

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A HURRICANE?

We are all too familiar with Mother Nature's wrath in both tropical storms and hurricanes. During these emergencies we must be able to communicate and work together. Planning well in advance for a hurricane will make us better prepared for an emergency.

Jefferson Parish learned a lot from Katrina and completely revised its emergency plan to make sure that we are better prepared.

Everyone should have a personal emergency plan. When a major hurricane threatens it is imperative that we listen to official warnings and evacuate when told to do so.

HOW HAS THE PARISH PLAN CHANGED?

Since Katrina, Jefferson Parish has completely re-written its emergency plan. Every facet of the Parish's pre and post Katrina performance was analyzed and evaluated. In addition to the much talked about safe room for pump stations, there are major improvements to everything from communication with the public to clean-up contracts. The loss of communications during Katrina emphasized the critical need for redundancy in our emergency system. This is one of the key elements of the new plan and will dramatically improve the Parish's ability to communicate and coordinate resources. Redundancy will apply to personnel as well as systems. Teams of Essential Duty Employees with personnel from various departments will be deployed throughout the Parish in fortified safe shelters. The shelters will also have supplies for 7 days instead of 3 as in the previous storms. Other elements of the plans include:

- At pump stations with safe rooms, operators will remain in the station until winds reach 74 mph, then, only if the conditions worsen will they go into a safe room.
- Pumping stations that are vulnerable to backflow will have safe rooms and pump operators will be on site throughout the storm.
- Operators at other pumping stations within a drainage basin will be evacuated and housed in the safe rooms nearest to their station, ensuring the quickest return following the storm.

FLOODGATES/FLOODWALLS

- THE U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has installed floodgates at the mouth of the 17th Street Canal and will close them when threatened by a storm surge. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will monitor conditions at the Harvey Canal as well. A newly installed sector gate is ready for closure if the orders are given.
- To help compensate for diminished pumping capacity when the 17th St. floodgates are closed, Jefferson Parish has initiated an action plan that consists of retention ponds and pumping systems to help drain Old Jefferson and Old Metairie areas. These areas are known as Hoey's Basin. In conjunction with this plan, flap gates are installed on all drainage outlets into the 17th Street Canal and on drain lines under the Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks to prevent any backflow.
- Pontiff Playground and 11 acres at Causeway and Earhart will serve as retention ponds for rainwater.
- Installation of temporary pumps will also increase capacity.
- Reconstructing the west floodwall in Kenner along Parish line canal as proposed by the Corps of Engineers by adding soil will increase the berm width and height of the canal flood protection wall near Vintage Drive. The Corps of Engineers is installing a parallel line of sheer piling on the landside of the existing wall. The top of the sheet piling will be approximately the same elevation as the floodwall and the Corps is in the process of securing a contractor to replace the sheet pile wall near the airport.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Jefferson Parish has developed multiple means of communicating during and after catastrophes. The main emphasis of this system is to have backup communications for each method of communicating as well as a means of repairing the existing systems should they be damaged during a storm.
- Self-contained mobile systems that can hook up to a building and provide active phone and data lines will be available.
- Direct lines to federal and state agencies will be established, facilitating better coordination of resources.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

- Public Information Offices will work to gather as much information as possible on the status of various locations within the parish and disseminate via WWL-Radio, 870 AM or 103.3 FM. WWL-Radio personnel will operate and broadcast out of the Jefferson Parish Emergency Operating Center. If systems permit, the information will also be displayed on the Jefferson Parish website, www.jeffparish.net and disseminated to local and surrounding media outlets.

WATER AND SEWER

- Emergency contracts are in place for post storm repair and restoration of service.

ESSENTIAL DUTY EMPLOYEES

- All Essential Duty Employees will remain in the Parish.
- Employees will be housed in fortified safe shelters with provisions for up to seven days.
- There will be numerous shelters for parish employees on each side of the river strategically located for quick response. Each team will have representatives from different departments and will be capable of independently handling most emergency situations.

MILITARY

- The Parish has requested that pre-positioned National Guard units be stationed through the Parish to provide security.

CONTRAFLOW

- Contraflow is controlled by the state police and will be implemented on their command, about 30 hours before a hurricane is expected to make landfall.



