



—2010—

# THE OFFICIAL LOUISIANA HURRICANE



SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA EDITION

**SURVIVAL  
GUIDE**

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# Introduction

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Fellow Citizens of Southwest Louisiana,

On behalf of the National Weather Service in Lake Charles, I am pleased to present The Official Louisiana Hurricane Guide - Southwest Louisiana Edition. This guide will provide you with excellent resources as you prepare for the 2010 hurricane season. Besides providing historical documentation on past hurricanes that have affected the region, information on the various hurricane hazards will be provided. Essential tracking charts and evacuation maps are also provided for your reference.

In August and September of 2008, hurricanes Gustav and Ike affected a large part of Louisiana. Gustav brought significant storm surge and winds to south central and southeast Louisiana. Also, Gustav brought over 20 inches of rain to parts of central Louisiana. Although Hurricane Ike moved inland over Galveston Island, significant storm surge flooding was observed across nearly all of coastal Louisiana. As we reflect on the impacts of these hurricanes, let us take this opportunity to develop our own hurricane plan.

This collaborative Hurricane Guide will serve as your roadmap for action before and during a hurricane and will also act as an instructional guide for recovery, continuity and resiliency after the storm passes. It is important to plan accordingly to meet your personal, family and business needs. In this manner, we are all working together for safer and better prepared communities across Louisiana. Working together, we can safeguard lives and protect property by taking the appropriate measures and precautions outlined in this Hurricane Guide.

Sincerely,

Andy Patrick - Meteorologist in Charge  
National Weather Service - Lake Charles, LA

# About the Hurricane



The Atlantic hurricane season begins June 1st, and lasts through November 30th. Tropical storm and hurricane formation increases significantly by August, with the peak of the season usually reached on September 10th. Activity begins to decline significantly towards the end of October. The peak threat for the Louisiana coast exists from August to the middle of October. The earliest tropical storm to strike the region was May 30, 1959, with the latest being Hurricane Juan on October 29, 1985; both coming ashore in South Central Louisiana.

**Left:** High resolution satellite image of Hurricane Ike over the northwest Gulf of Mexico. Image--NASA

Since 1851, there have been 54 hurricanes to strike the Louisiana coast. That is **one every three years** on average.

**Right:** Historical perspective of all tropical storm and hurricane landfalls in Louisiana since 1851.



## Definitions to Know



**TROPICAL DEPRESSION:** An organized system of persistent clouds and thunderstorms with a closed low-level circulation and maximum winds of 38 mph or less.

**TROPICAL STORM:** An organized system of strong thunderstorms with a well defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph.

**HURRICANE:** An intense tropical weather system with a well defined circulation and sustained winds of 74 mph or higher.

**TROPICAL CYCLONE:** A general term used to describe a tropical depression, tropical storm, or hurricane.

**HURRICANE/TROPICAL STORM WATCH:** Hurricane or Tropical Storm conditions are possible in the watch area within 48 hours.

**HURRICANE/TROPICAL STORM WARNING:** Hurricane or Tropical Storm conditions are possible in the warning area within 36 hours.

# Storm Surge

**S**TORM SURGE is the abnormal rise in sea level before, during, and even after a tropical storm or hurricane approaches and/or makes landfall.

Historically, storm surge used to claim 9 out of 10 lives. Over the last several decades, advancements in the science of hurricane forecasting and communications have led to a marked decrease in this number. However, Katrina was a grim reminder that certain areas are still very susceptible to storm surge fatalities.

Storm surge is extremely destructive to anything in its path, especially if the surge comes in with a significant speed. This is because water is extremely heavy. A cubic yard of water weighs nearly 1700 pounds! Remember, there is a reason why large steel ships and barges float.

The height of the storm surge depends on the size and strength of the tropical cyclone. The larger and/or stronger the storm, the higher the storm surge. However, this is not the only factor that affects the height of the storm surge. The shape and slope of the continental shelf across the coastal waters is another big factor in determining the height of the storm surge.

For example, a hurricane with 100 mph sustained winds (a category two) strikes the Southeast Florida Coast. Since this area of Florida has a steep continental shelf, the storm surge is only around 4-5 feet (illustrated in figures 1a & 1b below). Now if this hurricane with the exact same size and strength made landfall across the Upper Texas coast, the storm surge could be in the 9-10 foot range (illustrated in figures 2a & 2b below). This is due to the shallow continental shelf that extends over a hundred miles offshore, which typically piles the water higher and creates higher waves.

As the illustrations show below, this made the difference between very little surge entering the beach house across the Southeast Florida Coast and the complete destruction of the beach house across the Upper Texas Coast.

