

At 5 am EDT (0900z), the center of Hurricane Katrina was located near latitude 25.4 north, longitude 87.4 west or about 275 miles south-southeast of the mouth of the Mississippi River.

Katrina is moving toward the west-northwest near 10 mph. A gradual turn toward the northwest is expected later today.

Maximum sustained winds are near 145 mph with higher gusts. Katrina is a Category Four hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale. Some strengthening is forecast during the next 24 hours.

Hurricane force winds extend outward up to 85 miles from the center and tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 185 miles.

Estimated minimum central pressure is 935 mb (27.61 inches).

Coastal storm surge flooding of 15 to 20 feet above normal tide levels, locally as high as 25 feet along with large and dangerous battering waves can be expected near and to the east of where the center makes landfall.

Rainfall totals of 5 to 10 inches with isolated maximum amounts of 15 inches are possible along the path of Katrina across the Gulf Coast and the southeastern United States. The hurricane is still expected to produce additional rainfall amounts of 2 to 4 inches over extreme western Cuba and 1 to 3 inches of rainfall is expected over the Yucatan Peninsula.

Isolated tornadoes will be possible beginning Sunday evening over southern portions of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and over the Florida Panhandle. *(NWS National Hurricane Center)*

National Weather

South: Outer rainbands and high surf ahead of Hurricane Katrina will affect coastal Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and parts of the Florida Peninsula today. These outer bands may contain discrete thunderstorms that may produce short-lived tornadoes. Otherwise, winds will slowly increase along the central Gulf coast in advance of Hurricane Katrina. Northeast winds from 15 to 25 mph should be common, with a few gusts above 35 mph during the day. The threat of rip currents will continue to be high today, particularly along the Alabama and Florida Panhandle beaches. Heat and thunderstorms will dog others from the Carolinas to Texas again today. An area of thunderstorms will persist from the coastal Carolinas to north Florida. A weak frontal boundary will stall out from the southern Appalachians into the Lower Mississippi Valley, focusing thunderstorms from the Smoky Mountains to southern Arkansas. This boundary may also focus flooding rains once the remnants of Hurricane Katrina move inland Tuesday into Wednesday. There will be a significant footprint of heavy, potentially flooding rainfall from the Lower Mississippi Valley to the Tennessee Valley as Katrina moves well inland along a slow moving cold front.

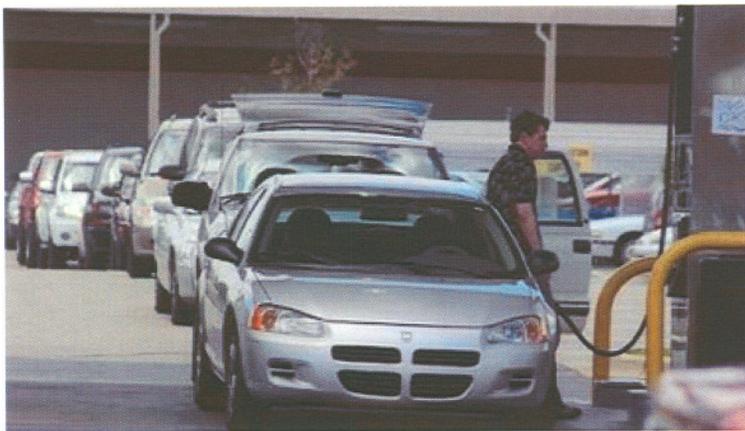
Thunderstorms should continue to rumble across Oklahoma and parts of Texas into the overnight and then flare again today. While widespread severe weather is not anticipated, a few pulse severe storms producing strong wind gusts, hail, and heavy rainfall are possible.

Northeast: Excessive heat will continue to give the Northeast a break to round out this last weekend in August. Highs today should hold in the 70s over much of New England and Upstate New York, and manage only the 80s over the Mid-Atlantic and Appalachians. Rain and thunderstorms may put a damper on your day from Upstate New York to Virginia. A few of these storms may turn briefly severe with high winds and some hail in Upstate New York and western New England. A stubborn combination of strong high pressure off Newfoundland plus a stalling frontal boundary will keep the threat of rain along much of the Northeast seaboard again tomorrow.

