



FEMA

# National Situation Report

**As of 5:30 a.m. Tuesday, September 20, 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 or 4541 (staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week).

**Homeland Security Threat Level: ELEVATED**

## Tropical Storm Rita Bears Down on Florida and Gulf of Mexico

At 5:00 am EDT Tuesday September 20, a Hurricane Warning remains in effect for all of the Florida Keys and from Golden Beach on the Florida southeast coast southward to East Cape Sable then northward to Chokoloskee on the southwest coast.

A Tropical Storm Warning and a Hurricane Watch are in effect from Deerfield Beach, Florida southward to north of Golden Beach. A Tropical Storm Warning is in effect along the Florida west coast north of Chokoloskee to Englewood.

A Tropical Storm Warning remains in effect along the Florida east coast from north of Deerfield Beach northward to Jupiter Inlet as well as for Lake Okeechobee.



At 5:00 am EDT the center of Tropical Storm Rita was located near latitude 23.7 north, longitude 79.5 west or about 160 miles east-southeast of Key West, Florida. Rita is moving toward the west-northwest near 15 mph and this general motion is expected to continue for the next 24 hours. On this track, Rita will be passing near the lower Florida Keys around midday today.

Maximum sustained winds are near 70 mph with higher gusts. Rita is getting better organized and it is expected to become a hurricane later today. Tropical Storm force winds extend outward up to 120

miles. NWS continues to indicate that Rita could possibly produce 6-8 inches of rainfall in the Florida Keys and 3-5 inches are possible across the southern Florida Peninsula. (*National Hurricane Center*)

## **Florida and Other Gulf Coast States Implement Their Hurricane Plans**

Florida Governor Bush has declared a State of Emergency and ordered mandatory evacuations for all of the middle and lower Keys from the Craig Key to Key West. A mandatory evacuation for all of the upper Keys from Craig Key northward to Key Largo has also begun at 3:00 pm EDT on Monday. Residents and visitors to the Keys are required to obey these evacuation orders that are being issued by local officials. Mobile home residents in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties are also under mandatory evacuation orders at this time. Residents along the immediate coast in Broward and Miami-Dade need to finalize preparations this afternoon should local officials recommend action to protect life and property.

Local, State, and Federal officials in New Orleans have stopped any plans to bring residents back to the flooded city. Instead, they have warned residents to prepare to evacuate the city and surrounding areas if Rita brings high winds and heavy rainfall to the southern Louisiana area. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continues to warn local officials and residents that the New Orleans levees are in a fragile state and may not withstand high winds and rainfall.

State, and Regional and Federal Emergency Operations Centers are maintaining 24/7 operations to prepare for Rita's landfall. Emergency Response teams and supplies and equipment are being deployed to areas near the Gulf Coast areas.

Texas officials are establishing a joint federal/state/local operations center in Austin, Texas to closely coordinate preparedness and response measures for Rita. Texas indicates one of their priority operations is to evacuate Louisiana evacuees from shelters on the Gulf Coast to inland areas. Another critical priority for Texas officials is the safe evacuation of Texas coastal residents at risk from Rita. (*National Hurricane Center, DHS, FEMA Region IV and Region VI, media sources*)

## **Weather Forecast for the U.S.**

**Midwest.** Following Monday's severe weather in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri, the Midwest will experience sunny and dry weather on Tuesday. Highs will range from the 70s in the Great Lakes area to the 90s in the Great Plains.

**Northeast.** A fast-moving cold front will bring showers and thunderstorms to large sections of the Northeast. Highs will range from the 60s in Maine to the low 90s in the Mid-Atlantic area.

**South.** On Tuesday, Hurricane Rita will hit southern Florida with high winds, heavy rainfall, and storm surges. A cold front is moving into the South that will bring showers to parts of Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and the Carolinas. Elsewhere in the South, the weather will be hot and dry with highs in the 90s. Other parts of the Gulf Coast are warned to keep a close watch on Rita's path.

**West.** Most of the region will be sunny and warm on Monday. Scattered rainfall could occur in selected areas, including: northwest Washington, southern California, Nevada, and Arizona. High temperatures will range from the 60s in the northern tier to 100 in the southwest desert area. (*National Weather Service, Media Sources*)

## **Wildfire Update**

**National Preparedness Level:** 4 (on a scale of 1 to 5)

**Current Situation:** Fire activity was light with 66 new fires reported. Two new large fires were reported: one in Idaho and one in New Mexico. Three large fires were contained: two in California and one in Idaho.