1a



1b



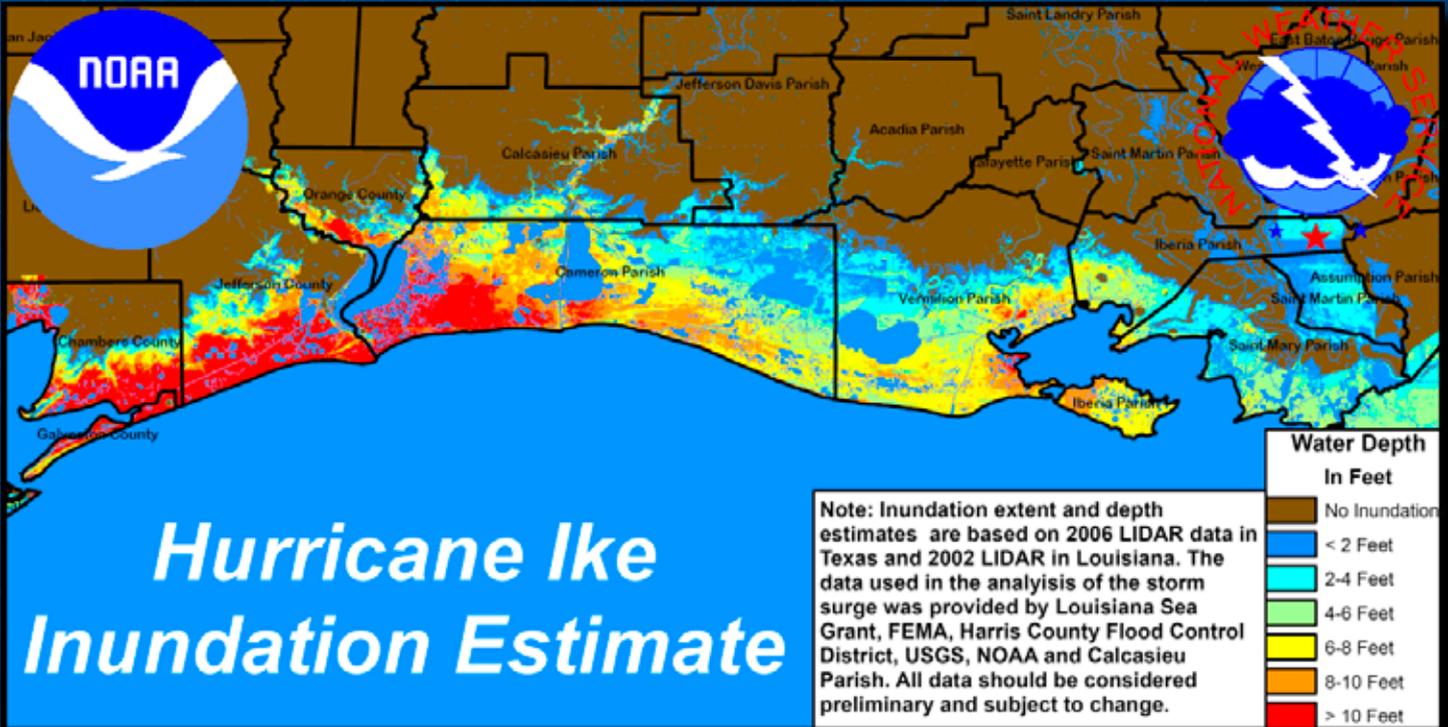
2a



2b



# Storm Surge



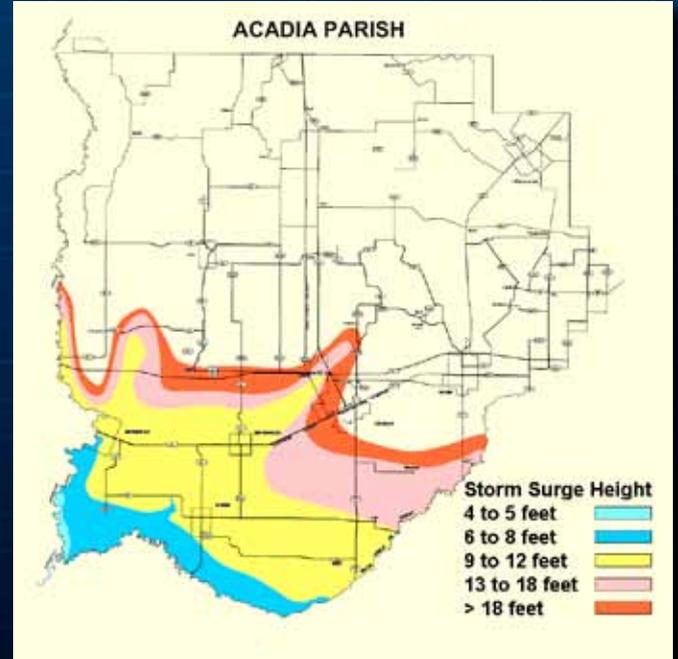
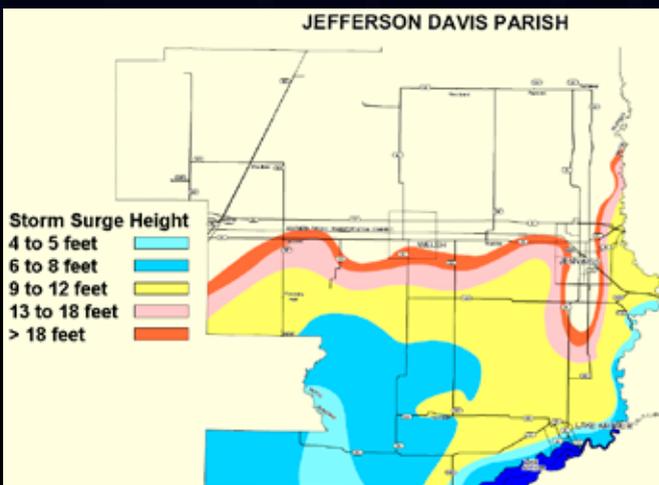
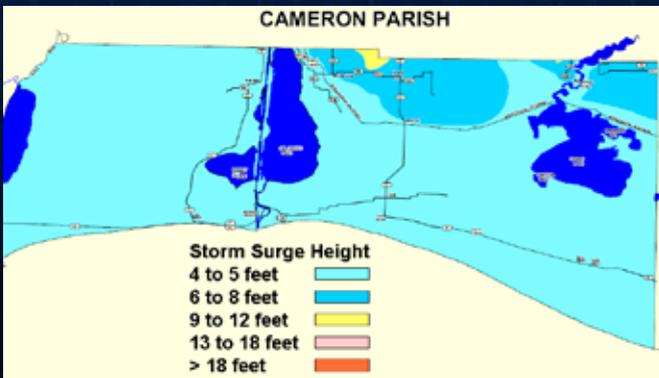
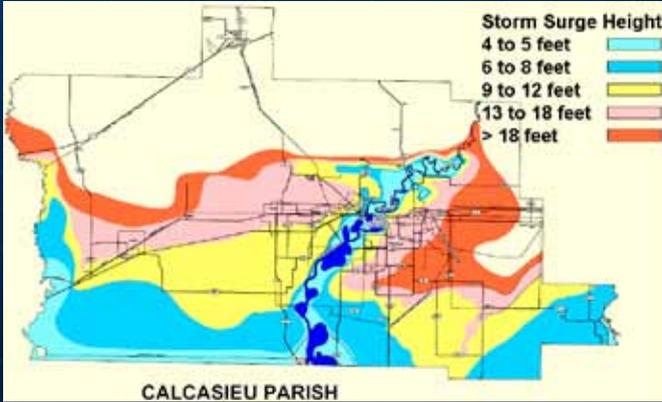
Hurricane Ike will long be remembered as one of the most devastating storm surge hurricanes to affect the Upper Texas and Louisiana coasts within the last 150 years of records. Over the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico, Ike grew in size and intensified to a category two hurricane with maximum winds of 100 mph. Although Ike's intensity remained in the category 2 range, the cyclone continued to grow and became a very large and dangerous hurricane. Aircraft Reconnaissance measured Ike's tropical storm wind swath to be approximately 450 miles wide, with a hurricane force wind swath of 180 miles. Hours before landfall, Ike's structure began getting better organized with an eye evident. Ike made landfall on Galveston Island at 2:00 AM CDT September 13th as a strong category 2 based on 110 mph sustained winds and a central pressure of 950 mb.

The combination of Ike's large wind swath, and the fact that this wind swath piled water over the shallowest portion of the Gulf, lead to much higher than normal storm surge flooding along the Upper Texas and Louisiana Coasts. Storm surge levels ranged between 14 and 18 feet across most of Southern Jefferson county. The 14 foot storm surge at Sabine Pass resulted in the highest water level ever record at that location. Further east along the Louisiana coast, storm surge values of 12 to 16 feet across western Cameron parish was slightly higher than that observed during Rita only three years earlier. Across eastern Cameron, Vermilion, Iberia, and St. Mary parishes, storm surge values ranged between 8 and 12 feet. Any structure that was not elevated was destroyed. Even homes that were elevated received water damage due to high waves on top of the storm surge.

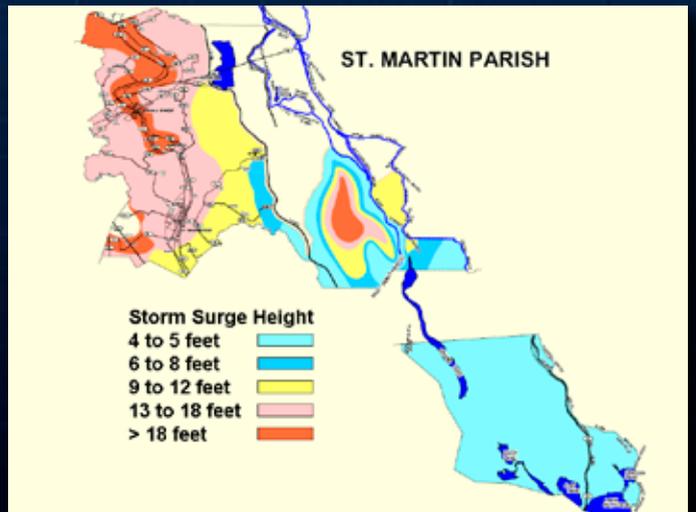
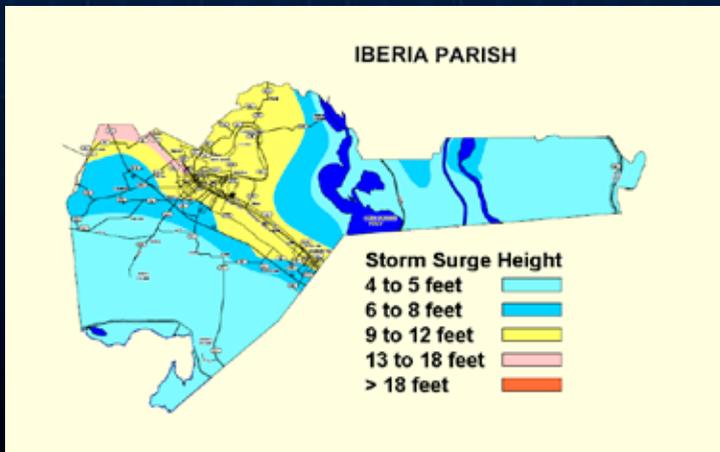
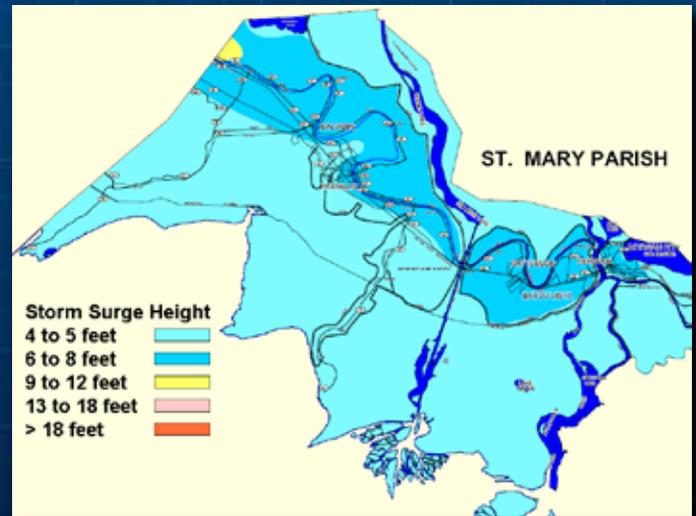
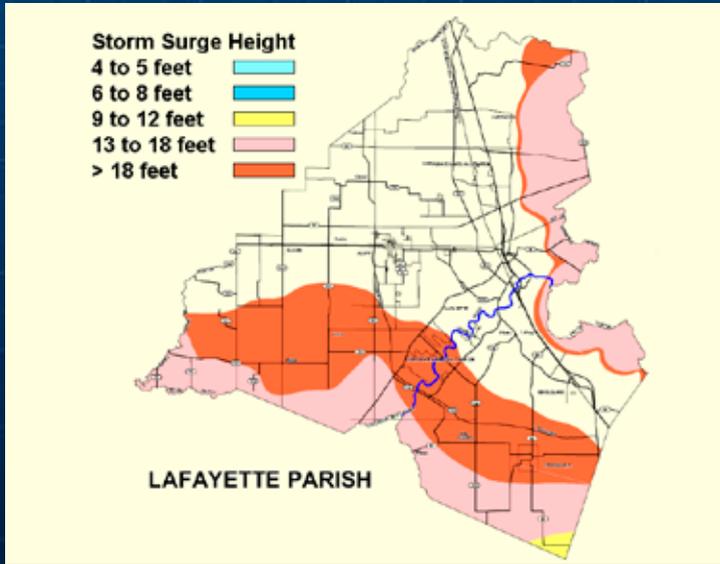
Ike's storm surge devastated many communities along the Louisiana coast, which was still trying to rebuild after Hurricane Rita only three years earlier.

# Inundation Maps

These storm surge inundation maps show the projected inland penetration of water based on the forecast storm surge. Areas shown in blue have the greatest danger. Keep in mind that forecasts for storm surge are estimates that depend on the size, strength, and landfall location of the tropical cyclone. Always prepare for the worst case scenario. Remember, the greatest potential for loss of life related to a hurricane is from the storm surge.