EVACUATION INFORMATION

Regardless of the location or nature of a hurricane threat, this information is your guide to a safe and efficient evacuation. Take the time to read over and familiarize yourself with this guide and discuss a plan with your family.

CONTRAFLOW ROUTES

I-10 WEST CONTRAFLOW LANES

The eastbound and westbound lanes of I-10 from Clearview Parkway in Metairie to I-55 North in LaPlace will be used as westbound lanes. On the Contraflow Plan, the normal westbound lanes are shown with the BROWN arrows and the Contraflow (eastbound) lanes are shown with BLUE arrows. All I-10 West entrances through New Orleans, Metairie, and Kenner will be used in their normal manner to gain access to I-10 West.

I-55 NORTH CONTRAFLOW LANES

The northbound and southbound lanes of I-55 North will be diverted onto I-55 North Contraflow and will only be allowed to exit at two locations: Exit 47 (LA-16) in Amite and Exit 61 (LA-38) in Kentwood.

I-59 NORTH CONTRAFLOW LANES

The northbound and southbound lanes of I-59, north of the I-10/I-59 interchange, will be used as northbound lanes.

JEFFERSON PARISH ZONES - EVACUATION ROUTES

ZONE 1. EAST OF THE HARVEY CANAL: Cross over the Crescent City Connection to the I-10 through Slidell to I-59 North.

ZONE 2. WEST OF THE HARVEY CANAL: Take Westbank Expressway to Hwy 90 to I-310; cross Luling Bridge to west on Airline Dr. through Baton Rouge through Opelousas.

ZONE 3. EAST OF THE CAUSEWAY: Take Causeway across Lake Pontchartrain, to west on I-12, up to I-55 North.

ZONE 4. WEST OF THE CAUSEWAY: (THREE OPTIONS): Take westbound I-10 to I-55 North or take I-10 to Baton Rouge or south to Airline Dr. through Baton Rouge through Opelousas.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO PREPARE BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER A HURRICANE

Regardless of the location or nature of a hurricane threat, this information is your guide to a safe and efficient evacuation and return. Familiarize yourself with this guide and discuss a plan with your family.

BEFORE A HURRICANE STRIKES

CREATE A FAMILY PLAN

- Designate an individual outside of the area to serve as a family point of contact. Make sure that all family members know who this person is and how to contact him/her.
- Leave a note telling others when you left and where you are going and check with neighbors who may need a ride or other assistance.

TRAVELING

- Stay tuned to TV and radio broadcasts for status reports. Do not wait until the last minute to evacuate, but be aware that lower areas will be evacuating first.
- If you are planning to stay in a shelter, have materials ready and register at the shelter as soon as you arrive so that you and your family have a designated location at the shelter throughout the stay.
- Have maps of Louisiana and all surrounding states.

FOR THOSE WITHOUT TRANSPORTATION

- A local bus will pick you up on a regular transit route and bring you to a staging area where a state bus will take you to a public shelter.
- If you are presently serviced by a home healthcare agency, you are to go through your healthcare agency and not Jefferson Parish.
- When Jefferson Parish calls for an evacuation, a telephone number will be released via radio and television. At that time those needing assistance who are not serviced by a home healthcare agency are to call the publicized number to determine their eligibility.

