



FEMA

# National Situation Report

As of 5:30 a.m. Monday, August 29, 2005

This information is provided as a public service. Information presented is considered public information and may be distributed or copied. Use of appropriate byline/photo/image credits is requested. Published daily by the FEMA National Response Coordination Center (NRCC). Available on the internet at: <http://www.fema.com/emanagers/natsitup.shtm>. For questions or comments, call the NRCC at (202) 646-2828/4541 (staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week).

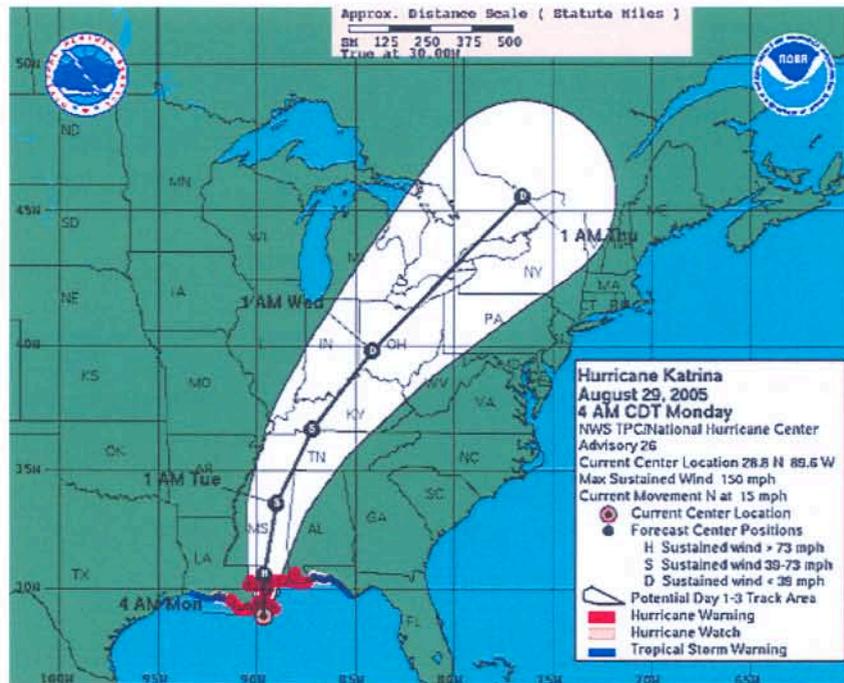
Homeland Security Threat Level:

**ELEVATED**



## Extremely Dangerous Category Four Hurricane Katrina Moving Northward Toward Southeastern Louisiana And The Northern Gulf Coast

A hurricane warning is in effect for the north central gulf coast from Morgan City Louisiana eastward to the Alabama/Florida border including the city of New Orleans and Lake Pontchartrain. Preparations to protect life and property should be completed this evening.



A tropical storm warning and a hurricane watch are in effect from east of the Alabama/Florida border to Destin Florida and from west of Morgan City to Intracoastal City Louisiana.

A tropical storm warning is also in effect from Destin Florida eastward to Indian Pass Florida and from Intracoastal City Louisiana westward to Cameron Louisiana.

At 5 am edt (0900z) the center of hurricane Katrina was located near latitude 28.8 north longitude 89.6 west or about 90 miles south-southeast of New Orleans Louisiana and about 120 miles south-southwest of Biloxi Mississippi.

Katrina is moving toward the north near 15 mph and this motion is forecast to continue today. A gradual turn toward the north-northeast at a slightly faster forward speed is expected later tonight and tomorrow. On the forecast track Katrina will move onshore the southeastern Louisiana coast just east of Grand Isle this morning and reach the Louisiana/Mississippi border area this afternoon. Conditions will continue to steadily deteriorate over central and southeastern Louisiana, southern Mississippi, and southern Alabama throughout the day.

Maximum sustained winds are near 150 mph (240 km/hr) with higher gusts. Katrina is a strong category four hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale. Some fluctuations in strength are likely prior to landfall but Katrina is expected to make landfall as a category four hurricane. Winds affecting the upper floors of high-rise buildings will be significantly stronger than those near ground level.