Midwest: Only a few minor blemishes are expected to tarnish the end of the last weekend in August in the nation's mid-section. Only the Ohio Valley will be sweating in late summer 90-degree heat on Sunday. On the flip side, highs should hold in the 70s over much of the Upper Midwest, including Minnesota, the eastern Dakotas, and much of Michigan. Folks near Lake Superior and the Boundary Waters of Minnesota, northwest Wisconsin, and western Upper Michigan may need to grab a jacket for some 60s Sunday. Clouds and light showers can be expected to accompany these chilly temperatures in northern Minnesota, northern Wisconsin, and the U.P. of Michigan. A second sluggish frontal boundary may spawn additional storms from southern Michigan to Kansas. Some locations are running an August rainfall surplus of over 6 inches from the past 2 weeks' heavy rains.

West: Two active areas will dominate the western weather picture this weekend. Thunderstorms will rumble again today in the southern Rockies and adjacent High Plains. While severe weather should be rather hit-or-miss, locally heavy rainfall and a brief high wind gust or burst of large hail are possible in the strongest of storms.

A cool front will slide into the Pacific Northwest, and clouds, showers, and perhaps a rumble of thunder is possible in association with this cool front. This will keep temperatures much of the day in the 60s in Seattle-Tacoma, and in the 70s in Portland. Ahead of the front, highs will soar well into the 90s in the interior Northwest and northern Rockies, including the active wildfire areas. Unfortunately, stronger winds and thunderstorms (lightning strikes and shifting winds) should become a problem in the wildfire battle tomorrow as the front sweeps through. Following highs in the upper 90s in Boise today, mid-70s should result on Tuesday behind the front. *(NWS, Media Sources)*



Hurricane Katrina Upgraded to Category 4

Coastal residents jammed freeways and gas stations as they rushed to get out of the way of Hurricane Katrina, which grew into a dangerous Category 4 storm early Sunday as it headed for New Orleans and the Louisiana coast. Katrina gained strength overnight, become a Category 4 with 145 mph sustained winds as it moved over the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico early this morning. Katrina could become a

Category 5 storm before landfall.

A hurricane watch extended from Louisiana to the Alabama-Florida border, and President Bush declared a state of emergency in Louisiana. His spokesman urged residents along the coast to heed authorities' advice to evacuate. Katrina could be especially devastating if it strikes New Orleans because the city sits below sea level and is dependent on levees and pumps to keep the water out. A direct hit could wind up submerging the city in several feet of water.

Making matters worse, at least 100,000 people in the city lack the transportation to get out of town. The Superdome might be used as a shelter of last resort for people who have no cars, with city bus pick-up points around New Orleans.

Owners of gas stations in and around New Orleans were forced to direct traffic as lines to the pumps stretched down surrounding streets. Gas stations were running low on gas by midafternoon Saturday

Louisiana and Mississippi made all lanes northbound on interstate highways. Mississippi declared a state of emergency and Alabama offered assistance to its neighbors. Some motels as far inland as Jackson, Miss., 150 miles north of New Orleans, were already booked up.

By 2 a.m. EDT this morning, the eye of the hurricane was about 310 miles south-southeast of the mouth of the Mississippi River. It was moving west-northwest at about 8 mph and was expected to turn more to the northwest during the day, the National Hurricane Center said. "We know that we're going to take the brunt of it," Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco said. "It does not bode well for southeastern Louisiana." Some tourists heeded the warnings and moved up their departures, and lines of tourists waited for cabs on New Orleans' famed Bourbon Street. But plenty of people in the French Quarter stayed put, and bars were rocking Saturday night.

New Orleans' worst hurricane disaster happened 40 years ago, when Hurricane Betsy blasted the Gulf Coast. Flood waters approached 20 feet in some areas, fishing villages were flattened, and the storm surge left almost half of New Orleans under water and 60,000 residents homeless. Seventy-four people died in Louisiana, Mississippi and Florida.

