



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney David R. Dugas  
Middle District of Louisiana

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 2006  
[WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/LAM](http://WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/LAM)

CONTACT: DAVID R. DUGAS  
(225) 389-0443  
FAX: (225) 389-0561

## **GUILTY PLEA IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, TO FEDERAL FEMA FRAUD CHARGES**

BATON ROUGE, LA – United States Attorney David R. Dugas announced that another Louisiana resident pled guilty in federal court yesterday to a violation related to Hurricane Katrina relief funds.

DERRICK W. DEAMER, age 34, a resident of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, pled guilty yesterday before District Court Judge Frank J. Polozola to Count One of an indictment charging him with making a false and fraudulent claim for disaster relief benefits.

As a result of his guilty plea to Count One of the indictment, DEAMER faces a sentence of imprisonment of a maximum of five (5) years, a \$250,000 fine, or both. As part of the plea agreement, the U.S. Attorney's Office will dismiss Count Two of the indictment when DEAMER is sentenced on Count One.

In September 2005, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, designed to deter, investigate and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes such as charity fraud, identity theft, procurement fraud and insurance fraud. The Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force – chaired by Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the Criminal Division – includes the FBI, the U.S. Inspectors General community, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Executive Office for United States Attorneys and others.

The total number of defendants who have been charged in the Middle District of Louisiana with violations related to Hurricane Katrina relief funds stands at sixty-eight.

For further information, contact David R. Dugas, U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana, or Lyman Thornton, First Assistant U.S. Attorney, at (225) 389-0443. Anyone suspecting criminal activity involving disaster assistance programs can make an anonymous report by calling the toll-free Hurricane Relief Fraud Hotline, 1-866-720-5721, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, until further notice. Information can also be emailed to the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force at [HKFTF@leo.gov](mailto:HKFTF@leo.gov) or sent by surface mail, with as many details as possible, to Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4909.

###