Katrina remains a very large hurricane. Hurricane force winds extend outward up to 105 miles from the center and tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 230 miles. Recently, a sustained wind of 53 mph with gust to 91 mph was reported at Grand Isle Louisiana, and a wind gust to 71 mph was reported in New Orleans.

The minimum central pressure recently reported by an Air Force Reserve unit reconnaissance aircraft was 915 mb (27.02 inches).

Coastal storm surge flooding of 18 to 22 feet above normal tide levels, locally as high as 28 feet, along with large and dangerous battering waves can be expected near and to the east of where the center makes landfall. Some levees in the greater New Orleans area could be overtopped. Significant storm surge flooding will occur elsewhere along the central and northeastern Gulf of Mexico coast. NOAA buoy 42040, located about 50 miles east of the mouth of the Mississippi river recently reported waves heights of at least 46 feet.

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 Tennessee Valley. Rainfall totals of 4 to 8 inches are possible across the Ohio Valley into the eastern Great Lakes region tomorrow and Wednesday.

The tornado threat ahead of Katrina continues to increase and scattered tornadoes will be possible today over southeastern Louisiana, southern Mississippi, southern Alabama, and over the Florida panhandle.  
(NWS National Hurricane Center)

## **National Weather**

### **South**

Hurricane Katrina should make landfall in eastern Louisiana or Mississippi during the morning hours. Katrina reached category 5 status yesterday morning and remains a powerful hurricane. Some fluctuations in intensity are possible prior to landfall, but Katrina is expected to remain a major hurricane as it impacts the Gulf Coast. A storm surge of 20 to 25 feet is possible along and to the east of the center of Katrina. On top of the water level rise (surge), waves of 20 to 40 feet are possible. West of the center, impacts should be less. Katrina is forecast to move north through eastern Mississippi/western Alabama tonight and early tomorrow. If Katrina maintains its current intensity and forward speed hurricane force winds could be felt up to 150 miles inland. Another concern inland will be the torrential rainfall, possibly 5 to 10 inches worth. The heavy rain in a short period of time could lead to fresh water flooding. Outside of Katrina other rainfall across the South is possible over Texas due to a decaying cold front.

## **Northeast**

A stalled frontal boundary should bring scattered showers and thunderstorms to the eastern Ohio Valley and the Northeast today. Rainfall could be locally heavy from the thunderstorms. Temperatures should range from the 70s in northern New England to the mid 80s over the Ohio Valley and Mid-Atlantic states. Moisture surging northward from Hurricane Katrina should enter the eastern Ohio Valley tonight and spread into the Northeast tomorrow and Wednesday. Rainfall from the remnants of Katrina could be locally heavy and lead to flooding.

## **Midwest**

Much of the Midwest should avoid the bad weather that Hurricane Katrina brings to the eastern part of the country. The exception will be rain in the Ohio Valley. The rest of the region should enjoy a sunny and warm today and tomorrow. Scattered showers should hold temperatures cooler in the northern Great Lakes. The next cold front arrives Wednesday or Thursday with showers and thunderstorms along it.

## **West**

High pressure should keep most of the western part of the country quiet. A weakening cold front will bring scattered showers and cooler temperatures to the Northwest. The remainder of the region should have mostly sunny skies with temperatures ranging from the 70s along the California coast to the 110s over the deserts. Thunderstorm activity should be at a minimum through tomorrow, but is forecast to increase later in the week. *(NWS, Media Sources)*

## **Ports Closed to Inbound Shipping Ahead of Katrina's Arrival**

The ports of Gulfport, and Pascagoula, MS, Mobile, AL, and Pensacola and Panama City, FL are in Port Readiness Condition "X-ray", meaning open; however, vessels are only being allowed to leave. No vessels are being allowed to enter. *(USCG HSOC Liaison)*

## **Preparedness Activities**

### **State Actions:**

Alabama EOC is at full activation.

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.

### **Federal Actions:**

FEMA Headquarters: 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 Logistics Readiness Center is operational 24/7.

MERS Teams have been deployed to Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida, Georgia, and Texas to support Hurricane Katrina response operations.

32 Disaster Medical Assistance Teams have been sent to staging areas in Louisiana, Alabama, Texas, and Tennessee in preparation for responding to Hurricane Katrina.

Seven Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Task Forces have been deployed to Louisiana, Alabama, Florida and Mississippi in preparation for responding to Hurricane Katrina.