# Inundation Maps



For more detailed parish and county storm surge maps in .pdf format, go to the following website:

[www.srh.weather.gov/lch/tropical/StormSurgeMaps.php](http://www.srh.weather.gov/lch/tropical/StormSurgeMaps.php)

# Flooding and Tornadoes

## Inland Flooding

Inland freshwater flooding from tropical cyclones is a major threat to people well inland from the coast. Very slow moving tropical storms and hurricanes can produce tremendous rains of 20 to 30 inches or more in a very short amount of time, resulting in disastrous flooding.

**Left:** *These homes are completely submerged under several feet of water as a result of inland freshwater flooding.*



## Tornadoes

Tropical cyclones also produce tornadoes. These tornadoes most often occur in thunderstorms embedded in rain bands well away from the center of the hurricane; however, they can also occur near the eyewall. Tornadoes produced by tropical cyclones are relatively weak and short-lived, but still pose a threat.



The remnants of Tropical Storm Amelia (August 1978) produced excessive rainfall in the Hill Country with 3-day maximum rainfall amounts around 48 inches at Medina. There were 27 fatalities in the disastrous flash flooding along the Medina and Guadalupe Rivers.

Hurricane Carla produced 26 tornadoes across southeast Texas in September 1961. An F4 tornado struck Galveston killing 8 and injuring 55 while destroying 120 buildings. It remains the deadliest tornado associated with a hurricane.

# Destructive Winds



*This large piece of plywood was driven through the trunk of a palm tree during the fierce winds of Hurricane Andrew in south Florida in 1992.*

**H**urricane force winds of 74 mph or more can destroy buildings, mobile homes, trees and power poles. Debris such as signs, roofing material, siding, and small items left outside become flying missiles in a hurricane. The strongest winds occur in a region of the hurricane called the eyewall. Wind gusts in the right side of the eyewall are the most destructive. Hurricane force winds can be felt as far as 150 miles from the coast.

It is imperative to ensure your home or business is well constructed to minimize the damage from the wind. See the Planning and Preparing section in this guide for cost effective home improvement tips that can help you reduce your damage from a hurricane.



## MOBILE HOME RESIDENTS MUST EVACUATE!

- No mobile home or manufactured home - no matter how new it is - can provide safe shelter from hurricane force winds.
- Straps or other tie-downs **will not** protect a mobile home from the high winds associated with a hurricane.
- Mobile home residents **must evacuate** when told to do so by local authorities.



## Saffir Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale



- |              |                      |              |                            |
|--------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| ● Category 1 | Winds 74 to 95 mph   | ● Category 4 | Winds 131 to 155 mph       |
| ● Category 2 | Winds 96 to 110 mph  | ● Category 5 | Winds greater than 155 mph |
| ● Category 3 | Winds 111 to 130 mph |              |                            |

# Planning and Preparing

## Preparing Your Home Before the Storm

**P**roper hurricane preparations made ahead of time will not completely protect your property from damage. However, following a few simple tips may greatly reduce the damage to your home and property.

**Right:** Hurricane clips attaching roof trusses to side walls.



## Important Home Preparation Tips

### Elevation Matters

- Know the elevation of your home! Are you in a flood and/or evacuation zone?

### Mobile Homes

- Check tie-downs for rust or breakage.
- Residents of mobile homes must evacuate when told to do so!!

### Landscaping

- Trim trees, shrubbery and dead limbs, especially ones close to your home.
- Repair or replace broken or damaged fences.
- Shredded bark is preferred instead of small gravel or stone bedding.

### Roofing

- Inspect the roof for loose tiles, shingles or debris. Consider replacing old or damaged shingles with new ones rated for hurricane force winds.
- Check for and/or install hurricane clips to secure roof trusses to side walls.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.

### Doors

- Reinforce garage doors and tracks or replace with a hurricane tested door. (See above image)
- Reinforce double entry doors with heavy duty foot and head bolts.
- Use a security dead bolt with a one inch minimum bolt length.
- Doors may be shuttered, but one entry must be left easily accessible.

### Windows

- If possible, install tested/manufactured hurricane shutters.
- Inspect existing shutters to ensure they are in good working order.
- Alternative: Use 5/8" or greater exterior grade plywood secured by 2 1/2" screws and/or special clips. Obtain wood and fasteners, cut wood to size, pre-drill holes and place anchors on homes.
- Store shutters or plywood lying flat to avoid warping when not in use.

# Planning and Preparing



## Business and Employee Preparation



### Tips for Businesses

- Establish a temporary location for business operations in case your facility is damaged.
- Give employees enough time to secure their homes and families.
- Consider paying employees before they leave to prepare their homes.
- Identify and protect vital records. Backup and store key files off site.
- Protect electronic equipment from possible water damage.
- Have extra cash and blank checks in case extra money is needed after the storm.
- Identify a safe room for employees who must remain in the building.
- Develop a 24-hour emergency contact with phone numbers of key employees.
- Set up telephone numbers for employees to check in and receive company information.

## Protecting Your Boat - Marine Preparations



### Tips for Boat Owners

- Check your marina contract for policies and procedures for hurricanes.
- Check with the manufacturer for proper ways to secure your boat during a storm.
- Consider moving arrangements well in advance of an approaching storm.
- Trailer boats should be removed from the water and securely stored at least 48 hours before a hurricane is expected to make landfall.
- Purchase necessary hurricane materials such as additional mooring lines, crew anchors, fenders, fender boards, chafing gear, and anchors.
- Safe storm moorings should consist of good condition ropes of sufficient diameter and length, with at least three or four substantial anchor points.
- Do not moor parallel to bank. Receding tides often cause or capsize boats in this type of anchorage.

# Special Needs and Pets

## General Preparations for People With Special Needs



FEMA News Photo

**P**reparation in advance of hurricane season is essential, especially for people with special needs. It is essential that a destination is identified ahead of time that can accommodate people with special needs. Shelters should be considered as a **last resort** when people with special needs evacuate because many shelters cannot provide the attention required. Assisting elderly neighbors and acquaintances with pre-hurricane preparations is encouraged.



## Important Special Needs Tips

- Identify with whom you will stay in the event an evacuation becomes necessary.
- Make arrangements for transportation in the event you evacuate. Make sure your transportation can accommodate any equipment or other supplies that need to be taken with you.
- Make sure you have the following items that should be stored in advance:
  - ✓ Extra copies of your prescriptions in case your physician's office is damaged and not operational.
  - ✓ At least a 1 month supply of medications.
  - ✓ Identification.

## Preparing for Your Pet's Safety

**Y**our pet should be part of your overall hurricane preparation plans. Below are a few important things to help you prepare:

- Make sure your pet's vaccinations are current and have proof they are current. **DO NOT** assume that a public shelter or hotel will accept your pet.
- Be sure to have a current photo of your pet.
- Each animal should have a properly sized pet carrier. The carrier should be large enough for the animal to stand up and turn around.
- Make sure your pet has a proper ID collar.
- Pack enough food and bottled water for the duration of your evacuation. **DO NOT** let your pet eat food or drink water from outside that may have become contaminated.
- Be sure to pack all medications your pet may need along with a muzzle, collar, leash, paper towels, and trash bags.



# Contact Info/Supply Kit

The American Red Cross of Southwest Louisiana recommends that you have the following items in your Hurricane Supply Kit. Do not forget to have a family meeting before hurricane season and review your communication information and evacuation plan. Make sure the contact information such as home, work, school, cell phone numbers, and your "Out of Town" contact person's information is current.



**American  
Red Cross**

## Emergency Contact Information

Out of Town Contact Address:

Out of Town Contact Phone Number:

Work Telephone Number:

Cell Number/Spouse Cell Number:

Children Cell Number:

School Telephone Number:

Doctor Telephone Number:

Bank/Credit Card Telephone Number:

Insurance Company Information:




## HURRICANE SUPPLY KIT

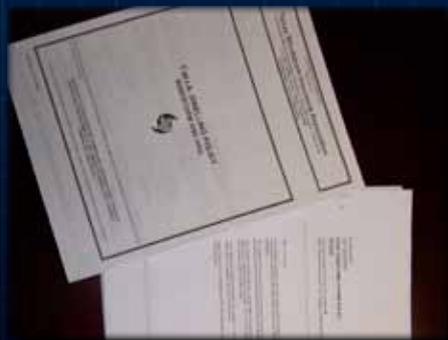


- At least a 7-day supply of non-perishable food and a manual can opener
- At least a 7-day supply of water. One gallon per person per day is recommended
- Battery powered portable television or radio with extra batteries
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- First Aid kit and manual
- Sanitation and hygiene items such as instant hand sanitizing gel, moist towelettes, toilet paper, and feminine hygiene products
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Whistle
- Kitchen accessories and cooking utensils
- Cash
- Extra clothing, blankets, and sleeping bags
- Photocopies of identification, insurance, prescriptions, household inventory, credit cards, and your latest utility bill
- CD or photocopies of important documents such as birth/marriage certificates and titles
- Prescription medications, eyeglasses, contact lens solution, and hearing aid batteries
- Formula, baby food, diapers, and pacifiers
- Pet carriers, leashes, shot records, and food for each animal evacuating with you
- A good map showing county roads and highways
- Tire repair kit, booster cables, pump, and flares
- White distress flag
- Toys and games for children
- List of family phone numbers and addresses outside the area

# Insurance Tips

## Insurance Tips - Before the Storm

- When shopping for insurance, get quotes from different companies and consider financial strength and history of complaints from each company.
- Ask agents for discounts if available.
- New and existing policies **will not be written or modified** when a storm nears the Gulf of Mexico.
- Make sure you fully understand what perils are covered and excluded in your policy.
- Make sure your coverage is adequate to replace your home and contents in today's dollar.
- Determine whether your policy covers additional living expenses for a temporary residence if you are unable to live in your home because of damage from a disaster.
- **DO NOT** cancel an old policy until you have a new policy in effect.
- Before hurricane season, prepare detailed written and/or photographic inventory of your home's contents and store it in a safe place with your policy.
- If you evacuate or choose to leave your home for safety, make sure to take the written and photo inventory with you, as well as all insurance policies (auto, home, life, etc.)
- If your insurance company does not cover flood or windstorm perils, ask about coverage through the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association or the National Flood Insurance Program.