Katrina was a Category 1 storm with 80 mph wind when it hit South Florida on Thursday, and rainfall was estimated at up to 20 inches. Risk modeling companies have said early estimates of insured damage range from \$600 million to \$2 billion.

Katrina is the 11th named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, which began June 1. That's seven more than typically have formed by now in the Atlantic, Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico, the hurricane center said. The season ends Nov. 30. *(Media Sources)*

State and Federal Preparedness for Hurricane Katrina

Federal Actions:

The FEMA National Response Coordination Center (NRCC) Red Team is activated at Level I (Full Activation).

FEMA headquarters is conducting daily video-teleconferences at noon EDT with FEMA Region IV, the National Hurricane Center and the potentially affected States.

The FEMA ERT-N (Blue) team was activated and deployed to Baton Rouge, LA at noon August 27.

FEMA Region IV: The RRCC in Atlanta activated at Level I (full activation).

FEMA Region VI: The RRCC in Denton, TX activated at Level I (full activation).

State Actions:

Alabama EOC is activating, with full operations on 8/27.

Florida EOC is at Level 1 (full activation).

Georgia EOC is at Level 1 operations.

Mississippi EOC activated, State of Emergency has been declared.

Louisiana EOC is fully activated, with mandatory evacuation orders issued. *(FEMA HQ)*

Wildfire Information

CURRENT SITUATION:

Initial attack activity was light nationally with 119 fires reported. Two new large fires were reported, one each in the Northern Rockies and Northern California Areas. Four large fires were contained, one

each in the Northwest, Northern Rockies, Western Great Basin and Eastern Great Basin Areas. Very high to extreme fire indices were reported in California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming. An Area Command Team (Rounsaville) has been tasked by the National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group to evaluate radio communications on incidents with consideration to training and education, maintenance and replacement of equipment, narrow banding, communication and coordination with cooperators, and usability.

OUTLOOK:

Fire Weather Watches: A Fire Weather Watch is in effect from Sunday afternoon to evening for gusty winds and low humidity in extreme northeast California and extreme northwestern Nevada. **Weather Discussion:** Continued dry and warm conditions over the Pacific Northwest, the interior of California, Great Basin, and Northern Rockies. Breezy conditions out ahead of the next storm system approaching the Pacific Northwest coast will emerge over the Columbia Basin across the panhandle of Idaho today. Thunderstorm activity will be confined to Colorado and New Mexico eastward. Alaska will see a mostly dry day between storm systems. Hurricane Katrina is forecast to strengthen to a Category 3 hurricane today over the east-central portion of the Gulf of Mexico. Katrina is forecast to be a Category 4 hurricane by the time it makes landfall on the Mississippi/Alabama coastline on Monday.

Alaska

Coleen Mountain (Alaska Fire Service, Upper Yukon Zone, Bureau of Land Management): 65,261 acres at an unknown percent contained. This fire is 40 miles northeast of Chalkyitsik. Native allotments and cabins at Canyon Village and Old Rampart are threatened. Structure protection measures are in place. Burn out operations are continuing at both locations.

California

Harding (Tahoe National Forest): 2,200 acres at 50 percent contained. This fire is two miles northeast of Sierraville. A subdivision is potentially threatened. No further information was reported.

Barrel (Northern California Resource Area, Bureau of Land Management): 24,800 acres at 60 percent contained. This fire is 13 miles northeast of Fort Bidwell. Structures and wildlife habitat are threatened. Heavy fine fuel loading, rugged terrain, poor access, winds and low relative humidity are hampering containment efforts. The fire burned actively within the interior. Firefighters continued burn out operations.

NEW Manton (Tehama-Glenn Unit, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection): 2,300 acres at 20 percent contained. The fire is located 30 miles northeast of Red Bluff. Evacuations and road closures are in effect. Thirty-two structures were lost. Extreme fire behavior was reported.