The ERT-N Blue is deployed to the Louisiana State Emergency Operations Center in Baton Rouge.

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

Four ERT-As are operational in Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi.

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

## **Wildfire Update**

### **CURRENT SITUATION:**

Initial attack activity was light nationally with 124 fires reported. Five new large fires were reported, two in the Eastern Great Basin Area, and one each in the Northern Rockies, Western Great Basin and Southern California Areas. Five large fires were contained, two in the Eastern Great Basin Area, and one each in the Alaska, Northwest and Southern Areas. Very high to extreme fire indices were reported in California, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, 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:**

**Red Flag Warning:** Sunday in some northeast California areas for strong, gusty wind and low humidity.

**Weather Discussion:** An Upper level low pressure system will move on the Pacific Northwest coast today with a cold front moving across Washington and Oregon. Expect another day of warm and dry conditions over much of the West ahead of the front. Windy conditions will develop over eastern Oregon, northern California, northwest Nevada and southwest Idaho. Showers will move in behind the front over western Washington and northwestern Oregon. In Alaska, widespread showers will develop over the southwestern portion of the state. Hurricane Katrina is currently a Category 5 hurricane today with estimated wind speeds of 140 knots. Katrina is forecast to move northwest across the central Gulf of Mexico today and make landfall as a Category 5 hurricane on the southeast Louisiana coast 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. Light precipitation hampered burn out operations.

### **California**

**Harding** (Tahoe National Forest): 2,200 acres at 80 percent contained. This fire is two miles northeast of Sierraville. Rolling material and steep, rocky terrain are hampering containment efforts.

**Barrel** (Northern California Resource Area, Bureau of Land Management): 24,800 acres at 90 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 continued to burn within the interior.

**Manton** (Tehama-Glenn Unit, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection): 2,300 acres at 30 percent contained. The fire is located 30 miles northeast of Red Bluff. Evacuations and road closures are in effect. Significant fire activity was reported.

**NEW Blaisdell** (San Bernadino National Forest): 1,839 acres at five percent contained. The fire is located seven miles north of Palm Springs. Residences, commercial property, and the Palm Springs Tramway are currently threatened. Containment efforts are hampered due to steep rocky terrain, limited access, and gusty winds.

## Idaho

**Long Black Complex** (Clearwater National Forest): 983 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. Smoldering, group torching, spotting, and short uphill runs were observed on the Black Canyon fire. The Long Creek fire continues to be monitored by air.

**Frank Church** (Payette National Forest): 11,831 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. Fire behavior was active on five of the fires.

## Montana

**Signal Rock** (Beaverhead/Deerlodge National Forest): 2,200 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. Torching and crowning with fire runs was reported.

**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.

**NEW Cottonwood Creek** (Southern Land Office, Montan Department of Natural Resources): 4,000 acres at 30 percent contained. The fire is eight miles east of Columbus. Residences, rangeland, and cropland are threatened. The fire spread rapidly.

**Selway-Salmon Complex** (Bitterroot National Forest): 9,074 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 continued.

## Nevada

**NEW 7J** (Northern Region, Nevada Division of Forestry): 300 acres at 50 percent contained. The fire is burning 27 miles west of Mountain City. Cattle grazing allotments and structures are threatened. Running and spotting was observed.

## Oregon

**Deer Creek** (Southwest District, Oregon Department of Forestry): 1,636 acres at 40 percent contained. This fire is eight miles north of Cave Junction. Residences and other structures remain threatened. Steep terrain and hot, windy weather are hampering containment efforts.

**NEW Park** (Central Oregon District, Oregon Department of Forestry): 150 acres at 20 percent contained. The fire is burning seven miles north of La Pine. Numerous residences and state park facilities are threatened. Residents were evacuated to La Pine Middle School. Fire runs, spotting, and torching was observed.

**Granite Complex** (Wallowa-Whitman National Forest): 18,687 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 with moderate rates of spread was reported.

