



# *News Release*

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

Hurricane Katrina  
News Release #9  
Date: August 28, 2005  
Time: 6:00pm

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## *Escambia County- 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 10 to 12 feet as Hurricane Katrina makes landfall.
  - The Board of County Commissioners signed a declaration of state of local emergency Friday morning.
  
- **Evacuations**
  - As of 9:00am, Escambia County officials have ordered the residents of Pensacola Beach and Perdido Key to evacuate.
  - Escambia County Officials are now ordering people in low-lying areas, mobile homes and travel trailers to evacuate.
  - Monitor local news broadcasts for deteriorating weather conditions that may result in extending the evacuations.
  
- **Shelters**
  - All shelters are now open:
    - Bellview Elementary, 4425 Bellview Avenue, Pensacola
    - Blue Angel Elementary, 1551 Dog Track Road, Pensacola
    - Carver Century K-8, 440 East Hecker Road, Century
    - Ferry Pass Middle, 8355 Yanhcey Avenue, Pensacola
    - Molino Park Elementary, 899 Highway 97, Molino
    - Pensacola Civic Center, 201 East Gregory, Pensacola
    - Tate High, 1771 Tate Road, Pensacola
    - West Florida High School, 2400 Longleaf Drive, Pensacola
    - University of West Florida – Building 13
    - Special Needs Shelter at Pensacola Junior College – Lou Ross Building

George Touart, County Administrator  
Sonya M. Smith, Public Information Manager

- If you have no transportation to one of these shelters please call ECAT and they will assist you. They can be reached at (850) 595-3228.
  - **A Host Shelter will open at 8:00 pm tonight at the Pensacola Civic Center. Evacuees from neighboring states will be directed to the Civic Center from Interstate 10.**
- **County Closings**
    - Those county offices and departments under the **Board of County Commissioners** will be closed on Monday, August 29, 2005.
    - **Supervisor of Elections** offices will be closed on Monday.
    - **Escambia County Health Department** will be closed on Monday.
    - **All Tax Collector Offices** will be closed on Monday.
    - **The Public Safety Coordinating Council meeting scheduled for Monday, August 29, 2005 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm in the BCC Meeting Room has been cancelled.**
  - **City of Pensacola**
    - City offices will be closed on Monday, August 29, 2005.
    - There will be no garbage service on Monday. The collection service will go to a holiday schedule.
  - **State Offices**
    - The State Office Building (“Chappie James Building”) will be closed on Monday, August 29, 2005.
  - **Pensacola Beach**
    - The Santa Rosa Island Authority offices will be closed on Monday, August 29, 2005.
    - Pensacola Beach is now closed.
    - Only residents, business owners and contractors with proper identification and credentials will be allowed onto Pensacola Beach to secure residences, businesses and/or remove or secure equipment.
  - **Perdido Key**
    - The Perdido Key Chamber office will close at noon on Sunday, August 28, 2005 and will be closed on Monday, August 29, 2005.
    - The White Hurricane Passes are still good.
  - **Escambia County Area Transit**
    - All ECAT employees report to your emergency work shift immediately.
    - There will be no regular bus services on Monday, August 29, 2005.
  - **Escambia County School District**
    - Public schools will be closed on Monday.
    - All School District Offices will also be closed on Monday.

- The School District Information Hotline is (850) 469-5306 and information will be updated as needed throughout the storm.
  - The “Take Stock in Children” kick-off dinner scheduled for Tuesday, August 30, 2005 has been postponed and will be rescheduled.
- **Colleges and Universities**
- The University of West Florida will be closed Monday, August 29, 2005 and Tuesday, August 30, 2005.
- **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.
  - Navy Exchange employees do not report to work on Monday, August 29, 2005.
- **ECUA**
- Commercial and residential sanitation services for Monday, August 29 have been cancelled.
  - The ECUA Business Offices will be closed to the public and non-essential personnel on Monday, August 29, 2005. Essential personnel should report to their assigned duty locations.
  - Water and sewer systems on Pensacola Beach and Perdido Key will be shut off at 8:00 pm tonight, Sunday, August 28, 2005.
- **Solid Waste Management**
- Perdido Landfill will be closed on Monday, August 29, 2005.
- **Parks and Recreation**

- All of the stalls at the Equestrian Center are full. However, you can tie down your horses in a covered arena or a secured outdoor arena.
  - Staff will be on hand until 8:00 pm tonight.
  - The phone number at the Equestrian Center is (850) 941-6042.
- **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 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 – **Closed at 5:00 pm**
    - 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**
- All Escambia County Road Department Employees should call the Cantonment Office between 5:00 am and 6:00 am on Monday, August 29, 2005 for work status.
  - 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)

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