

Motions and Subpoenas

Select Bipartisan Committee to Investigate the Preparation for and Response to Hurricane Katrina, *Motion to Subpoena Harriet Miers, Counsel to the President* (Dec. 14, 2005) (motion by Rep. Melancon to subpoena White House documents, rejected by majority).

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HSOC SPOT REP

SPOT REP #:	#013
Date/Time (EDT):	08/29/05 @ 2230
Reference:	New Orleans Helicopter Overflight
Source of Information:	FEMA Teleconference - observations from Marty Bahamonte, FEMA Public Affairs. Participants included Patrick Rhode, Mike Lowder, Bill Locke, Mike Pawlowski and Mary Anne Lyle
Type of Incident:	Hurricane Katrina

Update

Marty Bahamonte of FEMA Public Affairs made two aerial over flights the New Orleans area the afternoon of Monday, August 29, 2005. As additional information becomes available it will be reported.

He concluded the two immediate major problems would be:

1. Access to the city because roads are flooded to the north and east.
2. Housing

His observations include the following:

- The I-10 Twin Span bridges to the east of the City to Slidell are compromised in both directions for a stretch of five to seven miles. On the east side bridge sections are gone; on the west side bridge sections are buckled and askew.
- There is no way to enter New Orleans from the east. Highway 11 appears generally in tact but is under water where it enters the City and will require some repair but appears to be a quick fix.
- The western I10/I610 junction connecting Jefferson and Orleans Parrish is under water.
- Entrance from the north is not possible because as roads get into the city, they are under water.
- I10 to the west appears to have several underwater sections.
- The Airline Highway by the airport is above water.
- There is a quarter-mile breach in the levee near the 17th Street Canal about 200 yards from Lake Pontchartrain allowing water to flow into the City.
- The levee in Metairie is in tact.
- Only one of the main pumps is reported to still be working but cannot keep up with the demand and its longevity is doubtful.
- In the neighborhoods there are many small fires where natural gas lines have broken.
- Flooding is greatest in the north and east in New Orleans, Metairie

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	<p>and north towards Slidell – an estimated 2/3 to 75% of the city is under water.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The flights did not go all the way north to Slidell so conditions there are not reported.• Some homes were seen with water to the first floor and others completely underwater.• Hundreds of people were observed on the balconies and roofs of a major apartment complex in the city. The location has been provided to City officials.• Downtown there is less flooding. Most buildings have windows blown out but otherwise appear structurally sound.• West and South of the City appear dry.• Lake Front Airport by Lake Pontchartrain is under water.• There is an oil tanker grounded in the Industrial Canal – two tugs were observed working with the ship.• The Coast Guard reported two other tankers aground but they were not observed.• The Coast Guard is flying rescue missions for people stuck on roofs. They reported seeing about 150 people but also said that as they lifted people out, they saw others breaking through the roofs of adjacent homes.• The Coast Guard will use night vision devices and continue rescue missions into the night.• Search and Rescue will need boats, in some locations high wheeled trucks may be usable. FEMA USR Teams are coordinating boat use with Louisiana Fish and Game officials.• The City reports about 300 people have been rescued by boat so far. These rescue operations will continue through the night.• Boat traffic is not restricted and movement of supplies by boat and barge is feasible.• The Inter Harbor Canal is not visible.• A few bodies were seen floating in the water and Coast Guard pilots also reported seeing bodies but there are no details on locations or numbers.
N/A	N/A
Matthew Thompson	Matthew Thompson NRCC Planning Section Analyst

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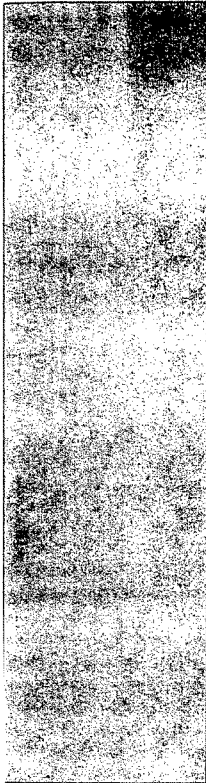
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Update	
Summary	<p>Marty Bahamonte of FEMA Public Affairs made two aerial over flights of the New Orleans area the afternoon of Monday, August 29, 2005. As additional information becomes available it will be reported.</p> <p>He concluded the two immediate major problems would be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access to the city because roads are flooded to the north and east. 2. Housing <p>His observations include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The I-10 Twin Span bridges to the east of the City to Slidell are compromised in both directions for a stretch of five to seven miles. On the east side bridge sections are gone; on the west side bridge sections are buckled and askew. • There is no way to enter New Orleans from the east. Highway 11 appears generally in tact but is under water where it enters the City and will require some repair but appears to be a quick fix. • The western I10/I610 junction connecting Jefferson and Orleans Parrish is under water. • Entrance from the north is not possible because as roads get into the city, they are under water. • I10 to the west appears to have several underwater sections. • The Airline Highway by the airport is above water. • There is a quarter-mile breach in the levee near the 17th Street Canal about 200 yards from Lake Pontchartrain allowing water to flow into the City. • The levee in Metairie is in tact. • Only one of the main pumps is reported to still be working but cannot keep up with the demand and its longevity is doubtful. • In the neighborhoods there are many small fires where natural gas lines have broken. • Flooding is greatest in the north and east in New Orleans, Metairie

