



# Department of Justice

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Middle District of Louisiana

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## **TWO MORE SENTENCED IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, ON FEDERAL FEMA FRAUD CHARGES**

BATON ROUGE, LA – Two more Louisiana residents were sentenced in federal court by Chief U.S. District Court Judge Ralph E. Tyson on fraud charges related to hurricane disaster relief programs, United States Attorney David R. Dugas announced today.

BILLY R. JAMES, age 30, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, pled guilty on May 9, 2006, to Count One of an indictment charging him with making a false claim for Hurricane Katrina disaster assistance benefits. JAMES was sentenced to three months imprisonment followed by three years of supervised release, and \$2,000 in restitution. The Federal Bureau of Investigation conducted the investigation of this matter.

DEDRICK M. JACKSON, age 23, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, pled guilty on May 30, 2006, to Count One of an indictment charging him with making a false claim for Hurricane Katrina disaster assistance benefits. JACKSON was sentenced to three years probation and \$2,000 in restitution. The U.S. Postal Service, Office of Inspector General; the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General; and the Federal Bureau of Investigation conducted the investigation of this matter.

The number of individuals who have been charged in the Middle District of Louisiana with violations related to hurricane disaster relief funds stands at seventy-four.

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.

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.

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