## Important Web Information

National Flood Insurance Program  
[www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov)

Louisiana Department of Insurance  
[www.lidi.state.la.us/consumer](http://www.lidi.state.la.us/consumer)  
1-800-259-5300 (General Information)

## Insurance Tips - After the Storm

- Give prompt written notice to your insurance company.
- If you cannot be easily contacted, give your insurance company the contact information of a trusted friend or relative who can reach you if necessary.
- Photograph or videotape damaged structures and all damaged property. Make a list of damaged or lost items.
- **DO NOT** throw out damaged property before your adjuster has inspected the debris unless it is a health hazard or impedes local cleanup.
- Protect your property from further damage.
- Keep an accurate record of temporary repair and living expenses if a loss of use is suffered.
- Along with insurance adjuster estimate for repairs to home, obtain two or more contractor estimates.
- Estimates must be broken down per line item.
- Payment advancements are made to policy holder for home repairs, personal property and living expenses. Final payments are made only after completed repairs and adjuster review.



# Hurricane History

- **Hurricane Ike (September 12-13, 2008):** Very large category two hurricane that made landfall at Galveston Texas. Storm surge values were 12-16 feet across western Cameron parish, which was slightly higher than that observed during Rita only three years earlier. Across eastern Cameron, Vermilion, Iberia, and St. Mary parishes, storm surge values ranged between 8-12 feet.
- **Hurricane Gustav (September 1, 2008):** Large category two hurricane that made landfall across Terrebonne parish in Southeast Louisiana, but continued northwest across the Atchafalaya Basin, spreading category one hurricane force winds across South Central Louisiana. Due to the storm making landfall east of the region, storm surge values were only 4-5 feet across St. Mary, Iberia, and Vermilion parishes.
- **Hurricane Humberto (September 12-13, 2007):** Very small category one hurricane that made landfall between High Island and Sea Rim State Park in Jefferson county, Texas. Due to the small size, storm surge values were only 3-4 feet across central and western Cameron parish.
- **Hurricane Rita (September 23-24, 2005):** Very large category three hurricane that made landfall between Johnson's Bayou and Sabine Pass, affected most of Southwest Louisiana and Southeast Texas with hurricane force winds. Storm surge values across Southwest Louisiana were 12-18 feet across most of Cameron parish, and 10-12 feet across most of Vermilion parish, which was the worst storm surge flooding recorded during the last 150+ years of record keeping.
- **Hurricane Lili (October 3, 2002):** Category one hurricane that made landfall at Intracoastal City in Vermilion Parish. Storm surge values were 10-12 feet across Iberia and St. Mary parishes.
- **Hurricane Andrew (August 26, 1992):** Category three hurricane that made landfall west-southwest of Morgan City in St. Mary parish. Storm surge values were around 8 feet across Iberia and St. Mary parishes, which were lower than expected due to Andrew paralleling the coast at landfall.
- **Hurricane Bonnie (June 26, 1986):** Very small category one hurricane that made landfall between High Island and Sea Rim State Park in Jefferson County. Storm surge values were 3-4 feet across central and western Cameron Parish.
- **Hurricane Juan (October 28-30, 1985):** Very large hybrid-type category one hurricane which approached Vermilion parish on the 28th but stayed offshore to make a cyclonic loop, eventually making landfall in St. Mary parish. Juan made another cyclonic loop inland across South Central Louisiana, moving offshore to affect Southeast Louisiana and the Florida Panhandle. Storm surge values fluctuated between 3-6 feet across Vermilion, Iberia, and St. Mary parishes.
- **Hurricane Danny (August 15, 1985):** Category one hurricane that made landfall between Grand Chenier in Cameron parish and Pecan Island in Vermilion parish. Storm surge values ranged 5-8 feet across Vermilion, Iberia, and St. Mary parishes.
- **Hurricane Carmen (September 8, 1974):** Category three hurricane that made landfall across St. Mary parish, spread category two conditions across Iberia parish, with category one conditions across Vermilion, Lafayette and Acadia parishes. Storm surge ranged 4-6 feet across Iberia and St. Mary parishes.
- **Hurricane Edith (September 16, 1971):** Category two hurricane at landfall across Cameron and Vermilion parishes, and spread category one conditions across Iberia, St. Mary, Lafayette, Acadia, and St. Martin Parishes. Storm surge values of 6 feet at Sabine Pass, with 8+ feet across Cameron and Vermilion parishes.
- **Hurricane Hilda (October 3-4, 1964):** Category three hurricane at landfall across St. Mary parish, where 6+ foot storm surge occurred at the Atchafalaya River. Farther west, storm surge ranged between 3-5 feet across Iberia and Vermillion parishes.
- **Hurricane Carla (September 10-12, 1961):** Extremely large category four hurricane (circulation covered the entire Gulf of Mexico at one point) made landfall across the central Texas coast. Due to the large size of the storm, storm surge values of 7-8 feet were common across Southwest Louisiana.
- **Hurricane Audrey (June 26-27, 1957):** Very large and deadly category four hurricane, with a 40 mile wide eye, made landfall from Sabine Pass to Cameron, and affected most of Southwest Louisiana and Southeast Texas with hurricane force winds. Storm surge values of 10-14 feet occurred across most of Cameron Parish, and 7-10 feet across Vermilion, Iberia, and St. Mary Parishes. Unfortunately, over 500 direct fatalities was attributed to Audrey, mainly across Cameron and Vermilion parishes due to storm surge.

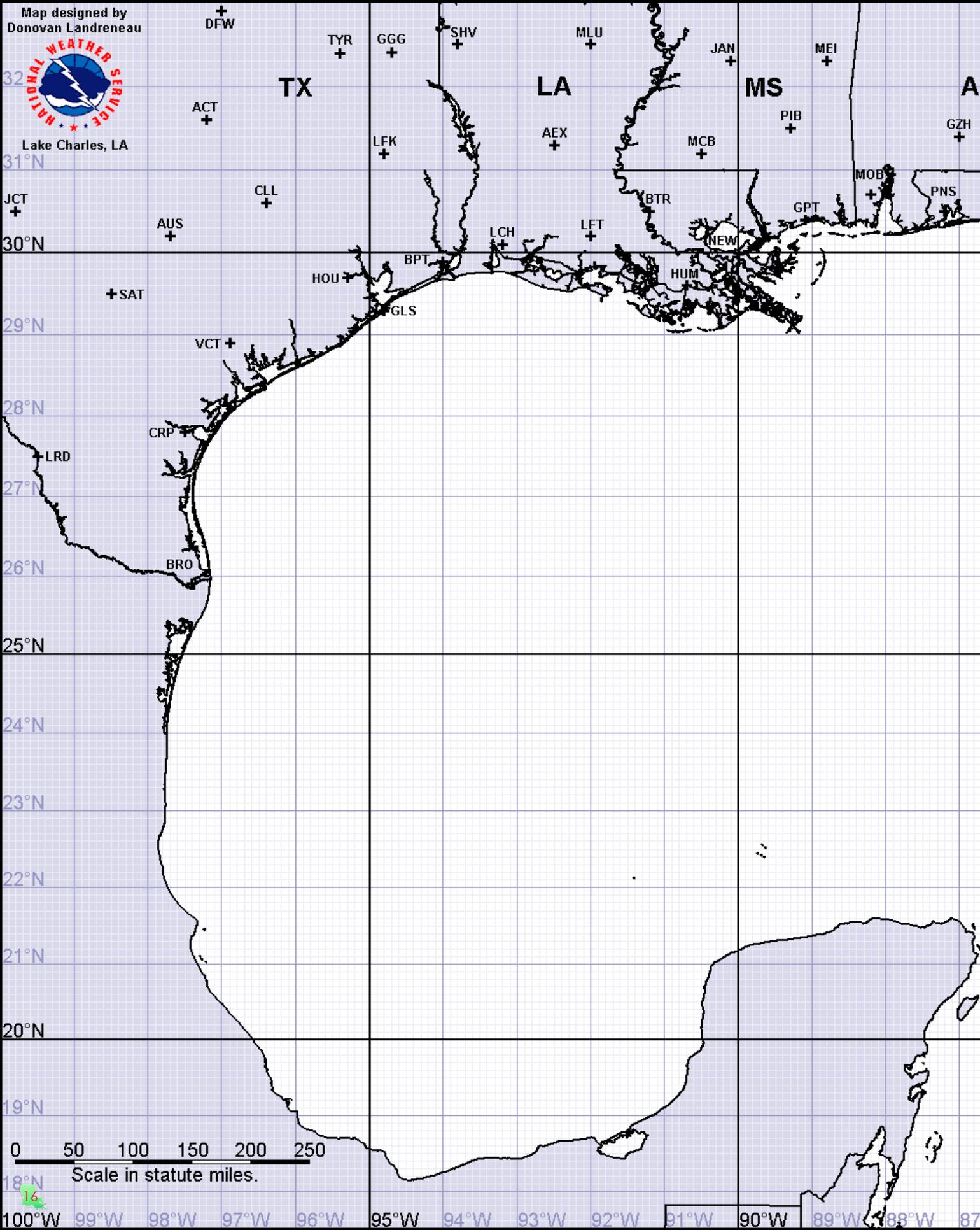
**Additional hurricane history can be obtained at:  
[www.srh.weather.gov/lch/?n=tropic](http://www.srh.weather.gov/lch/?n=tropic)**



