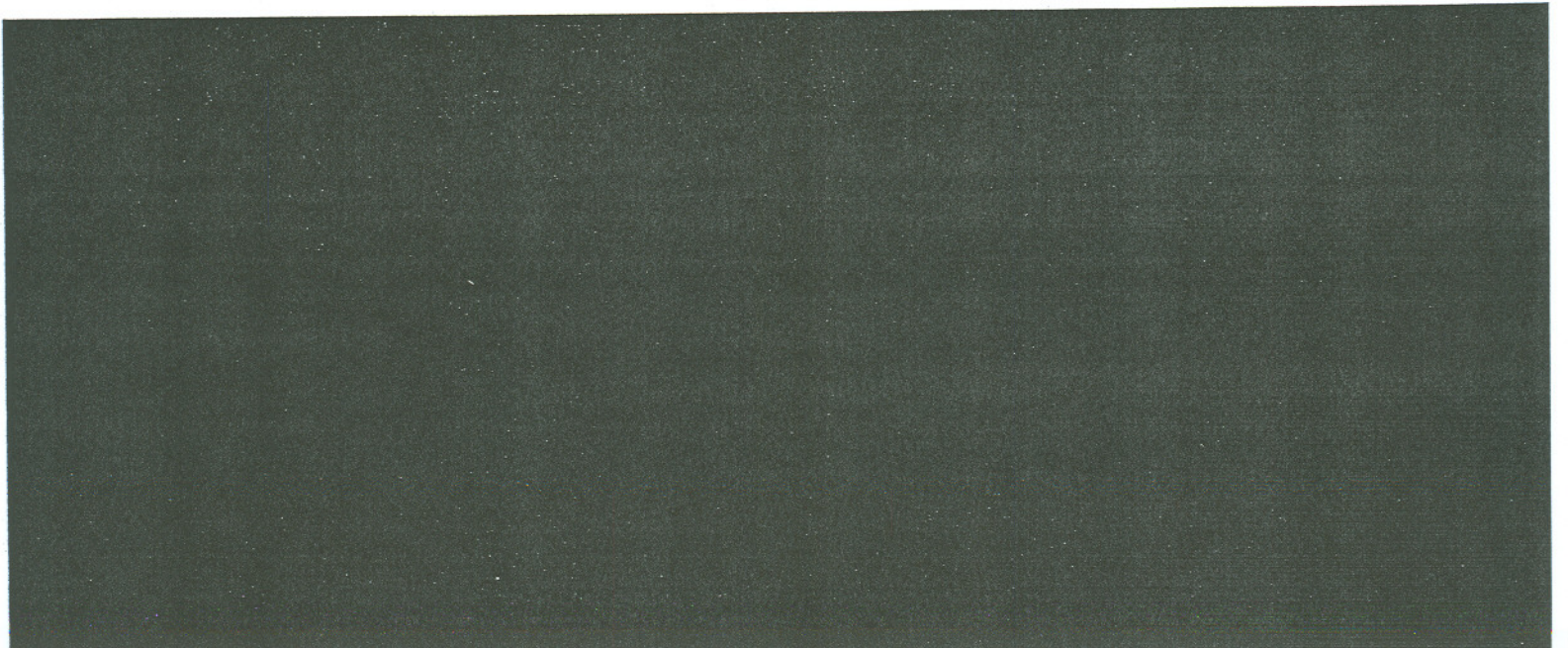
Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs)

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

Disaster Declaration Activity

No new information. *(FEMA HQ)*

FEMA Readiness Alert Status:



Disaster Teleregistration Activity Chart

DR	Incident Type	09/02/05	Cumulative
1605-AL	Hurricane Katrina	3,103	15,090
1604-MS	Hurricane Katrina	8,107	18,278
1603-LA	Hurricane Katrina	36,838	124,654
1599-WY	Tornado	3	205
1595-FL	Hurricane Dennis	63	39,560
1593-AL	Hurricane Dennis	9	13,777
Total		48,123	211,564