**Fire Threat:** Very high to extreme fire indices continued in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.

**Weather Forecast:** An upper level low pressure system off the central California coast will import moisture from the south for isolated showers and thunderstorms over southern California, Arizona and New Mexico. A weak weather system over British Columbia will bring a chance of light showers to northwest Washington. Windy conditions will develop this afternoon over Montana and Wyoming. Along the Gulf Coast, dry conditions will prevail under a large upper level high pressure system.  
*(National Interagency Fire Center)*

### **Other Tropical Cyclone Activity**

In the Atlantic at 5:00 am EDT Tuesday, the center of Hurricane Philippe was located near latitude 18.8 north, longitude 56.8 west or about 350 miles east-northeast of the Leeward Islands. The storm's maximum sustained winds are near 80 mph with higher gusts. Philippe is moving toward the north-northwest near 6 mph and this motion is expected to continue for the next 24 hours. The storm does not threaten any U.S. interests.

In the Eastern and Central Pacific, Hurricanes Jova (10E) and Kenneth (11E), and Tropical Storm Lidia (12E), do not pose any threats to any U.S. interests at this time. Hurricane Jova, located about 1,000 miles ESE of Hawaii is forecast to remain east of the Hawaiian Islands. Hurricane Kenneth is predicted to gradually weaken over the Pacific Ocean. Tropical Storm Lidia has been absorbed into newly formed Tropical Storm Max (formerly Depression 13-E) as the latest named eastern Pacific tropical storm heads WNW about 600 miles SSW of Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

In the Western Pacific, Tropical Depression 16W (Vicente) does not pose any threat to U.S. interests.  
*(National Hurricane Center, Joint Typhoon Warning Center)*

### **Earthquake Activity**

In the previous 24 hours, there have again been several minor earthquakes reported in Kenai Peninsula, Alaska, southern and central Alaska, Mt. Saint Helens area (Washington), and in southern, central, and northern California. There were no reports of any damages or injuries. *(USGS National Earthquake Information Center)*

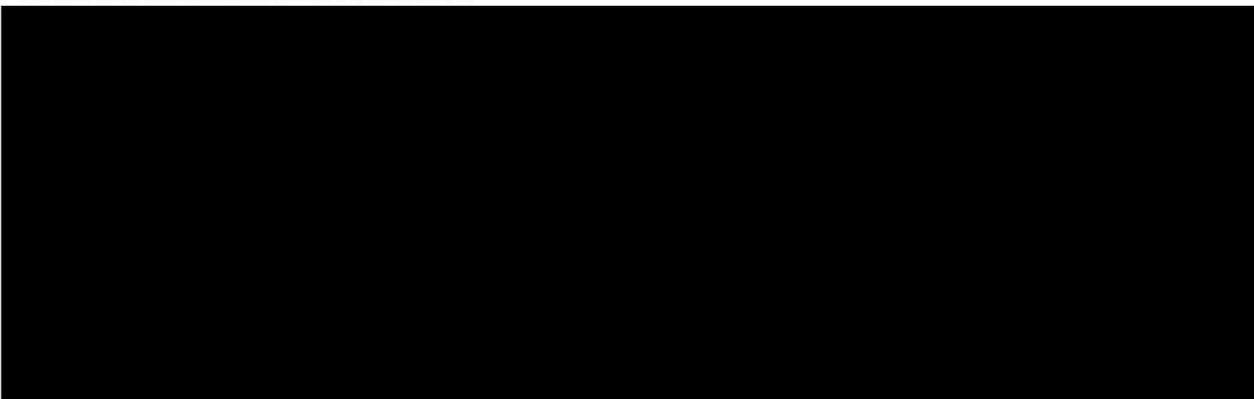
### **Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs)**