Idaho

Long Black Complex (Clearwater National Forest): 963 acres at 35 percent contained. This complex, comprised of the Long Creek and Black Canyon fires, is 38 miles northeast of Pierce. Steep terrain, numerous snags and limited access continue to hamper containment efforts. The south flank of the Black Canyon fire remain active. The Long Creek fire continues to be monitored by air.

Frank Church (Payette National Forest): 10,756 acres. This lightning-caused Wildland Fire Use (WFU) incident, comprised of the Bear Creek, Root Creek, West Fork/Joe, Missouri Ridge and several other fires is 50 miles northeast of McCall. The fire is being managed to accomplish resource objectives. Commercial property, residences and historical structures are threatened; structure protection is in place.

Montana

Signal Rock (Beaverhead/Deerlodge National Forest): 2,100 acres at 15 percent contained. The fire is 17 miles southwest of Philipsburg and is burning on both the Bitterroot and

Beaverhead/Deerlodge National Forests. Active spotting was reported. Burn out operations are planned.

Prospect (Lolo National Forest): 3,210 acres at 80 percent contained. This fire is 12 miles south of Superior. Poor access, steep terrain, and heavy fuels continue to hinder containment efforts. Structures and historic features remain threatened. The fire continued to creep and smolder.

Selway-Salmon Complex (Bitterroot National Forest): 8,246 acres. This lightning-caused Wildland Fire Use (WFU) complex, comprised of the El Capitan, Wapiti, Beaverjack, Reynolds Lake and numerous other fires, is 26 miles southwest of Hamilton. This complex, burning on both the Salmon-Challis and Bitterroot National Forests, is being managed to accomplish resource objectives. A ranch, campground, work center, historic ranger station, cabin and two lookouts are potentially threatened. Structure protection remains in place. Magruder Corridor Road is closed to through traffic. Trail closures remain in effect in active fire areas. Increased fire activity was reported.

Oregon

Deer Creek (Southwest District, Oregon Department of Forestry): 1,800 acres at 10 percent contained. This fire is eight miles north of Cave Junction. Residences and other structures remain threatened and residents were evacuated. Steep terrain and hot, windy weather contributed to extreme fire behavior.

Granite Complex (Wallowa-Whitman National Forest): 18,368 acres. This lightning-caused Wildland Fire Use (WFU) incident is 30 miles east of Enterprise. This complex is being managed to accomplish resource objectives. Structure protection remains in place for historic cabins in the area. An area closure remains in effect. Active fire behavior was reported. Burn out operations are planned if the fire threatens to cross the Sheep Creek or threatens structures.

Utah

Pelican Point (Northwest State, Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands): 2,574 acres at 80 percent contained. This fire is ten miles southeast of Fairfield. Residences, communication towers, an explosives plant, a VHF omnidirectional range navigation beacon (VOR), and cultural resources are potentially threatened. State Route 68 is open. Steep terrain, heavy fine fuel loading, and strong gusty winds are hampering containment efforts. Decreased fire behavior was reported.

Wildfire Burns Rural Homes in Oregon

A fast-moving wildfire burned five rural homes and forced the evacuation of at least 30 more near an area that had been struck by another wildfire just three years earlier.

About 800 firefighters were called in Friday to beef up a crew of about 200 tackling the fire. The flames had already spread to 1,800 acres of dense forest in southwestern Oregon one day after the fire started, state Forestry Department spokesman Brian Ballou said.

The cause of the wildfire was under investigation, Illinois Valley Fire Chief Harry Rich said.

Sheriff's deputies tied plastic yellow tape to mailboxes of homes as they moved through the area urging people to evacuate. Roads were closed, trailers carrying horses left the area and residents gathered to watch as four air tankers and three helicopters dropped fire retardant and water. *(Media Sources)*

Other Tropical Cyclone Activity

In the Eastern/Central Pacific, no storms threaten land or any U.S. interests.