Map designed by  
Donovan Landreneau



Lake Charles, LA



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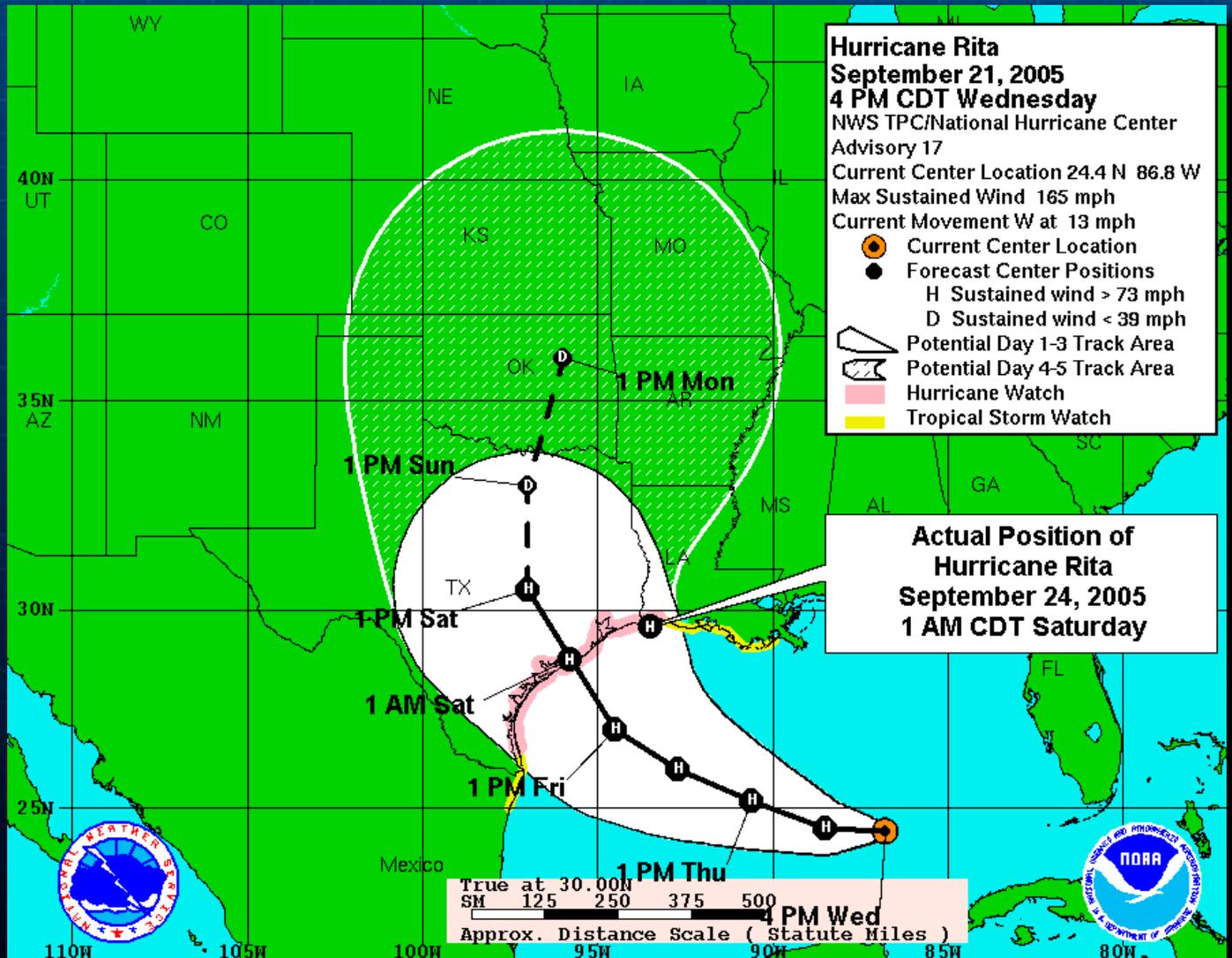
Scale in statute miles.

18°N 19°N 20°N 21°N 22°N 23°N 24°N 25°N 26°N 27°N 28°N 29°N 30°N 31°N 32°N  
100°W 99°W 98°W 97°W 96°W 95°W 94°W 93°W 92°W 91°W 90°W 89°W 88°W 87°W

16



# Hurricane Forecasts



## Don't Focus on the Skinny Black Line!!

**W**eather forecasting has never been and will likely never be an exact science. Thus, the ability to forecast the exact track and intensity of a hurricane will always present a challenge for forecasters and users of the forecasts to make critical evacuation decisions. In the figure below, the “skinny black line” represents the forecast track of highest confidence. However, one must not just focus on the skinny black line, but rather focus on the potential area the hurricane could affect, as illustrated by the white and hatched areas around the forecast track. This area, known as the “cone of uncertainty,” represents the average track errors during the last five years. Fortunately, track forecasting has improved over the last several decades. Unfortunately, intensity forecasting has not shown much increase in accuracy over the same time period.

The forecast graphic above illustrates why users of the hurricane forecast must take into consideration the “cone of uncertainty.”

# Final Checklists

## Actions to Take When a Storm is in the Gulf

- Listen frequently to radio, TV, or NOAA weather radio for bulletins and forecasts of the storm's progress.
- Double check items in your emergency supply kit.
- Fuel and service your vehicles.
- Inspect and secure mobile home tie-downs.
- Make sure you have supplies to survive on your own for at least one week if you plan on staying.
- Board up windows (if shutters do not exist) in case storm moves quickly and you have to leave.  
**TAPE PROVIDES NO PROTECTION!**
- Store lawn furniture and other loose, light weight objects, such as garbage cans and garden tools.
- Get plenty of extra cash in case power goes out and ATMs do not work.
- Garage or store vehicles that are not being used.
- Follow instructions issued by local officials. **EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY IF ORDERED TO DO SO!**

## Final Actions to Take if Leaving

- Turn off propane tanks.
- Unplug small appliances.
- Empty refrigerator and freezer.
- Turn off utilities if ordered to do so.
- Notify family members of your evacuation plans.
- Lower water level in swimming pool by one foot.
- Lock home securely.
- Board up remaining doors and brace garage door.
- Take pets with you.

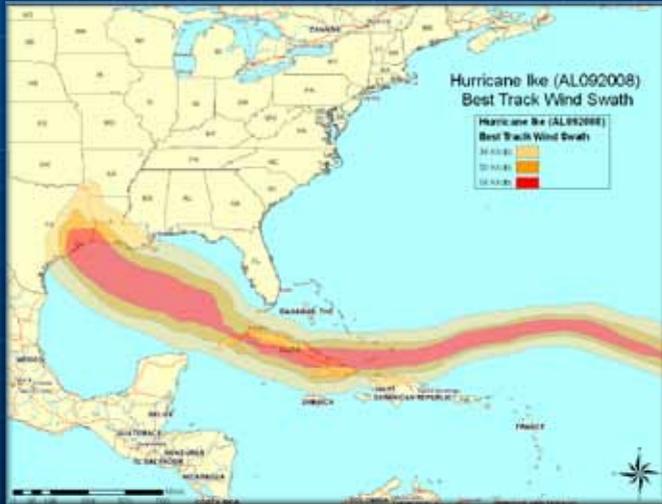


## Final Actions to Take if Staying

- Close storm shutters.
- Turn refrigerator or freezer to coldest setting and open only if necessary.  
(25 pounds of dry ice will keep a 10-cubic foot freezer below freezing for 3-4 days.)
- Follow instructions from emergency managers and be prepared to turn off utilities if ordered to do so.
- Board up remaining doors, brace garage door, and remain inside. Stay away from boarded up windows.
- Take refuge in a predetermined safe room, such as an interior closet, bathroom, or hallway.
- Beware of the calm winds in the eye of the storm and do not venture outside. Some of the strongest winds may occur shortly after the eye passes.
- **DO NOT EXPECT EMERGENCY RESPONDERS TO BE OF ANY ASSISTANCE DURING A LANDFALLING HURRICANE!**

# Hurricane Ike (2008)

## Track and Intensity



**Figure 1:** Track of Hurricane Ike and its associated wind field.

on Thursday, September 4th. A building upper level high to Ike's north induced a west and then west-southwest motion beginning on September 4th, and continuing through the 7th. During this period, Ike impacted the Turks and Caicos Islands, and moved across the island of Great Inagua. By late on the 7th (Sunday evening), Ike made the first of two landfalls along the Cuban coast near Cabo Lucrecia with maximum winds around 130 MPH. After moving off and paralleling the Cuban coastline, Ike made a second landfall near the city of San Cristóbal. Just prior to crossing the northwest tip of Cuba as a category one hurricane, with winds close to 80 MPH, Ike began producing tropical storm force winds across portions of the Florida Keys on Tuesday morning, September 9th. Fortunately for the Keys, Ike only delivered a glancing blow, as the hurricane continued to move west-northwest toward the U.S. Gulf coast.