## **Utah**

**NEW North Neola** (Uintah and Ouray Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs): 1,500 acres at 10 percent contained. The fire is two miles north of Neola. One residence was lost and structures and a commercial property are threatened. Neola highway is currently closed. Extreme fire behavior with rapid rates of spread was reported. (*National Interagency Fire Center, National Interagency Coordination Center*)

## **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)**

PDAs are ongoing in Florida as a result of Hurricane Katrina. (*FEMA HQ*)

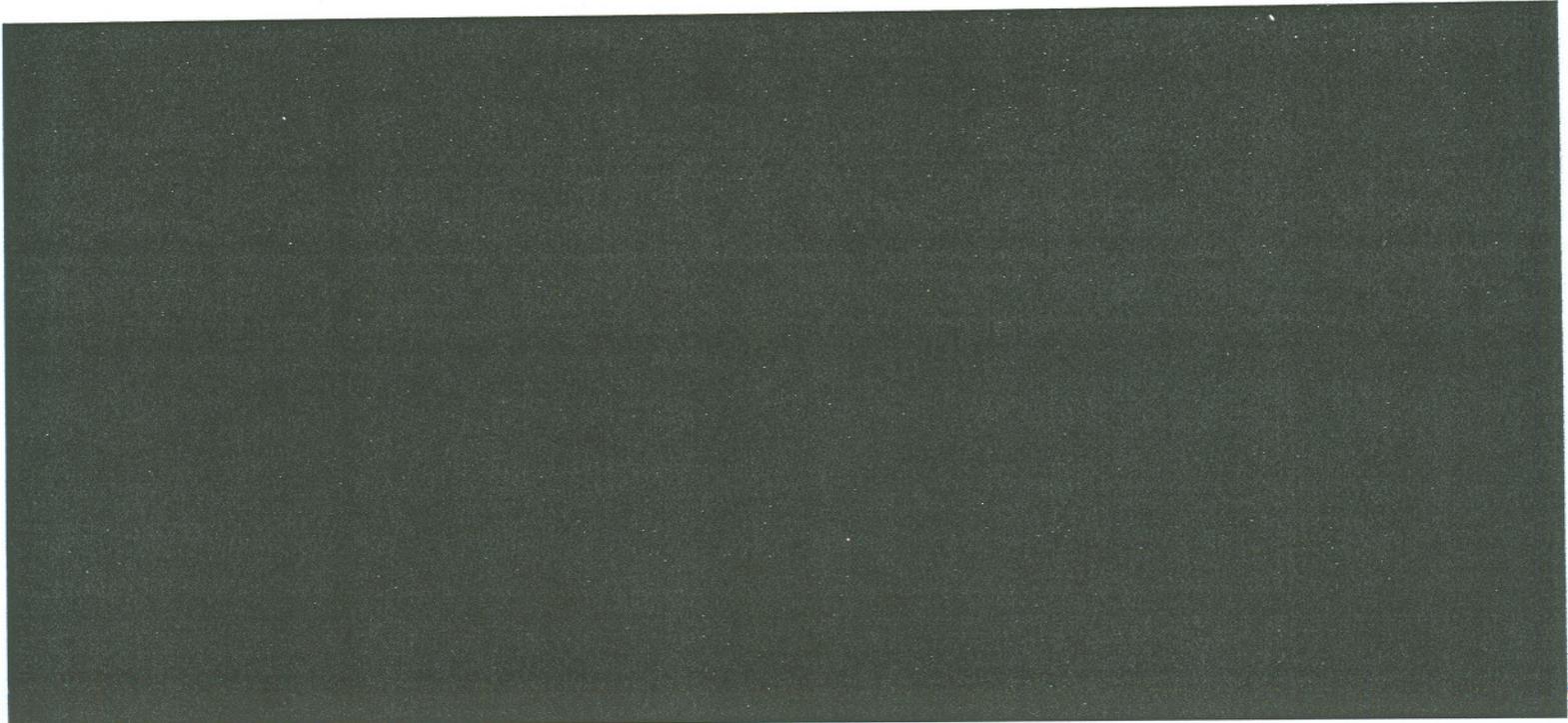
## **Disaster Declaration Activity**

FEMA-1602-DR-FL was declared on August 28, 2005 for Hurricane Katrina. It provides Public Assistance to Broward and Miami-Dade Counties.

FEMA-3213-EM-MS was declared on August 28, 2005 for Hurricane Katrina. It provides Public Assistance for 11 counties in Mississippi.

