



News Release

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

Hurricane Katrina
News Release #21
Date: August 31, 2005
Time: 11:30 am

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Escambia County- Hurricane Katrina

- **Escambia County Emergency Operations**
 - The Emergency Operations Center is at a level 3 monitoring status.
 - The curfew order for Escambia County has been lifted.

- **Disaster Recovery Centers**
 - The following Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) are open:
 - The Ag Building in Century
 - 33 Brent Lane, Pensacola
 - All centers will be open from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday until further notice.
 - The agencies that may be represented are as follows:
 - Agency for Workforce Innovation
 - Department of Financial Services (Insurance)
 - Department of Elder Affairs
 - Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
 - SBA
 - Department of Veterans' Affairs
 - Those out of state residents in the area may register for FEMA assistance at one of the sites listed above.
 - To register for assistance, please call 1-800-621-FEMA

- **Mutual Aid**
 - Six Escambia County Fire-Rescue personnel left at 7 am today 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 sent two trucks and crews to Mississippi as part of the law enforcement task force.
 - Escambia County Sheriff's Office is sending 40+ people to Mississippi as part of the law enforcement task force.

- West Florida Hospital is accepting at least 12 patients from Tulane University Hospital in New Orleans.
 - Pensacola Regional Airport staff is providing mutual aide to Gulfport/Biloxi Regional Airport.
 - Gulf Power will be sending 200 employees to Mississippi to help with the power restoration project in that area tomorrow, September 1, 2005.
- **Gulf Power**
- As of 5:00 am Wednesday, August 31, 2005, Gulf Power is estimating 8,000 customers in Escambia County are still are without power.
 - Almost 91% of customers' service has been restored.
 - To report an outage, customers should call 1-800-GUPOWER.
- **Escambia River Electric Cooperative**
- As of 3:30 pm Tuesday, August 30, 2005, Escambia River Electric Cooperative has reported that they had restored power to everyone that could receive it.
 - 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.
- **Transportation**
- All bridges are open.
 - All roads are open.
 - In order to expedite the delivery of food, water, and other vital supplies to the areas hardest hit by Hurricane Katrina, everyone is asked to stay off I10 as much as possible. Heavy traffic is impeding the timely delivery of much needed aid.
 - For information on out of state road closures, please contact the following offices:
 - Louisiana State Police "Emergency Operations Center Hotline: 800-469-4828 or www.lsp.org
 - The State Police road closure hotline number 1-800-469-4828 is currently out of service. Citizens are asked to use 225-925-6626. State Police will have the 800 number operational as soon as possible.
 - Mississippi DOT- 601-359-7017 or <http://www.mdot.state.ms.us/>
 - Alabama Hotline- 888-588-2848 or <http://www.dot.state.al.us/closures/>
 - The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) opened the eastbound lanes on Highway 90, between Pensacola and Pace to local traffic only.
- **Escambia County School District**
- All public schools in Escambia County will remain closed on Wednesday, August 31. Public schools and district offices will resume normal operations on Thursday, September 1, 2005.
 - 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.
- **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 434-3157.
 - First Call for Help, United Way's information and referral line, (850) 595-5905, 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**
 - 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.
- **Evacuations**
 - The evacuation order has been lifted for all of Escambia County.
- **Shelters**
 - As of 9:00 am Wednesday, August 31, 2005, the shelter population at the Pensacola Civic Center was 479.
- **Government Updates**
 - All County, City and State offices returned to normal operations on Wednesday August 31, 2005.
 - The Airport is open. Please contact individual airlines for flight information.
 - City garbage service resumed normal operations.
 - Bus service resumed normal operations.
 - 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.
- **Pensacola Beach**
 - Pensacola Beach will open at noon on Wednesday, August 31, 2005 to the general public.

- 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.
- **Perdido Key**
 - Perdido Key is open.
 - Access is also available through Orange Beach.
 - The Perdido Key Chamber office will be closed on Wednesday, August 31, 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.
- **Hospitals**
 - All hospitals resumed normal operations.
- **Colleges and Universities**
 - All classes resumed today, 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 reopened today, Wednesday, August 31 for normal operations. All personnel and employees are to report for regular work hours.

➤ **Debris**

- Please place your hurricane debris on the side of the road, not in the roadway.
- Please separate vegetative debris from construction 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 lifted the precautionary Boil Water Advisory for Pensacola Beach effective at 8:30 pm last night.
- ECUA has issued a precautionary Boil Water Advisory for 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 opened 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.

➤ **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.

➤ **Official Website**

- www.bereadyescambia.com

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