Although Ike's interaction with Cuba disrupted the inner core of the hurricane and prevented rapid strengthening over the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico, Ike did quickly grow in size with tropical storm and hurricane force winds stretching 275 miles and 115 miles from the center, respectively. Ike did slowly intensify to a category two hurricane with maximum winds of 100 mph by Wednesday evening, September 10. On Thursday, September 11, Ike began to move due northwest toward the upper Texas coastline. Although Ike's intensity remained in the category two range, the hurricane maintained its very large size and intensified as a 45 mile diameter eye formed as the hurricane approached the upper Texas coast late on Friday, September 12. Ike made landfall at 2:00 am CDT Saturday, September 13, near Galveston, Texas, with maximum sustained winds of 110 mph. Once inland, Ike moved north-northwest just east of Interstate 45 and brought hurricane force winds to most of southeast Texas (Figure 1).

**Part of this summary includes information from the Tropical Cyclone Report: Hurricane Ike by Robbie Berg from the National Hurricane Center. The images in Figures 2a, 2b, and 2c are courtesy of the Hurricane Research Division.**



# Rip Current Safety

## Hurricane Surf

**H**urricanes bring large waves to nearby beaches that are dangerous for beach goers. High waves, when combined with the high tide, storm surge, and wind and wave setup, can create a serious threat to both lives and property. Jetties and piers typically amplify the size of the waves, causing an even more dangerous situation. Hurricane waves can injure or drown those who enter the water, so **remember: If in doubt, don't go out!**

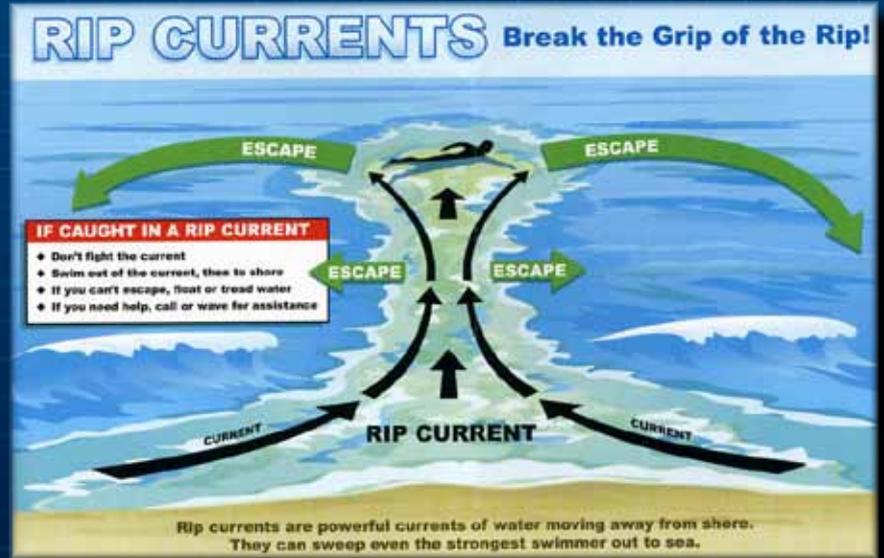
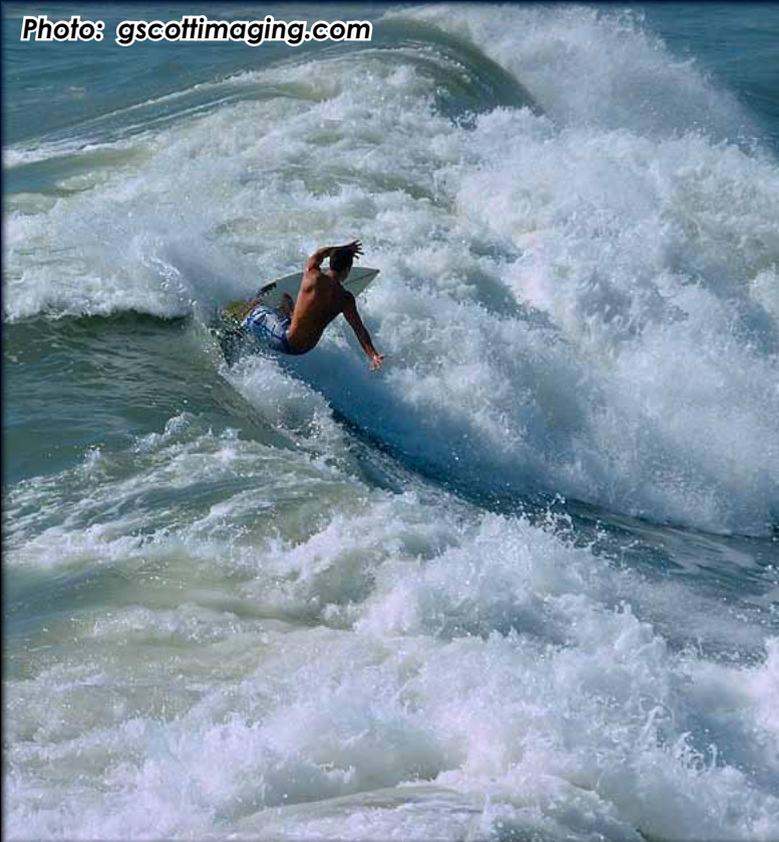


Photo: [gscottimaging.com](http://gscottimaging.com)



## Rip Currents

**A**long with big surf come strong rip currents. Rip currents are the leading surf hazard for all beach goers and result in over 100 drownings every year in the United States. The strength and size of rip currents are related to the size of the surf and wave period. Rip currents typically form at the low spots in the surf, at the breaks in the sandbars, and near jetties and piers.

If caught in a rip current, don't panic, but swim parallel to the shore. The current is usually only about 50 feet wide and you should be able to swim out of it. At that point, you can swim back to shore. If you are still unable to reach the shore, draw attention to yourself: face the shore, wave your arms, and yell for help.

# College Student Preparation

## Student Information Checklist

- Assure that all contact information and emergency contact information is accurate with your campus's registrar's office.
- If your campus offers an emergency management communication system, register as a user of the system.
- Plan your method of evacuation and your destination before a storm enters the gulf.
- Monitor local radio and TV stations for updates.
- Contact your campus Student Affairs Office if you need assistance with evacuation.
- If you require any assistance due to a disability-related accommodation, please contact your campus Disability Services Office to make necessary arrangements.
- Communicate with your family regarding status and location
- If your campus is evacuating, you will not be allowed to remain on-campus and it is highly recommended that you leave the city. Do not go to a coastal location.
- Take your driver's license, student I.D. card, and a copy of your housing lease as well as medical insurance cards and other important documents when you evacuate.
- If you bank with a local bank or credit union whose infrastructure may be damaged by the storm, withdraw some funds as you may not have access to them once you leave the area.
- International students must take passports with US student visa inside, I-20, I-94, student I.D. and class schedule.
- If using personal transportation, take as many of your valuable or irreplaceable items as you are able.
- If driving, make sure all roads that you are driving are open and safe. You can call the Department of Transportation at 1-888-762-3511 or check Louisiana road conditions at [www.dotd.state.la.us](http://www.dotd.state.la.us)
- Follow baggage limits if participating in an assisted evacuation program.
- Take a 30-day supply of medications in original pharmacy containers.
- Make a record of any valuables left behind (description, serial numbers, etc). Take pictures of all belongings.
- If you are evacuating to a shelter, make appropriate arrangements for pets. Most shelters do not accept pets.
- Do not plan to return to campus until an all-clear is given (monitor media and campus web-site).