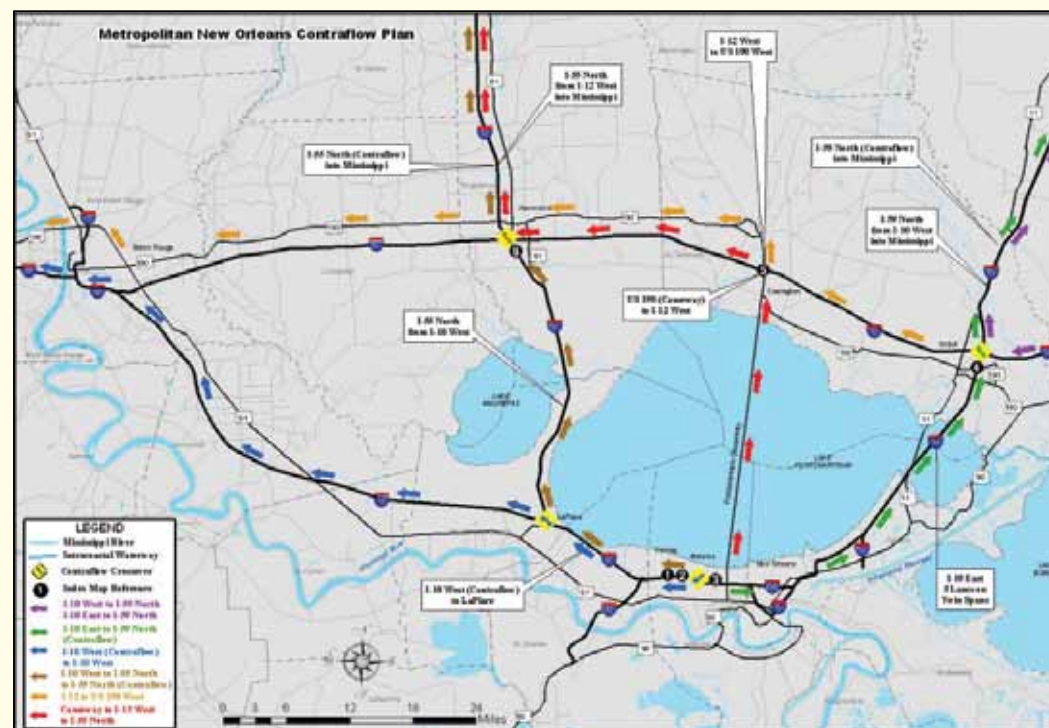
CAR TIPS

- Keep your vehicle in good running condition with a full tank of gas.
- Prepare your car. Get an oil change, check all vital fluids and tire pressure, belts, etc. Long backups in hot weather can cause overheating if your car is not in good shape. Low tire pressure wastes gas and can be dangerous.
- If stopped for an extended period, turn off your car engine to avoid over-heating.
- If having trouble with your vehicle when traveling, move to a lane that offers safe, easy access to an emergency lane or pull off the road. Stay there until assistance arrives.
- Do not assume that you can make it to your destination when car troubles arise. Have your car checked out immediately.



BANKING

- Be sure that you have enough funds for evacuating. It is recommended that you have cash, not just credit cards.
- If you use a community bank, check to see if there is a sister bank at your destination where you can receive money, or set up online banking. You should do this now.
- Be sure that you have enough cash on you before you leave. ATM's will run out of money quickly.
- If using credit cards, be sure to contact your provider to let them know you will be out of town. The unfamiliar spending patterns might cause them to suspect that the card is being used fraudulently and delay your approvals.



REFRIGERATORS

- Take all food out of the refrigerator.
- Put all frozen foods in double garbage bags so that if the power goes out for a long time, your freezer will be easier to clean.

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS AND HEALTH

- Store copies of each family member's important documents in a zip lock bag or a waterproof case in a secure location where you can easily reach them before an approaching storm.
- Contact a doctor or family healthcare provider to make sure each family member is up-to-date with any prescriptions and be sure that you have a contact number in case you need to refill a prescription.

PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY

- Leave your property in a secure condition by turning off electricity, water, and other utilities at the source.
- Secure all loose items and furniture that are outside of your home.

TRAILERS

- Trailers are not safe in a storm. If you are living in a trailer, plan to evacuate early.

CLEAN DRAINS

- The drainage system cannot work if drains are clogged with debris. To prevent this, monitor the drains near your home and business and remove any debris which may impede the drainage process. This can make a huge impact on removing floodwaters and preventing flooding of streets and houses.

PET SAFETY

- Some animals tend to get carsick. Give them a light meal two hours before you evacuate, feed them minimally during the drive and offer them small amounts of water. Be sure that they have a good source of ventilation.
- For nervous pets, contact your vet for a prescription of tranquilizers to calm your pet when traveling.
- Get a portable pet carrier now and be sure that it is large enough for the animal to stand up and turn around. Make sure that the pet has id tags and alternate contact information.
- Take frequent breaks to allow your pet to move around and use the bathroom.
- Your home will not be safe for your pets and neither are boarding kennels and veterinary clinics in the danger zone.
- Local animal shelters will not accept personal pets. Plan to keep your pet with you or someone you know out of the danger zone.
- Public shelters do not allow pets.
- Visit www.petswelcome.com for a state-by-state listing of hotels that welcome pets.



