

WEATHER
Today: Thunderstorms possible. Continued breezy. Rain chance 50 percent today.

Tomorrow: Partly cloudy and hot. Thunderstorms possible. Highs low 90s. Rain chance 25 percent. Complete Weather/10A

HURRICANE'S PATH

NEW ORLEANS STILL STANDS

Damage from Katrina not as bad as feared/2A



MOBILE, BALDWIN

FLOODING, BIG RIVER CRASH

Assessing the local toll from Katrina/7A

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Katrina kills 55

Massive hurricane hammers 3 Gulf Coast states

Ernest Swaggerty pauses as he contemplates cleaning up what's left of his mobile home in the south Mobile County community of Irvington in the wake of Hurricane Katrina on Monday. The large, powerful storm left a swath of destruction along the Gulf Coast from New Orleans to Alabama.



G.M. ANDREWS/Staff Photographer

Editor's note

This special edition of the Mobile Register was printed on the presses of the Pensacola News Journal after floodwaters from Hurricane Katrina swept into downtown Mobile on Monday and knocked out power to the Register's building.

A complete edition of this newspaper — including stock market tables and a full-size Sports section — will be printed today at the Birmingham News and delivered to all our home subscribers with their Wednesday Register.

► Katrina's destructive force felt from New Orleans to Alabama

By **ALLEN G. BREED**
Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS — Announcing itself with shrieking, 145-mph winds, Hurricane Katrina slammed into the Gulf Coast just outside New Orleans on Monday, submerging entire neighborhoods up to their roofs, swamping Mississippi's beachfront casinos and killing at least 55 people.

Jim Pollard, spokesman for the Harrison County emergency operations center, said 50 people were killed by Katrina in his county, with the bulk of the deaths at an apartment complex in Biloxi. Three other people were killed by falling trees in Mississippi and two died in a traffic accident in Alabama, authorities said.

For New Orleans — a dangerously vulnerable city because it sits mostly below sea level in a bowl-shaped depression — it was not the apocalyptic storm forecasters had feared.

But it was plenty bad, in New Orleans and elsewhere along the coast, where scores of people had to be rescued from rooftops and attics as the floodwaters rose around them. An untold number of other people were feared dead in flooded neighborhoods, many of which could not be reached by rescuers because of high water.

"Some of them, it was their last night on Earth," Terry Ebbert, chief of homeland security for New Orleans, said of people who ignored orders to evacuate the city of 480,000 over the weekend. "That's a hard way to learn a lesson."

"We pray that the loss of life is very limited, but we fear that is not the case," Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco said.

Katrina knocked out power to more than a mil-

lion people from Louisiana to the Florida's Panhandle, and authorities said it could be two months before electricity is restored to everyone. Ten major hospitals in New Orleans were running on emergency backup power.

The federal government began rushing baby formula, communications equipment, generators, water and ice into hard-hit areas, along with doctors, nurses and first-aid supplies. The Pentagon sent experts to help with search-and-rescue operations.

Katrina was later downgraded to a tropical storm as it passed through eastern Mississippi, moving north at 21 mph. Winds were still a dangerous 65 mph.

Forecasters said that as the storm moves north through the nation's midsection over the next few days, it may spawn tornadoes over the Southeast and swamp the Gulf Coast and the Tennessee and

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Katrina's surge eclipses others

By **BILL FINCH**
and **SUZANNE HAGGERTY**
Staff Reporters

Big green and blue dumpsters and a white ice-vending machine sailed like tubby boats down Water and Royal streets, past the submerged mail trucks at the city's downtown Post Office. Water submerged the first floor entrance of Mobile's Explorem at the foot of Government, and the waves of Mobile Bay whipped the base of the RSA Battle House Tower, the city's half-completed signature skyscraper.

On Dog River, the Mobile Fire-Rescue Department's Swift Waters rescue team pulled at least 30 people to safety as sea water inundated homes along the banks of that river. Emergency workers fear they'll find hundreds of homes on Dauphin Island to be a total loss

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VICTOR CALHOUN/Chief Photographer

Emergency personnel use boats to rescue residents of the Orange Grove public housing community north of downtown near the Mobile River on Monday as the storm surge generated by Hurricane Katrina flooded the area.

Storm smacks Alabama coast

By **JEB SCHRENK**
Staff Reporter

Hurricane Katrina's powerful east side reached over to make a stinging assault on Alabama's coastline Monday, pushing water over roads and up rivers, stranding residents and killing power to thousands of residents.

An oil rig broke free from its moorings and struck a large suspension bridge, forcing its closure; beach areas still rebuilding from mid-September's Hurricane Ivan were awash again; and everything from fish camps to multimillion-dollar homes along Mobile Bay took on water at an alarming rate.

Alabama Gov. Bob Riley plans to lead several officials on a helicopter tour today to survey damage, with stops in Mobile, Bayou La Batre, Gulf Shores and Chatham.

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HURRICANE SPECIAL: NINE PAGES OF KATRINA COVERAGE INSIDE TODAY