



# *News Release*

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

Hurricane Katrina  
News Release #5  
Date: August 28, 2005  
Time: 7:30am

Page 1 of 3

## *Escambia County- EOC Activates for Hurricane Katrina*

- **Escambia County Emergency Operations**
  - The Emergency Operations Center is now activated as impacts are felt along the Escambia County coastline. Escambia County is under a Tropical Storm Warning and Hurricane Watch.
  - Rising water and flooding conditions are occurring along Pensacola Beach and Perdido Key. Storm surge is expected to reach five to seven feet as Hurricane Katrina makes landfall.
  - The public will be advised as soon as any evacuation decisions are made.
  - Based on the current path of Hurricane Katrina, the Emergency Operations Center will standby and not activate until conditions warrant.
  
- **Shelters**
  - Two shelters will be opening at 10:00am this morning.
    - Blue Angel Elementary, 1551 Dog Track Road, Pensacola
    - Civic Center, 201 East Gregory, Pensacola
  
- **Declaration of Local State of Emergency**
  - The Board of County Commissioners signed a declaration of state of local emergency Friday morning. The declaration will allow the county to implement evacuation orders and open shelters if needed.
  
- **Escambia County School District**
  - Public schools will be closed on Monday.
  
- **Court System**
  - Chief Judge Skievaski has announced the closure of all courts in the First Judicial Circuit on Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup> due to the anticipated landfall of Hurricane Katrina. At this time, and given Hurricane Katrina's current track, it is highly anticipated that all courts in the First Judicial Circuit will reopen on Tuesday, August 30, 2005.

- if you have internet access, information will be posted on our local web site at [www.firstjudicialcircuit.org](http://www.firstjudicialcircuit.org) and will be picked up by Tallahassee for posting at [www.flcourts.org](http://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**
- Various evacuation plans have been placed on hold. Sailor and Marine students from Naval Air Technical Training Center will not be evacuated as earlier planned, however, buses for transporting students are available and staged should the storm pose a threat. Training Air Wing SIX aircraft evacuation plans on base are on hold at this time.
  - Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities Navy Exchange and Commissary continue normal operations.
  - There is no mandatory evacuation for military personnel living in family housing aboard NAS Pensacola.
- **Solid Waste Management**
- Solid Waste is collecting all the roll-off containers from all around the county.
- **Parks and Recreation**
- All of the stalls at the Equestrian Center are full.
- **Citizen Information Line**
- The Citizen Information Line is open and staffing has been increased.
  - The number is (850) 471-6600 if they have questions.
- **Sand Bags**
- The Escambia County Road Department has sandbags available on Saturday, August 27, 2005 until 7:00pm and again on Sunday, August 28, 2005 from 7:00am to 7:00pm.
  - This is a limit of 25 sandbags per household.
  - Bags and sand will be available. Citizens will need to bring a shovel to fill the sand bags.
  - There are four locations:
    - Baars Field off of Sorrento Road, the south end of the parking lot
    - Equestrian Center on Mobile Hwy, on the West side. Do not block entry to the Equestrian Center.
    - John R. Jones Ballpark on 9 Mile Road. Enter from 9 Mile Road on to Airway Drive near the Miracle League Field.
    - Ballpark on South Madrid Road in Cantonment. From Muscogee Road, turn on to Madrid Road to the intersection of Plaza Road at ballpark.

➤ **County Employee Notification**

- Employees assigned to the employee manpower pool should call the employee information line at 1-866-699-7572 (toll free) or (850) 595-4577 (local) for information about work schedules and assignments.
- The mobilization area for these employees is the Escambia County Windstorm Building on Stefani Road (off 9 Mile Road). The Windstorm building is located adjacent to the County Extension Building and will be activated within 24 hours following the storm.
- If you are unable to communicate or received updates, report to the Windstorm Building within 48 hours of landfall. Once activated the phone numbers for employees will be 475-5488, 475-5489, 475-5490, 475-5491, and 475-5492 for additional information.

➤ **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](http://www.bereadyescambia.com)