EMERGENCY PLANS FOR BUSINESSES

- Secure your buildings by protecting the windows and covering equipment and furniture. Move all equipment and furniture to a secured area. Plastic covering can protect files and furniture from roof leaks.
- If you are dependent on data processing, have a backup file or an alternate storage site. Make provisions for alternate communications and power.
- Have storage for all emergency supplies, and plan to work without water, sewer, power, or banking services for two weeks.
- Turn off electricity, water, and gas.
- Review your insurance for business interruption coverage and have your business appraised every five years. Have backup copies of insurance policies and customer service numbers. Be sure that you understand that any flood damage requires separate coverage and is NOT covered under other insurance programs.
- Plan with your employees evacuation procedures and recovery plans. Be sure that you have all of your employees' contact information. Make sure that your employees are aware of their responsibilities after the storm.
- Inform your customers and suppliers of a recovery plan in advance and prepare a list of vendors to provide disaster recovery services.

IF YOU STAY (DEFINITELY NOT RECOMMENDED)

- Obey the curfew; residents may be restricted to their property around the clock.
- Store 5-10 days of drinking water, food and medical supplies.
- Listen for reports on WWL-Radio, 870 AM or 103.3 FM.
- Fuel your car and park it on high ground.
- Check emergency supplies including an axe, life preservers, and signal lights.
- Be aware that there may be:
 - No water service
 - No sanitation
 - No open grocery stores, gasoline, drugstores
 - No fire prevention services
 - Limited or no police response
 - No telephone service

AFTER THE STORM

RETURNING:

- Listen to your radio or television or visit www.jeffparish.net for instructions on returning to the Parish.
- After the storm, be very cautious when entering and check for downed power lines, structural damage or gas leaks. Do not touch any wet electrical equipment.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

TROPICAL STORM: An organized system of strong thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation of 39-73 MPH (34-63 knots).

HURRICANE: An intense tropical weather system of strong thunderstorms with a well defined surface circulation and sustained winds of 74 MPH (64 knots) or higher.

STORM SURGE: A dome of water pushed onshore by hurricane and tropical storm winds. An abnormal rise in sea level accompanying a hurricane or other intense storm that can reach 25 ft. high and be 50-1000 miles wide.

HURRICANE WATCH: Conditions of a hurricane or tropical storm are possible in the specific area, usually within 36 hours. Tune in to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for information.

HURRICANE WARNING: Hurricane and Tropical Storm conditions are expected in the specified area within 24 hours. A warning can also be issued for thunderstorms, floods and tornadoes.

JPAAlert

Jefferson Parish Community Alert System

JPAAlert is an alert notification system that allows officials to immediately contact you during a major crisis or emergency and can deliver important emergency alerts, notifications and updates to you on all your devices:

- email account (work, home, other)
- cell phone
- smartphone and other handheld devices
- pager

Here are examples of when **JP Alert** may be used:

- Life-threatening weather
- Evacuation or Shelter in Place information
- Information about emergency shelters
- Highly disruptive road shutdowns
- Boil water notices
- Other emergency information

JPAAlert is your connection to real-time updates with the Parish of Jefferson. **JPAAlert** will give you instructions on where to go, what to do, or what not to do, and who to contact during an emergency. Other important information can also be passed on to you through this notification system. **JPAAlert** is a free service; however, your wireless carrier may charge you a fee to receive messages on your device.

You can sign up for **JPAAlert** by going to www.jeffparish.net and clicking on the **JPAAlert** icon or by calling (504) 349-5360.

JUMPSTART JEFFERSON

RE-ENTRY PLAN

- Jefferson Parish has developed a re-entry plan for key personnel and first responders, key businesses that are essential to recovery after a storm, and the general public.

BUSINESS OWNERS:

- Don't forget to sign up and register for your Re-Entry Placards. These Placards will allow you and your essential employees entry back into Jefferson Parish after a Hurricane. You will have the ability to get your business back up and running for the return of Jefferson Parish Citizens.