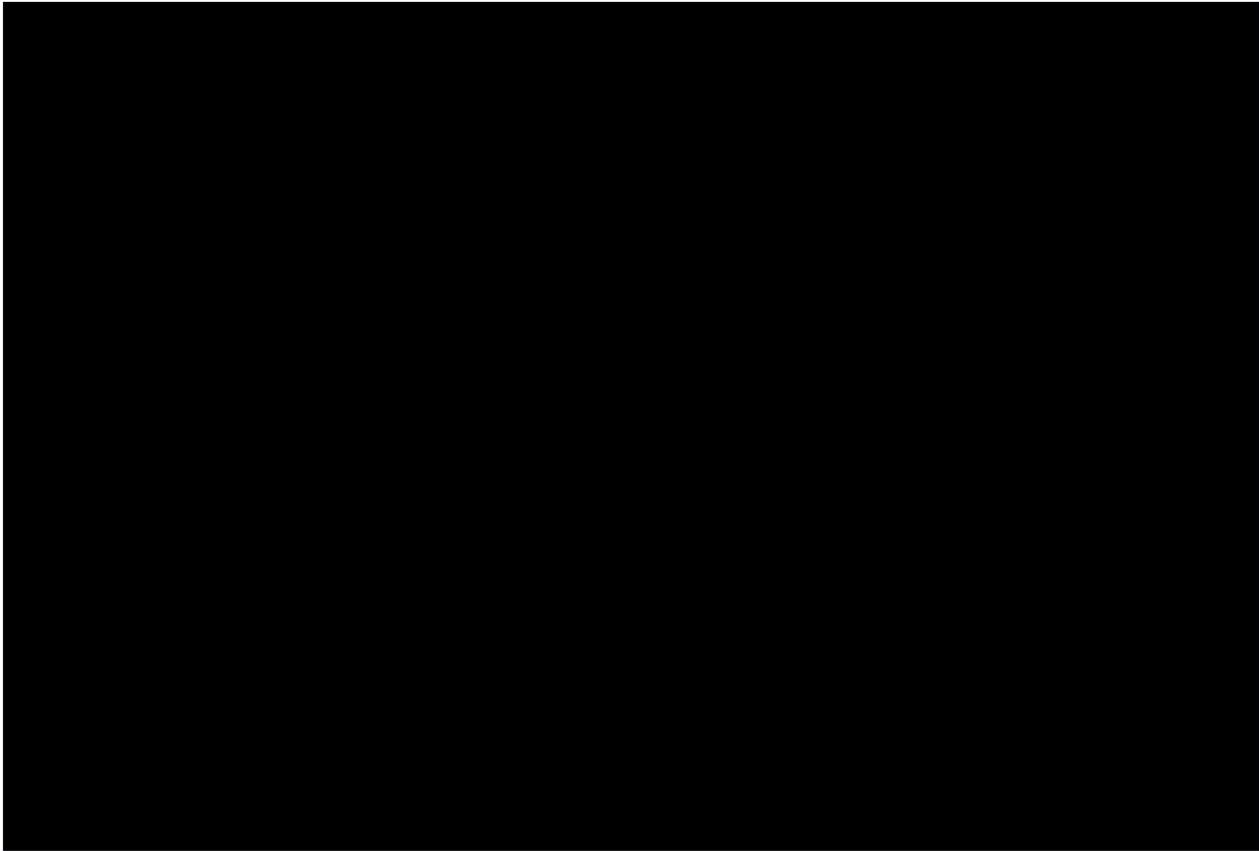
No new activity to report. *(FEMA HQ)*

### **Disaster Declaration Activity**

No new activity to report. *(FEMA HQ)*

### **FEMA Readiness Alert Status:**

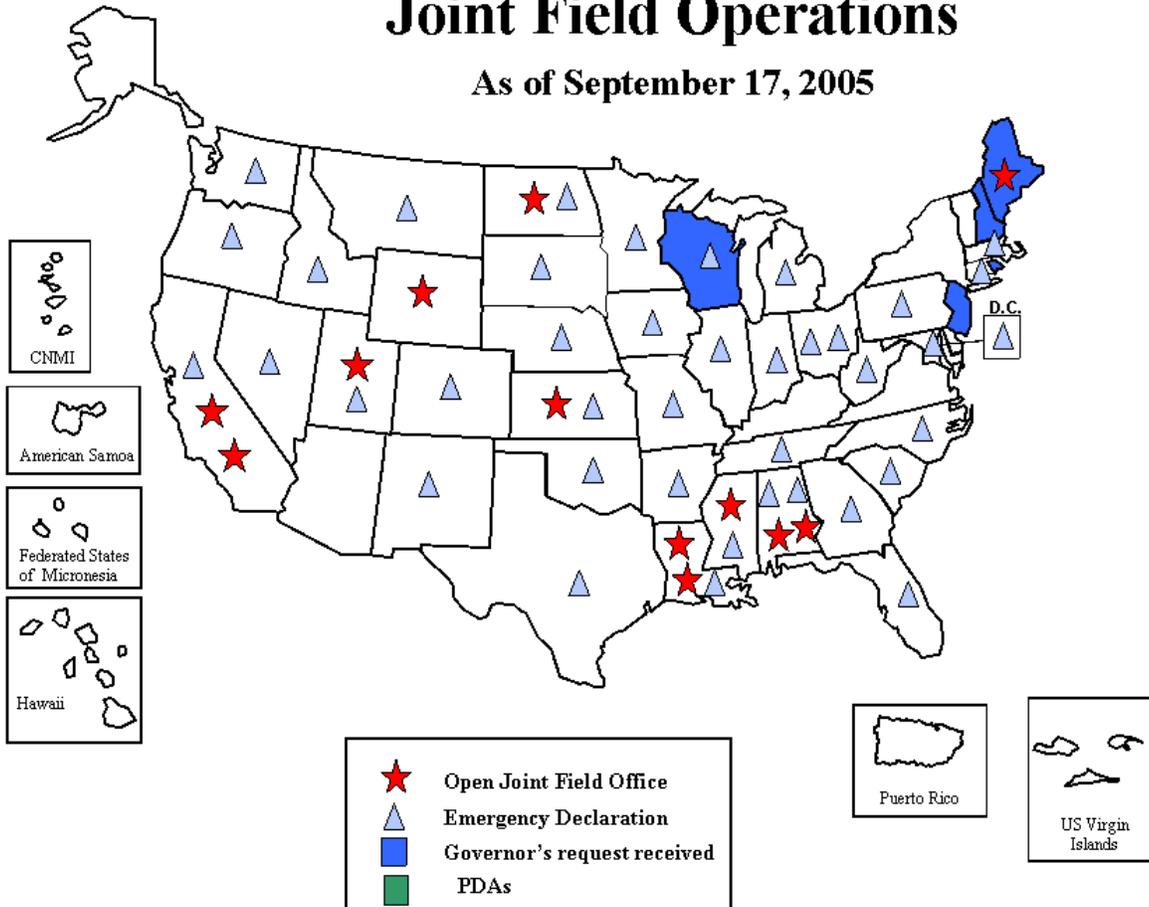




<b>Disaster Teleregistration Activity Chart</b>			
<b>DR</b>	<b>Incident Type</b>	<b>09/18/05</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
<b>1605-AL</b>	<b>Hurricane Katrina</b>	<b>2,834</b>	<b>75,873</b>
<b>1604-MS</b>	<b>Hurricane Katrina</b>	<b>12,122</b>	<b>349,127</b>
<b>1603-LA</b>	<b>Hurricane Katrina</b>	<b>15,421</b>	<b>824,553</b>
<b>1599-WY</b>	<b>Tornado</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>262</b>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>30,377</b>	<b>1,249,815</b>

# Joint Field Operations

As of September 17, 2005



FEMA NRCC Graphic

1

## DISASTER DECLARATIONS (12)

### 1605-AL

FCO: Ron Sherman  
Phone: 334-270-7700

### 1604-MS

FCO: William Carwile  
Phone: 770-220-5600

### 1603-LA

FCO: William Lokey  
Phone: 940-898-5433

### 1601-LA

FCO: Sandra Coachman  
Phone: 504-613-3391

### 1600-KS

FCO: Thomas J. Costello  
Phone: 816-283-7600

