

Hurricane Frances ESF-12 Situation Report

September 2, 2004 1600 Hours

The Federal Government is preparing for a disaster of great magnitude in the greater Gulf Coast area.

- The Department of Homeland Security has held a series of tele-video conferences with the Federal and State agencies that are expected to be engaged during and after the hurricane hits.
- Although the exact land-fall of the storm cannot be determined at this time, there is major concern that the potential impact areas have not had structures built to existing building codes “tested” against winds of this kind since 1947.

DOE’s Office of Energy Assurance is in the final stages of preparation for response to wide-scale expected power outages to be caused by Hurricane Frances. Current activities include:

- Starting to staff the FEMA National Emergency Operations Center in Washington on a 24/7 basis on Friday morning at 7 am.
- Starting to staff the FEMA Region IV Regional Operations Center in Atlanta on a 24/7 basis starting Friday 9/3. As Disaster Site Offices are designated, OEA will also staff those.
- Drawing on volunteers from multiple DOE locations and utilizing personnel from NETL, Richland, the HAMMER facility, BPA and WAPA to supplement our Headquarters staff. Staff at several National Laboratories are prepared to provide support in assessing the impact of the storm and its associated cascading affects in real time.
- Coordinating with the American Petroleum Institute, North American Electric Reliability Council, State energy offices and emergency operations centers, EPA, FEMA and DOT to make emergency response preparations for this storm.
- Some local areas in Florida are already experiencing fuel shortages due to high demand (related to the evacuation process) as well as shut-in petroleum terminals in preparation for the storm. OEA has been working with the appropriate entities to obtain waivers on restrictions on the use of certain fuels (whose use is normally curtailed for environmental reasons) and to determine whether driver-waiver hours extensions can be implemented to allow truckers to work longer hours and travel greater distances to deliver fuel where it is in short supply.