- To sign up for your Re-Entry Placards visit www.jumpstartjefferson.com



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HURRICANE CATEGORIES The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale

CATEGORY 1:	Minimal Damage: Winds 74-95 mph Storm surge generally 4-5 ft. above normal
CATEGORY 2:	Moderate Damage: Winds 96-110 mph Storm surge generally 6-8 ft. above normal
CATEGORY 3:	Extreme Damage: Winds 111-130 mph Storm surge generally 9-12 ft. above normal
CATEGORY 4:	Extreme Damage: Winds 131-155 mph Storm surge generally 13-18 ft. above normal
CATEGORY 5:	Catastrophic: Winds greater than 155 mph Storm surge generally greater than 18 ft.

ARE YOU READY TO EVACUATE?



It is important that you have items on hand to be prepared for a hurricane evacuation.

DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

- A first-aid kit with your family's medications
- A three-day supply of both non-perishable food and drinking water
- Any special items needed for the care of an infant, elderly or disabled family members and important papers, such as property inventory and insurance records
- A change of clothing and footwear, sleeping gear for each person, sanitation supplies, an extra set of car and home keys, a flashlight, a battery-powered radio, extra batteries
- Traveler's Checks, Credit Cards and enough cash to meet your needs for several days
- Any supplies needed for those traveling with a pet

EMERGENCY CAR KIT

- Cell phone and charger
- Duct tape
- Booster cables
- Maps
- Fire extinguisher and flares
- Tire repair kit and pump

SOME TIPS TO REMEMBER

- Your evacuation plan should include where you are going and what route you are taking to get there. Be sure that you understand the routes of the contraflow.
- Listen to your local radio and television reports for evacuation orders from local officials and Red Cross shelter locations.
- Remember to take important papers such as a birth and marriage certificates, banking statements, insurance policies, personal identification documents, wills, proof of residence, stocks and bonds, and memorabilia.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS AND WEBSITES

PARISH INFORMATION

Jefferson Parish
Emergency Operating Center
Jefferson Transit

www.jeffparish.net
504-349-5360
504-364-3450

HELP & INFORMATION

FEMA
1-800-621-FEMA
www.fema.gov

American Red Cross
1-800-229-8191

La. Homeland Security
and Emergency Preparedness
www.ohsep.louisiana.gov

Louisiana Dept. of Health & Hospitals
www.dhh.state.la.us

National Weather Service
www.srh.noaa.gov

Salvation Army
(800) SAL-ARMY
www.salvationarmyusa.org

Shelter Information (Red Cross)
Social Security Administration
(866) GET-INFO
(800) 772-1213
www.socialsecurity.gov

State Attorney General's Office
Consumer Protection Hotline
(225) 379-1232
(800) 351-4889
www.ag.state.la.us

Louisiana Dept. of Transportation & Development
www.dotd.louisiana.gov

HEALTH & SAFETY

Louisiana Disaster Support Line
Center for Disease Control
(888) LA-HELP-U
(800) CDC-INFO
www.cdc.gov

LSU Agriculture Center
(504) 838-1170
www.lsuagcenter.com

Medicaid
(225) 342-9500
www.dhh.louisiana.gov

Medicare
(800) MEDICARE
www.medicare.gov

Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office
(504) 363-5500
www.jpso.com

Louisiana State Police
Road Closure Information
(800) 469-4828
www.lsp.org
dial *LSP (*577) from a cell phone

US Environmental Protection Agency
(800) 438-4318
www.epa.gov

INSURANCE

Louisiana Dept. of Insurance
(800) 259-5300
www.lidi.state.la.us

Hurricane Insurance Information Center
(800) 942-4242
www.disasterinformation.org

BANKING

FDIC
(877) ASK-FDIC
www.fdic.gov

TELEVISION

WWL-TV Ch. 4
Email: sbreland@wwltv.com
(504) 529-6298
www.wwltv.com

WDSU Ch. 6
(504) 207-9378
www.wdsu.com

WVUE-TV Fox 8
(504) 486-6161
www.fox8live.com

WGNO-TV ABC Ch. 26
Email: wgno-tv@tribune.com
(504) 619-6248
http://abc26.trb.com/

RADIO

WWL 870 AM
On Air Call In Number: (504) 260-1870
or (866) 889-0870

WGSO 990 AM
http://bizneworleans.com

NEWSPAPER

The Times-Picayune
Email:citydesk@timespicayune.com
(504) 826-3300 or
(800) 925-0000

Jefferson Parish / Louisiana EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

ALL HAZARDS PREPAREDNESS GUIDE



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