FEMA-3214-EM-AL was declared on August 28, 2005 for Hurricane Katrina. It provides Public Assistance for six counties in Alabama. (*FEMA HQ*)

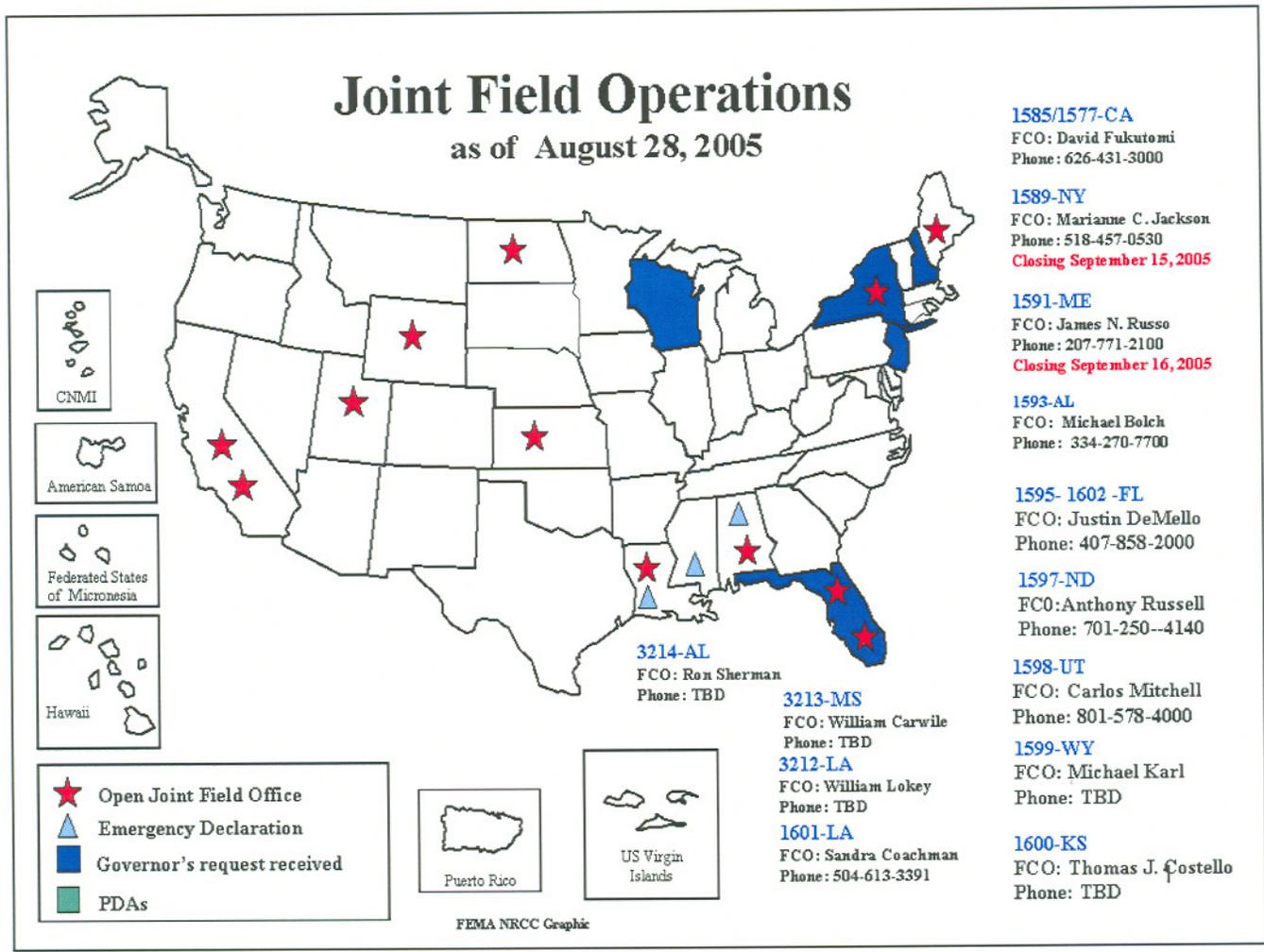
## **FEMA Readiness Alert Status:**



### 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
<b>Total</b>		<b>197</b>	<b>54,420</b>

# Joint Field Operations as of August 28, 2005



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](mailto:FEMA-NRCC@dhs.gov).