



Department of Justice

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MORE MISSISSIPPIANS ARRESTED FOR HURRICANE KATRINA FRAUD

Jackson, Mississippi - United States Attorney Dunn Lampton announced today that four more individuals have been arrested for FEMA fraud.

Brian B. Burns, of Gulfport, Mississippi, was arrested on December 18, 2006 for making false statements to FEMA for Hurricane Katrina disaster assistance funds. Burns was indicted on December 6, 2006, for receiving \$2,358 from FEMA by providing a false address in Biloxi, Mississippi, in claiming hurricane damage at that address. If convicted of these crimes he faces up to 40 years in prison and up to \$1,000,000 in fines.

William J. Carter, of Ocean Springs, Mississippi, was arrested on December 18, 2006 for making false statements to FEMA for Hurricane Katrina disaster assistance funds. Carter was indicted on December 6, 2006, for receiving \$4,608 from FEMA by providing a false address in Biloxi, Mississippi, in claiming hurricane damage at that address. If convicted of these crimes he faces up to 40 years in prison and up to \$1,000,000 in fines.

Michael Stapleton, of Vancleave, Mississippi, was arrested on December 18, 2006 for making false statements to FEMA for Hurricane Katrina disaster assistance funds. Stapleton was indicted on December 6, 2006, for receiving in excess of \$4,500 from FEMA by providing a false address in Biloxi, Mississippi, in claiming hurricane damage at that address. If convicted of these crimes he faces up to 40 years in prison and up to \$1,000,000 in fines.

Rose Crosby, of Gulfport, Mississippi, was arrested on December 18, 2006 for making false statements to FEMA for Hurricane Katrina disaster assistance funds. Crosby was indicted on December 6, 2006, for receiving \$4,358 from FEMA by providing a false address in Biloxi, Mississippi, in claiming hurricane damage at that address. If convicted of these crimes she faces up to 40 years in prison and up to \$1,000,000 in fines.

In September, 2005, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the national 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 for the Criminal Division, Alice S. Fisher, includes members from the FBI, the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Labor Office of Inspector General, the Postal Inspector's Office and the Executive Office of United States Attorneys, among others.

Pursuant to the Justice Department initiative, a local Katrina Fraud Task Force, consisting of over 20 Federal and State law enforcement agencies, was formed in the Southern

District of
Mississippi to pursue and prosecute individuals who engage in fraud associated with the
hurricanes.

If anyone has information concerning possible fraud being committed during the post-
Katrina recovery effort, please call either the DHS-OIG Fraud Hotline at 1-866-720-5721 or the
FBI Fraud Hotline at 1-800-225-5324.

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