



News Release

Escambia County
Office of Public Information and Communications
P.O. Box 1591, Pensacola FL 32591

Hurricane Katrina
News Release #19
Date: August 30, 2005
Time: 5:30 pm

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Escambia County- Hurricane Katrina

➤ **Escambia County Emergency Operations**

- The Emergency Operations Center will not be staffed this evening, Tuesday, August 30 from 5:00 pm.
- Mission critical agencies will return at 8:30 am Wednesday, August 31 for briefings and updates. Any continued activation will be determined at that time.
- The curfew order for Escambia County has been lifted.
- Six Escambia County Fire-Rescue personnel are deploying at 7 am tomorrow for Mississippi. The personnel will staff a ladder truck as part of a 10 unit Task Force made up of Fire Departments from northwest Florida.
- Escambia County EMS is responding do Mississippi as part of the law enforcement task force.

➤ **Pensacola Regional Airport**

- The Airport reopened Tuesday, August 30, 2005 and flights have resumed.
- Please call specific airlines to check flight status.

➤ **Gulf Power**

- As of 4:00 pm Tuesday, August 30, 2005, Gulf Power is estimating 35,000 customers in Escambia County are still are without power.
- Almost 90,000 or about 70% of customers' service has been restored.
- To report an outage, customers should call 1-800-GUPOWER.

➤ **Escambia River Electric Cooperative**

- As of 2:00 pm Tuesday, August 30, 2005, Escambia River Electric Cooperative has restored 91% of its service area and expects to have all service restored this evening.
- If your meter base or service mast has been damaged, please have it repaired by a licensed electrician so power can be restored.
- To report an outage, customers should call 1-800-235-3848.

- **Bridges**
 - FDOT officials announced that the two westbound lanes and one eastbound lane of the I-10 Escambia Bay bridge are opened.
 - The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) opened the eastbound lanes on Highway 90, between Pensacola and Pace to local traffic only.
 - The Three-Mile Bridge (Pensacola to Gulf Breeze) and Garcon Pointe Bridges are open.

- **Escambia County School District**
 - All public schools in Escambia County will remain closed on Wednesday, August 31 due to widespread power outages. Garden Street administrators and professional personnel should report to work Wednesday morning.
 - The public and district employees are advised to monitor the local media and the school district hotline (469-5306) for updated information.
 - All District-level teacher training scheduled for Wednesday, August 31, 2005 has been cancelled and will be rescheduled.
 - All Escambia County School District bus operators are asked to retrieve their buses from their compounds by 5:00 pm today, August 30, 2005.

- **United Way of Escambia County**
 - Volunteers will be needed to assist with recovery through debris removal, damage assessments, and follow-up phone calls. Hours are flexible. If interested in volunteering, please call 471-6697 or 471-6696.
 - First Call for Help, United Way's information and referral line, is fully functional and taking calls regarding shelter, food, and social services available in our area Monday- Friday 8:00-5:00.
 - United Way has billboard vinyls available. Anyone who has roof damage or blue roof/tarp failure can be up a vinyl at United Way, 1301 West Government Street, Monday- Friday between 8:30-4:30. Persons picking up tarps must be able to get the tarp in their own vehicle.

- **State of Florida**
 - The Department of Children and Families have resumed normal operations at all locations except the Chappie James Building.
 - Counseling Services for shelter or other Katrina evacuees
 - Mental Health Counseling Services are being expanded through Project Hope to provide counseling services to evacuees in our area. Please call Mental Health Associates of Northwest Florida Project Hope at 438-9879.
 - The following state offices located in the Chappie James Building will be closed on August 30, 2005: DEP, DOE, DCF, APD, AHCA, FDLE, and DMS.

- **Evacuations**
 - The evacuation order has been lifted for all of Escambia County.

➤ **Shelters**

- Status of shelters:
 - Bellview Elementary, 4425 Bellview Avenue, Pensacola - **Closed**
 - Blue Angel Elementary, 1551 Dog Track Road, Pensacola - **Closed**
 - Carver Century K-8, 440 East Hecker Road, Century - **Closed**
 - Ferry Pass Middle, 8355 Yancey Avenue, Pensacola - **Closed**
 - Molino Park Elementary, 899 Highway 97, Molino - **Closed**
 - Pensacola Civic Center, 201 East Gregory, Pensacola - **Open**
 - Tate High, 1771 Tate Road, Pensacola - **Closed**
 - **West Florida High School, 2400 Longleaf Drive, Pensacola - Closed**
 - University of West Florida – Building 13 - **Closed**
 - Special Needs Shelter at Pensacola Junior College – Lou Ross Building - **Closed**
- The Pensacola Civic Center is also available as a Host Shelter for travelers. Evacuees from neighboring states are encouraged to take I-110 south to the Civic Center from Interstate 10.
- Population at the public shelters is at **171**.

➤ **County Updates**

- County offices will return to normal operations on Wednesday August 31, 2005. All employees should report to their normal workstations at their normal work time.
- The Development Review Committee meeting scheduled for 1:00 pm on Wednesday, August 31, 2005 at 1190 W. Leonard Street, has been cancelled and is rescheduled for September 7, 2005 at 1:00 pm at the same location.
- The Tourism and Convention Committee (TACC) Board meeting scheduled for 8:00 am Wednesday, August 31, 2005 at the Pensacola Chamber of Commerce has been cancelled.
- The following offices are closed today, Tuesday, August 30, 2005, but will reopen on Wednesday, August 31, 2005:
 - **Supervisor of Elections** office
 - **Escambia County Health Department**
 - **All Tax Collector Offices**
 - **The Clerk of Circuit Court Office**
 - **The Sheriff's Office- all non-essential personnel are to report for work.**

➤ **City of Pensacola Update**

- Most City offices plan to be open for regular business hours as of noon today, Tuesday, August 30, 2005.
- Garbage service will resume Tuesday, August 30, 2005 on a holiday schedule.
- City Inspections and Community Development office will open today at noon.
- Due to power outage, the City Housing Department will be closed today, August 30, 2005, but will reopen tomorrow, August 31, 2005.