In the Western Pacific, no storms pose any threats to U.S. interests. *(National Hurricane Center, Joint Typhoon Warning Center)*

Earthquake Activity

There was no significant seismic activity during the past 24 hours. *(USGS National Earthquake Information Center)*

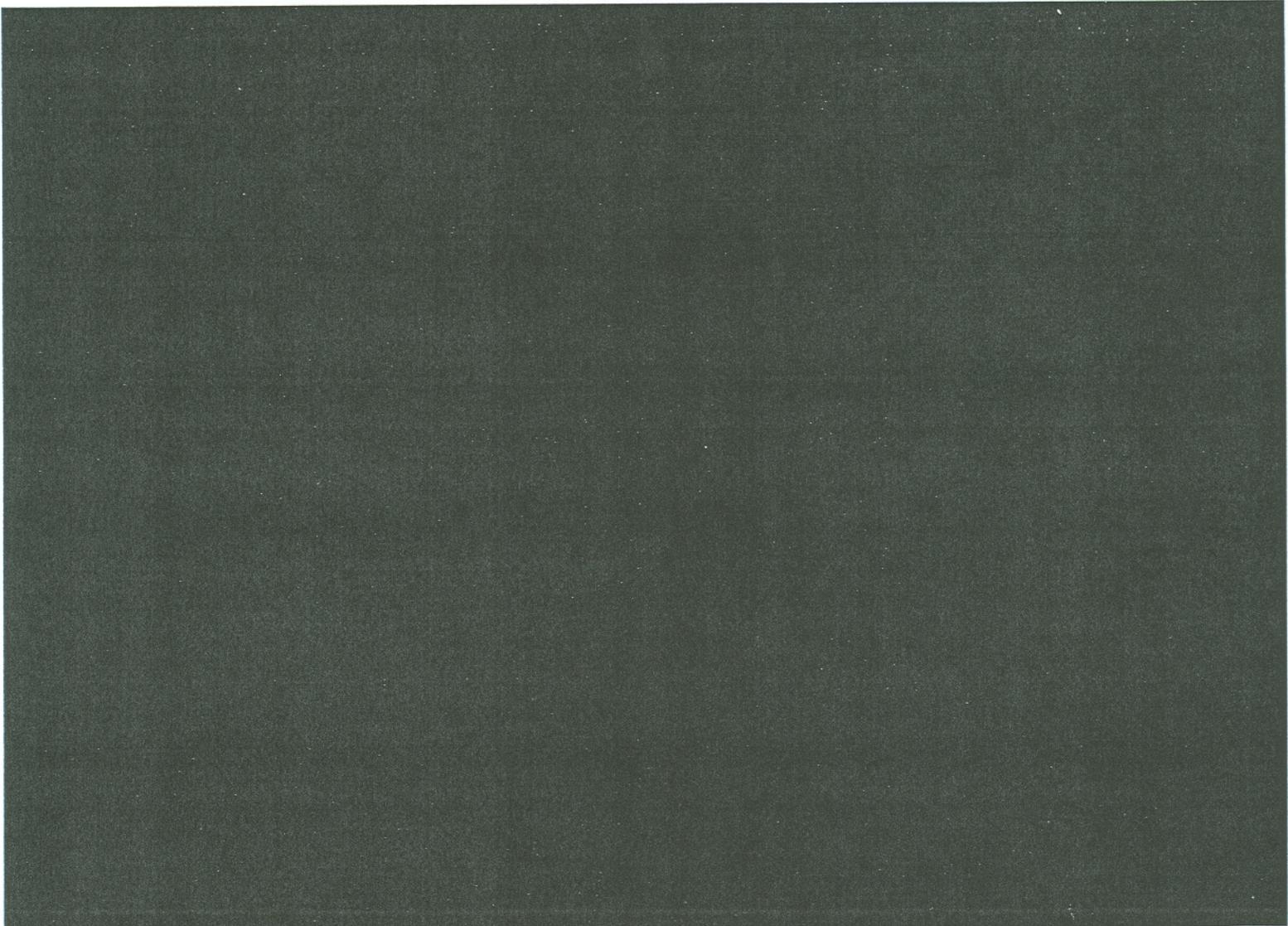
Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs)

No new activity reported. (FEMA HQ)