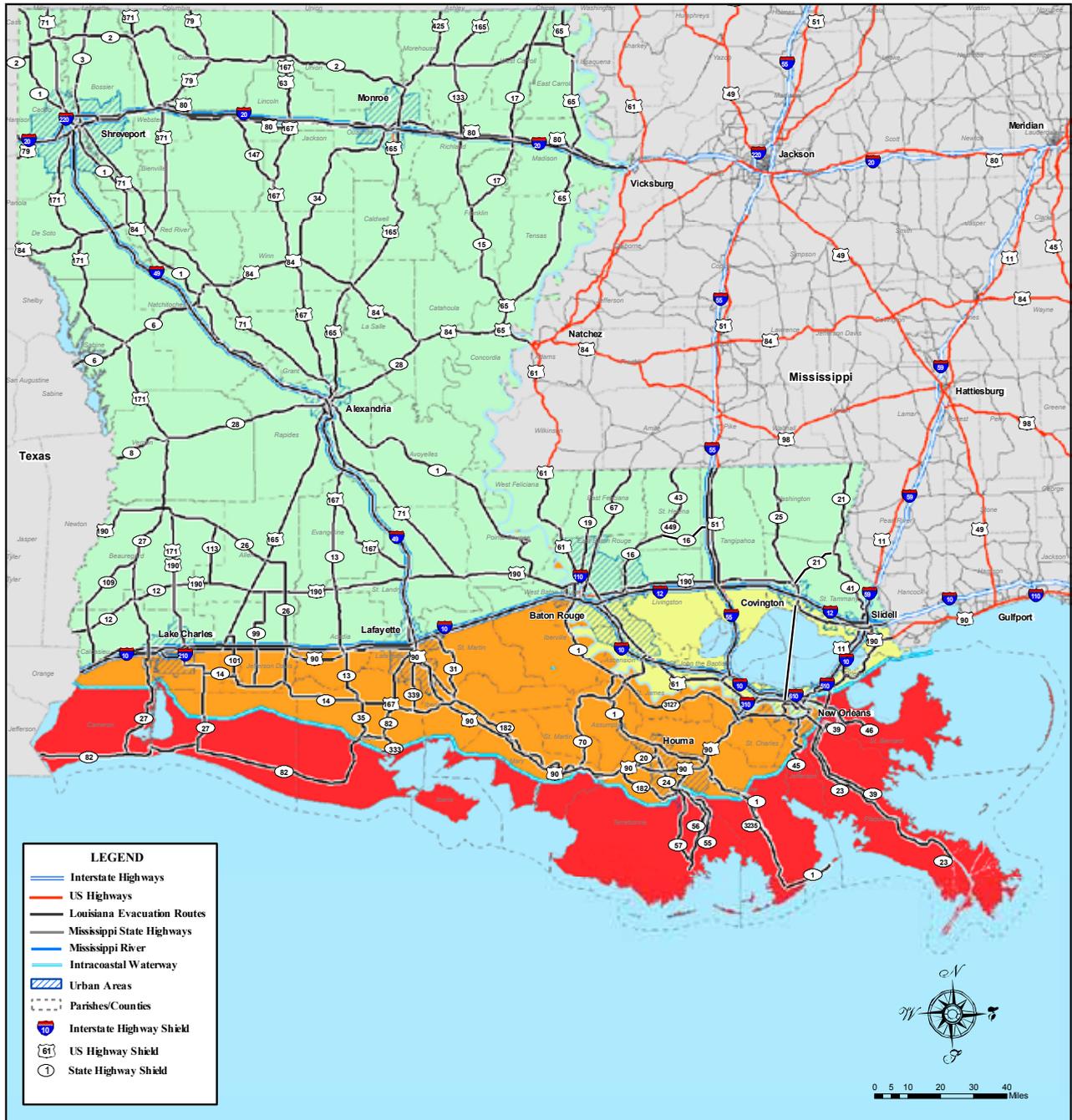
## Preparing Your Room

- ✓ Unplug all electronics and cover them in plastic
- ✓ Shut and lock your window and close your blinds
- ✓ Store items off the floor and away from windows
- ✓ Take all items off balconies and out of yards
- ✓ Follow any additional instructions by your landlord
- ✓ Empty refrigerator
- ✓ Take valuables



# Evacuation

## LOUISIANA EMERGENCY EVACUATION MAP



During a threat of a hurricane, a phased evacuation will be based on geographic location and time in which tropical storm winds are forecasted to reach the affected areas.

- Phase I** - 50 Hours before onset of tropical storm winds. Includes areas south of the Intracoastal Waterway. These areas are outside any levee protection system and are vulnerable to Category 1 and 2 storms. These areas are depicted in **RED** on the Evacuation Map. During Phase I there are no route restrictions.
- Phase II** - 40 Hours before onset of tropical storm winds. Includes areas south of the Mississippi River which are levee protected but remain vulnerable to Category 2 or higher storms. These areas are depicted in **ORANGE** on the Evacuation Map. During Phase II there are no route restrictions.

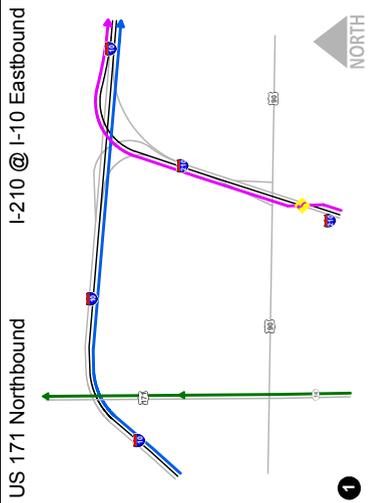
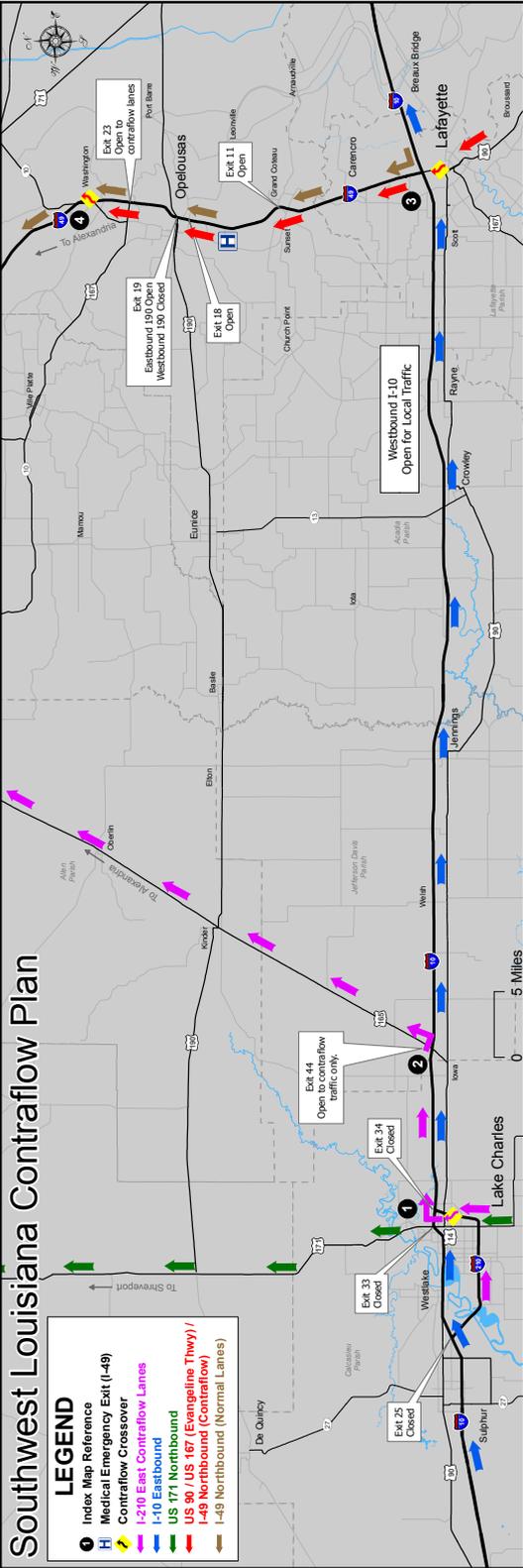
- Phase III** - 30 Hours before onset of tropical storm winds. Includes areas on the East Bank of the Mississippi River in the New Orleans Metropolitan Area which are within the levee protection system but remain vulnerable to a slow-moving Category 3 or any Category 4 or 5 storm. These areas are depicted in **YELLOW** on the Evacuation Map. During Phase III, certain routes will be directed and the Contraflow Plan implemented.

Phased evacuation procedures are for traffic management purposes only. Consult your local Office of Emergency Preparedness Director for further evacuation information.

# Evacuation

## Southwest Louisiana Contraflow Plan

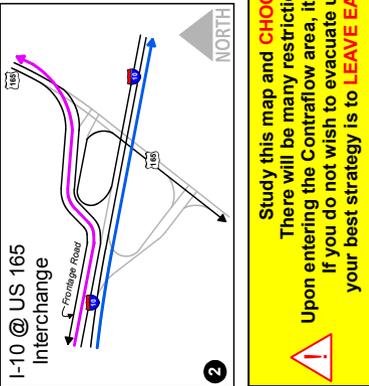
- LEGEND**
- Index Map Reference
  - H Medical Emergency Exit (I-49)
  - ↔ Contraflow Crossover
  - ↔ I-210 East Contraflow Lanes
  - ↔ US 774 Northbound
  - ↔ US 90 (US 167 (Evangeline Thwy)/I-49 Northbound (Contraflow))
  - ↔ I-49 Northbound (Normal Lanes)



### Lake Charles Area Instructions

**I-210 East (Contraflow Lanes) - To Alexandria (PURPLE)**  
 Eastbound I-210 traffic will cross over to the westbound lanes of I-210 just before south of US 90. Traffic will then contraflow (travel east) on the westbound lanes of I-10 to US 165 North.  
 Traffic using the I-10 contraflow lanes will be diverted northbound onto US 165.

**I-10 Eastbound - To Alexandria or Baton Rouge (BLUE)**  
 I-10 eastbound traffic (normal lanes) will not be allowed to exit at the following exits:  
 Exit 25, I-210 East  
 Exit 33, US 171  
 Exit 34, I-210 West  
 All other exits along I-10 will be open.  
 I-10 eastbound lanes will flow as normal to Lafayette through the Lake Charles area.

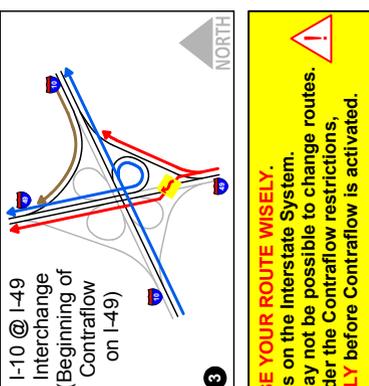


### Lake Charles Area Instructions

**US 171 North - To Shreveport (GREEN)**  
 To access US 171 North, traffic must use LA 14 North from Lake Charles. I-10 traffic will NOT be allowed to exit onto US 171.