- Recreation centers and pools in the City of Pensacola are closed today, August 30, 2005, but will reopen tomorrow, August 31, 2005.
 - Libraries in Escambia County will reopen today, August 30, 2005 at noon.
 - **The Downtown Branch Library was closed due to a power outage.**
- **Pensacola Beach**
- **The Santa Rosa Island Authority offices open Tuesday, August 29, 2005.**
 - **Please remember that if there is a red flag posted on the beach, stay out of the Gulf of Mexico. If a yellow flag is posted, please exercise extreme caution when swimming in Gulf.**
 - Pensacola Beach is closed until further notice.
 - Bob Sikes Bridge is being evaluated by Florida Department of Transportation.
 - When Pensacola Beach is deemed safe, it will open to residents, business owners and contractors with proper identification and credentials.
- **Perdido Key**
- Perdido Key is now open.
 - Access is also available through Orange Beach.
 - **The Perdido Key Chamber office will be closed on Wednesday, August 30, 2005.**
 - **The Perdido Key Chamber office will be open on Thursday, September 1. ALL residents of Perdido Key who do NOT have a hurricane pass must come by the Perdido Key Chamber office to receive a pass at 15500 Perdido Key drive.**
- **Escambia County Area Transit**
- Bus service resumed Tuesday morning, August 30, 2005.
- **Hospitals**
- All hospitals resumed normal operations.
 - **West Florida Hospital will accept at least 12 patients from Tulane University Hospital in New Orleans.**
- **Colleges and Universities**
- Pensacola Junior College will be closed Tuesday, August 30, 2005 in Escambia County and Santa Rosa County. Classes will resume on Wednesday, August 31, 2005.
 - The University of West Florida will be closed Tuesday, August 30, 2005. Classes will resume on Wednesday, August 31, 2005.
- **Court System**
- All courts in the First Judicial Circuit will resume on Wednesday, August 31, 2005.
 - Jurors that were scheduled to report either Monday or Tuesday should report on Wednesday, August 31, 2005 at 8:00 am to the M.C. Blanchard Judicial Building.
 - All parties scheduled for hearings on August 31, 2005 should report as scheduled.
 - Persons who missed a court appearance on August 29, 2005 or August 30, 2005 should contact their attorney immediately for rescheduling information. If you

are not represented, you should contact the Clerk of Court for rescheduling information.

- Juvenile Hearings locations scheduled for Wednesday, August 31, 2005:
 - Judge Parnham – Cobb Building, 2251 N. Palafox Street
 - Judge Nickinson – 8:00 am – 12:00 pm – Cobb Building, 2251 N. Palafox Street – 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm – M.C. Blanchard Judicial Building.
 - Juvenile Hearings locations scheduled for Thursday, September 1, 2005:
 - Judge Parnham – M.C. Blanchard Judicial Building
 - Judge Nickinson - Cobb Building, 2251 N. Palafox Street
 - If you have internet access, information will be posted on the local web site at www.firstjudicialcircuit.org and will be picked up by Tallahassee for posting at www.flcourts.org.
 - Court Administration's primary line (850) 595-4400 will carry "Public Information" recordings regarding closures, temporary relocations, etc.
- **Naval Air Station Pensacola**
- **NAS Pensacola, Corry Station and Saufley Field will reopen tomorrow, Wednesday, August 31 for normal operations. All personnel and employees are to report for regular work hours.**
- **Debris**
- The Debris Hotline is operational and can be reached at (850) 937-2180.
 - Any Hurricane related debris questions should be directed to this number.
 - ECUA will not pick up any hurricane related debris.
- **ECUA**
- **ECUA has issued a precautionary Boil Water Advisory for Pensacola Beach and Perdido Key. Residents are urged to boil water or use 8 drops of common unscented household bleach per gallon of water to use for drinking or cooking purposes.**
 - ECUA Business Offices will be open for normal business on Wednesday, August 31, 2005. All ECUA personnel should report to work on their normal schedule.
 - Commercial and residential sanitation services resumed Tuesday, August 30, 2005. Monday routes will be picked up on Tuesday and Tuesday routes will be picked up on Wednesday.
- **Solid Waste Management**
- Perdido Landfill opened to the public at 10:00 am on Tuesday, August 30, 2005.
- **Energy Services of Pensacola (ESP Gas)**
- Customers with natural gas emergencies please call 474-5300
- **Parks and Recreation**
- RV sites and stalls are available at the Equestrian Center.
 - The phone number at the Equestrian Center is (850) 941-6042.
 - Lake Stone Campground is open and RV sites are available.

➤ **Citizen Information Line**

- The Citizen Information Line is open.
- The number is (850) 471-6600 for questions.

➤ **Additional Information**

- Remain calm, especially while waiting in fuel lines, at grocery stores, banks, etc.
- Be sure to store gasoline and diesel fuel in well-ventilated areas, away from heat sources, which could cause it to ignite.
- Generators should be placed outdoors in a well-ventilated area.

➤ **Official Website**

- www.bereadyescambia.com

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