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Significance:	
Actions/Follow-Up:	N/A
Miscellaneous:	
Prepared By:	Mathew Thompson NRCC Planning Section Analyst

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From: Besanceney, Brian [mailto:...]
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2005 9:27 PM
To: Wood, John F; Bergman, Cynthia; Karonis, Jeff; Knocke, William R; Boudreaux, Chad; Cannatti, Ashley
Subject: FYI from FEMA

Natalie Rule, head of EA for FEMA called. Said the first (unconfirmed) reports they are getting from aerial surveys in New Orleans are far more serious than media reports are currently reflecting. Finding extensive flooding and more stranded people than they had originally thought - also a number of fires.

FYI in case tomorrow's sit reps seem more "severe"

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

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From: Rhode, Patrick [Patrick.Rhode@dhs.gov]
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2005 11:05 PM
To: mjackson
Subject: Update

Michael,

Just a quick update since our phone conversation this evening.

We just spoke with our first rep on the ground in New Orleans who did a helo tour and describes a 200 yard collapse of the levy on the south side of the lake which is accounting for much of the additional flooding. While significant, this was the only apparent collapse viewed.

He reiterates significant logistical challenges to the movement of teams and commodities by ground via east side of New Orleans. Says north is compromised as well, essentially leaving western as one of few potential options.

Describes approximately 60 percent of the city as under water to some degree.

Says a seven mile stretch of the twin span along I10 to Slidel is 100 percent compromised with many sections in need of repair.

Saw 1 oil tanker run aground and understands from coast guard that two more may have as well.

We understand that a robust search and rescue is underway in new orleans and through the evening using night vision equipment. Reports of many successful rescues by air from tops of homes. Fish and wildlife boats are also contributing successfully to this effort. Approx 150 were estimated to be stranded as I write this.

Waterways are open via boat or barge for commodity planners to consider as alternate routes.

Our Oklahoma DMAT team is moving the special needs population out of the superdome for better care now in baton rouge - this may range close to 1,000.

Our rapid needs assessment teams are scheduled to be on the ground by first light in the morning and will have immediate reach back to dmats and usr.

Only a few unconfirmed random body sightings at this time. Accuracy not reliable at this time.

Debris removal teams ae engaged at this time and overnight in la and ms.

Less visibility on MS as storm remnants kept assessments to a minimum this evening, although there are significant search and rescue assets enaged there as well. More visibility on entire scope of situation in am.

Thanks,

Patrick

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BULLETIN - EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED
FLASH FLOOD WARNING
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE NEW ORLEANS LA
814 AM CDT MON AUG 29 2005

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN NEW ORLEANS HAS ISSUED A

* FLASH FLOOD WARNING FOR...
ORLEANS PARISH IN SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA
THIS INCLUDES THE CITIES OF...NEW ORLEANS
ST. BERNARD PARISH IN SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA
THIS INCLUDES THE CITY OF CHALMETTE

* UNTIL 215 PM CDT

* A LEVEE BREACH OCCURRED ALONG THE INDUSTRIAL CANAL AT TENNESSE
STREET. 3 TO 8 FEET OF WATER IS EXPECTED DUE TO THE BREACH.

* LOCATIONS IN THE WARNING INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO ARABI AND
9TH WARD OF NEW ORLEANS.

DO NOT DRIVE YOUR VEHICLE INTO AREAS WHERE THE WATER COVERS THE
ROADWAY. THE WATER DEPTH MAY BE TOO GREAT TO ALLOW YOUR CAR TO CROSS
SAFELY. VEHICLES CAUGHT IN RISING WATER SHOULD BE ABANDONED QUICKLY.
MOVE TO HIGHER GROUND.

A FLASH FLOOD WARNING MEANS THAT FLOODING IS IMMINENT OR OCCURRING.
IF YOU ARE IN THE WARNING AREA MOVE TO HIGHER GROUND IMMEDIATELY.
RESIDENTS LIVING ALONG STREAMS AND CREEKS SHOULD TAKE IMMEDIATE
PRECAUTIONS TO PROTECT LIFE AND PROPERTY. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CROSS
SWIFTLY FLOWING WATERS OR WATERS OF UNKNOWN DEPTH BY FOOT OR BY
AUTOMOBILE.

LAT...LON 2992 9012 2994 9003 2987 8987 3001 8985
3004 8982 3008 8993 3002 9012

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