Disaster Declaration Activity

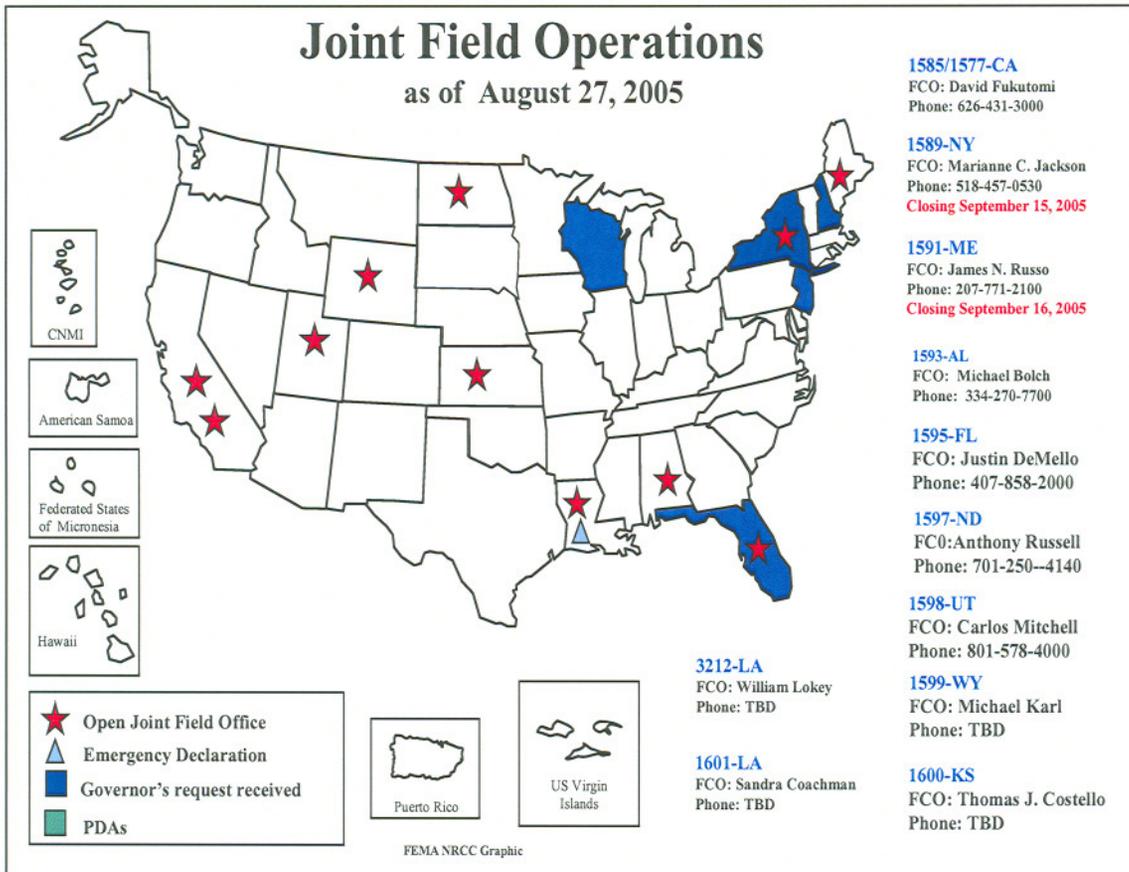
FEMA-3212-EM-LA was declared on August 27, 2005 to provide Emergency Assistance for 39 parishes in preparation for the arrival of Hurricane Katrina. (FEMA HQ)

FEMA Readiness Alert Status:



Disaster Teleregistration Activity Chart

DR	Incident Type	08/25/05	Cumulative
1599-WY	Tornado	31	102
1595-FL	Hurricane Dennis	133	38,704
1593-AL	Hurricane Dennis	33	13,614
Total		197	54,420



The FEMA Homeland Security Daily Operations Report is prepared by the FEMA National Response Coordination Center (NRCC). Questions can be addressed to NRCC watch officers via phone at 202-646-2828/4541 (staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week), via fax at 202-646-4617, or via e-mail at FEMA-NRCC@dhs.gov.