**I-10 West at US 165**  
 Westbound I-10 traffic will be diverted at Exit 44 to US 165 South to US 90 West.

**US 165 North**  
 US 165 North traffic must use I-210 East.



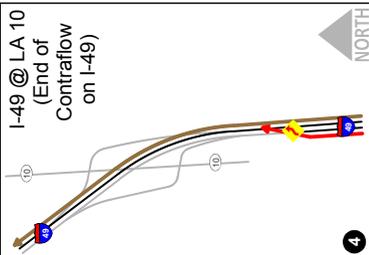
### Lafayette Area Instructions

**I-10 East and West - To Alexandria or Baton Rouge (BLUE)**  
 Eastbound I-10 traffic may continue East or travel North on I-49. Westbound I-10 traffic from Baton Rouge will be diverted to I-49 North. If Lake Charles has begun contraflow.

**US 90 / US 167 (Evangeline Thwy) / I-49 North (Contraflow Lanes) - To Alexandria/Shreveport (RED)**  
 Northbound traffic on US 90/US 167 (Evangeline Thwy) through Lafayette and I-49 North (Contraflow Lanes) will be allowed to exit at Exit 15 (US 167).  
 Northbound I-49 traffic (contraflow lanes) will be allowed to exit at Exit 23 (US 167).  
 All other exits along the I-49 North contraflow route, including US 190, will be closed.

**I-49 North (Normal Lanes) - To Alexandria/Shreveport (BROWN)**  
 Northbound I-49 traffic (normal lanes) may exit US 190 (Exit 19) to the east but not US 190 to the west.  
 Northbound I-49 traffic (normal lanes) will be allowed to exit at Sunseri/Grand Coleau (Exit 11) and Creswell Lane (Exit 18).  
 All other exits on I-49 North (normal lanes) between I-10 and Washington will be closed.

**I-49 South Traffic**  
 Southbound I-49 traffic will be diverted at the Meeker Exit (US 167). From there, drivers can use US 167/LA 13/US 71 to continue South.



### Lafayette Area Instructions

**Medical Emergencies (H)**  
 During Medical Emergencies (H) on I-49 normal and contraflow lanes will be allowed to exit at Harry Guilbeau Road (Exit 15). No other services are available at this exit.

**Study this map and CHOOSE YOUR ROUTE WISELY.**  
 There will be many restrictions on the Interstate System. Upon entering the Contraflow area, it may not be possible to change routes. If you do not wish to evacuate under the Contraflow restrictions, your best strategy is **LEAVE EARLY** before Contraflow is activated.



# National Weather Service Lake Charles, LA

[www.weather.gov/lakecharles](http://www.weather.gov/lakecharles)  
(337) 477-5285



National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office

## Lake Charles, LA



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Watches & Warnings
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Forecast Graphics
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Climate
Marine

Click on the map below for the latest forecast.



Read watches, warnings & advisories.



Zoom Out

There are no watches, warnings, or advisories at this time.

Last map update: Mon, Feb. 8, 2010 at 10:09:51 am CST

**Latest Conditions in Lake Charles, LA**

Feb 8  
9:53 am

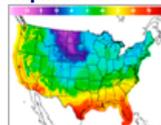


Overcast

**52°F**  
(11°C)

Select A City:

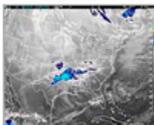
**Graphical Forecasts**



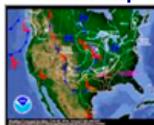
**Radar**



**Satellite**



**Weather Map**



National Weather Service  
Lake Charles, LA Weather Forecast Office  
500 Airport Boulevard  
Lake Charles, LA 70607  
(337) 477-5285  
Page Author: LCH Webmaster  
Web Master's E-mail: [sr-lch.webmaster@noaa.gov](mailto:sr-lch.webmaster@noaa.gov)

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Serving and Protecting our area since 1893

# Emergency Information

## NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE LAKE CHARLES

● 337-477-5285 [www.weather.gov/lch](http://www.weather.gov/lch)

## NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER

● [www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov)

## FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)

● 800-621-FEMA [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

## NOAA EXTREME WEATHER INFORMATION SHEETS

● <http://ecowatch.ncddc.noaa.gov/c-side/louisiana.pdf>

## NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

● 888-379-9531 [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov)

## LOUISIANA HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

● 225-925-7500 [www.ohsep.louisiana.gov](http://www.ohsep.louisiana.gov)

## LOUISIANA ROAD CONDITIONS

● 1-888-762-3511 [www.511la.org](http://www.511la.org)

## AMERICAN RED CROSS

● ACADIANA AREA: 337-234-7371  
[www.acadianaredcross.org](http://www.acadianaredcross.org)

● SOUTHWEST LA: 337-478-5122  
[www.swla-redcross.org](http://www.swla-redcross.org)

● CENTRAL LA: 318-442-6621  
[www.cenlaredcross.org](http://www.cenlaredcross.org)

## Louisiana Parish Contacts

### ACADIA

● 337-783-4357 [www.acadiaparishpolicejury.org/Departments/emergency\\_mgmt.htm](http://www.acadiaparishpolicejury.org/Departments/emergency_mgmt.htm)

### ALLEN

● 337-584-5156

### BEAUREGARD

● 337-463-3281 [www.beau.org/~oem](http://www.beau.org/~oem)

### CAMERON

● 337-775-7048

### IBERIA

● 337-369-4427

### LAFAYETTE

● 337-291-5075 [www.lafayetteoep.org](http://www.lafayetteoep.org)

### ST. LANDRY

● 337-948-7177 [www.stlandryparishgovernment.org/dept\\_emergency.htm](http://www.stlandryparishgovernment.org/dept_emergency.htm)

### ST. MARTIN

● 337-394-3071

### VERMILLION

● 337-898-4308

### AVOUELLES

● 318-253-7291

### CALCASIEU

● 337-721-3800 [www.cppj.net/dept/oep](http://www.cppj.net/dept/oep)

### EVANGELINE

● 337-363-3267

### JEFFERSON DAVIS

● 337-821-2100

### RAPIDES

● 318-445-5141 [www.rppj.com](http://www.rppj.com)

### ST. MARY

● 337-828-4100

### VERNON

● 337-238-7225

# Returning Home



IF YOU EVACUATED THE AREA, WAIT FOR AN ALL CLEAR FROM THE CITY OR COUNTY BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO RETURN TO YOUR HOME. BE PREPARED TO SHOW PROOF OF RESIDENCE BY HAVING A COPY OF YOUR LATEST UTILITY BILL.



FEMA News Photo



## Debris Cleanup

- Cities and counties will publish a schedule for debris pick-up and removal. Debris cannot be removed from private property.
- Construction materials, vegetative debris, household hazardous waste and household appliances will need to be placed into separate piles and moved to the curbside for pick-up.

FEMA News Photo



## General Cleanup

- Be cautious of structural damage and downed power lines. Do not attempt to move structural supports or large pieces of debris.
- DO NOT run power generators indoors. Inhalation of carbon monoxide from the exhaust can cause death. Ensure exhaust is well ventilated.
- DO NOT use open flames indoors.
- Restrict your driving to emergency use only. Road conditions may not be safe until road debris is cleared.

FEMA News Photo



## Water

- Listen for instructions regarding public water supply. Use only bottled, boiled or treated water until you know that your water supply is safe.
- You can use household chlorine bleach to treat water for drinking or cleaning. Add 1/8 teaspoon of bleach per gallon of clear water or 1/4 teaspoon of bleach per gallon if water is cloudy. Allow water to stand for 30 minutes before using.

# Returning Home

## Utility Cleanup

FEMA News Photo



- Check for gas leaks. If you smell or hear gas leaking, leave immediately. DO NOT use the phone or turn on lights in your home. Call the gas company from a neighbor's phone.
- Report any visible damage of power lines to the electric company. Turn off power at main breaker if any electrical equipment or circuits have been exposed to water.
- DO NOT connect generators to your home's electrical circuits. If a generator is on line when electrical service is restored, it can become a major fire hazard. Also, lineworkers working to restore power will be endangered if a generator is hooked up to the home's circuits.
- It is likely that an electric company other than your own will reconnect the lines to your home; however, they can not turn the service back on. Only your electric company can actually turn the power back on to your house.

## Sewage Cleanup

- If you suspect water or sewage lines are damaged, do not use your plumbing (toilets, sinks, etc.). Contact the water company or a plumber for repairs.
- A chemical portable commode can be created by the following:
  - ✓ Use 5 gallon buckets with tight lids, lined with heavy duty plastic garbage bags.
  - ✓ Add kitty litter to the bucket as a disinfectant and deodorizer. Keep lids on firmly.
  - ✓ Keep buckets in a cool, dark place. Clean and disinfect buckets immediately.
- Your toilet can also be used by flushing until the bowl has no water. Then, line with heavy duty trash bags and disinfect with chlorine bleach after each use. Remove waste to an outside location.
- If significant sewer outages have occurred, instructions for disposal of human wastes will be announced.
- DO NOT dispose of human waste through your regular trash!

## Interior Cleanup

- Disinfect and dry interior buildings and items inside. This will prevent growth of some bacteria, viruses, mold, and mildew that can cause illness.
- Clean walls, floors, and counter tops with soap and water. Disinfect them with a solution of 1 cup of bleach to 5 gallons of water.
- Wash all clothes and linens in hot water. Air dry and spray all unwashable items with disinfectant. Steam clean carpets. Throw away all items touched by water that cannot be disinfected.









