



Meet us
on page 2A



TODAY'S WEATHER
Lower humidity.
High: 93. Low: 74.
DETAILS: 8B
★

CYAN
MAGENTA
YELLOW
BLACK
1A

RESPONDING TO KATRINA

Road closures

Roads closed by State Police include:

- All roads in Jefferson Parish.
- La. 1 south of the Leveille Bridge.
- I-10 eastbound into Mississippi.
- U.S. 61 at the St. Charles Parish/Kenner line.
- Causeway Bridge.
- Crescent City Connection.
- La. 632 in St. Charles Parish.
- The Belle Chasse Tunnel.
- I-12 at Albany.

The Louisiana State Police Emergency Operations Center can be reached at (800) 469-4828 or online at <http://www.lsp.org>.

Power outages

ENTERGY: As of 4 p.m. Monday, 790,000 Entergy customers in Louisiana were without electric service, and 91,000 of those were in East Baton Rouge Parish. Another 200,000 were without power in Mississippi. Some 4,000 line workers will begin repairs once it is safe to reach damaged areas. Residents should be prepared for several days without service. For emergencies, call (800) 368-3749. To report outages, call (800) 968-8243. For details, log onto <http://www.entergy-louisiana.com>.

DEMCO: As of 6 p.m. Monday, 69,000 customers were reported without service. Crews and contractors have begun repairs. Call (225) 261-1160 or (800) 262-1160 to report outages or downed power lines.

CLECO: As of 5 p.m. Monday, 81,875 customers were reported without service. Crews are scheduled to begin repairs in the Covington area at 6 a.m. today. The 24-hour customer service number is (800) 622-6537 or log onto <http://www.cleco.com>.

Schools/colleges

Most area school systems will remain closed today. Livingston Parish officials will determine today whether to reopen schools Wednesday. For information on schools, go to <http://www.theadvocate.com>.

Garbage removal

■ BFI will begin cleanup of storm debris today in East Baton Rouge and will resume household garbage pickup today. Garbage from houses scheduled for Monday pickup will be picked up on Thursday. Separate storm debris into three piles: woody waste; appliances and building materials; and household hazardous materials, such as paint and cleaners. ■ Waste Management Inc. will determine today whether to begin garbage pickup in Livingston Parish on Wednesday.

Water quality

Jefferson Parish residents are under a boil water order for all water intended for consumption or cooking. If you cannot boil water, add six drops of newly purchased, unscented liquid household bleach per gallon of water, stir and let it stand for 30 minutes.

State offices

All state offices in southeast Louisiana remain closed today.

BR Metro Airport

American, Continental, and Northwest airlines will resume flights today. Delta Air Lines flights remain canceled.

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Big blow



Associated Press photo by DOUGLAS R. CLIFFORD

Dozens of residents move to higher ground Monday in New Orleans as rising waters flood neighborhoods off North Claiborne Avenue as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

Katrina swamps New Orleans; four dead in La.

BY PENNY BROWN ROBERTS,
MICHELLE MILLHOLLON
and JOE GYAN JR.
Advocate staff writers

Hurricane Katrina bored through southeast Louisiana on Monday, unleashing 145-mph winds, submerging the New Orleans area in sewage-tainted water, inflicting possible record damage — including a toppling of a span of interstate bridge — and leaving unknown loss of life.

Authorities confirmed only four deaths — all in the Baton Rouge area, which felt only the fringes of the massive, Category 4 hurricane. Three were nursing home residents stressed by evacuation and the fourth was a Livingston Parish man who died when a tree fell on his home.

About 200 people were rescued from attics and rooftops in Orleans and Jefferson parishes. However, rescue boats were not able to cover the entire area before nightfall, especially St. Bernard Parish, where Gov. Kathleen Blanco called the damage "catastrophic."

About 250 rescue boats — including 50 from Texas — will pour into the area at daybreak.

"Unfortunately, we have reports of some bodies floating," New Orleans Police Superintendent Eddie Compass said late Monday afternoon.

Blanco said she could confirm no deaths in greater New Orleans, much of which is below sea level and was flooded by a 12-to-15-foot wall of water the storm pushed over levees.

"I pray the loss of life is very minimal," she said. "I fear that's not the case."

Aerial video of eastern New Orleans and a news reporter's view from the St. Claude Avenue bridge into St. Bernard Parish, showed water nearly up to rooftops as far as the eye could see.

"The worst-case scenario," said New Orleans City Council member Cynthia Willard-Lewis, invoking the horrific term for the long-predicted "big one" that authorities have feared for decades would devastate the Crescent City and its suburbs.

Authorities insisted that no one except emergency workers and search and rescue teams return to the area today. Blanco said six parishes, including St. Tammany north of New Orleans, remain dangerous and returning residents would only impede rescue and recovery efforts. All incoming roads are closed, the governor said. In several gut-wrenching hours Monday, the storm:

■ Poked leaks in the Louisiana Superdome, adding to the misery of the 8,000 or more refugees taking shelter in the New Orleans monument.

■ Apparently knocked out a portion of the Interstate 10 "twin spans" that connect New Orleans to Slidell and eastern United States. Whether one or both spans of the bridge are damaged was not certain. Further inspection is set for early today.

■ Elicited a promise from President Bush for "as much aid as the federal government can give," Blanco said after a telephone call with Bush.

■ Curtailed so much oil refining and production that Bush considered tapping the nation's emergency oil reserves. Speculation surged about new record highs for the price of gasoline.

■ Turned the Baton Rouge area into a refugee camp for untold numbers of New Orleans area

► Please see **KATRINA**, page 4A

AFTERMATH OF KATRINA

Deaths

Chris Pruett, 45, of Watson died Monday when a tree fell on his home. Three residents of a New Orleans nursing home died in a Sunday evacuation to Baton Rouge.

More than 50 people were reported killed Monday in Mississippi, while two died in a traffic accident in Alabama. Florida reported 11 deaths.

Orleans Parish

More than 200 people were pulled from rooftops in Orleans and Jefferson parishes. A portion of the I-10 bridge between New Orleans and Slidell was knocked out. Winds ripped pieces of metal from the New Orleans Superdome roof while an air-conditioning malfunction made conditions miserable for the 9,000 evacuees.

East Baton Rouge

Wind and falling trees cut power to nearly 100,000 houses. WBRZ-TV measured gusts of up to 71 miles per hour Monday, toppling 579 trees and 237 power lines. **Page 1B**

Elsewhere in Louisiana

Tornadoes touched down in areas of Livingston Parish, where roads were

blocked by fallen trees and power lines. The storm devastated parts of Tangipahoa, Plaquemines, Jefferson and St. Tammany parishes. **Page 1B**

Elsewhere on the Gulf

An emergency official estimated 50 deaths in Mississippi's Harrison County. In Alabama, 6-foot waves engulfed stately, million-dollar homes along Mobile Bay. **Page 4A**

Video and photos

Go to <http://www.theadvocate.com>.

- Scenes from Hurricane Katrina, pages 8A, 9A
- Katrina disrupts energy output, rattles markets; analysts await damage details, Page 1C
- Tiger Stadium and the rest of the LSU athletic complex appeared to fare well during the storm, Page 1D
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