### 1599-WY

FCO: Michael Karl  
Phone: 307-685-8600  
Closing September 23, 2005

### 1598-UT

FCO: Carlos Mitchell  
Phone: 801-578-4000  
Closing September 23, 2005

### 1597-ND

FCO: Anthony Russell  
Phone: 701-250-4140

### 1593-AL

FCO: Michael Bolch  
Phone: 334-270-7700

### 1591-ME

FCO: James N. Russo  
Phone: 207-771-2100  
Closing September 30, 2005

### 1585-CA

FCO: David Fukutomi  
Phone: 626-431-3000

### 1577-CA

FCO: David Fukutomi  
Phone: 626-431-3000

## EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS (43)

**3212-LA**  
FCO: William Lokey  
Phone: 940-898-5433

**3213-MS**  
FCO: William  
Carwile

**3214-AL**  
FCO: Ron Sherman  
Phone: 334-270-7700

**3215-AR**  
FCO: Gary  
Jones

**3216-TX**  
FCO: Gary Jones  
Phone: 512-908-

**3217-TN**  
FCO: Paul Fay  
Phone: TBD

**3218-GA**  
FCO: Paul Fay  
Phone: TBD

**3219-OK**  
FCO: Carlos  
Mitchell

**3220-FL**  
FCO: Justin DeMello  
Phone: 407-858-2000

**3221-WV**  
FCO: Patricia G.  
Arcuri

**3222-NC**  
FCO: Paul Fay  
Phone: TBD

**3223-UT**  
FCO: Douglas A.  
Gore

**3224-CO**  
FCO: Douglas A.  
Gore

**3225-MI**  
FCO: Janet M.  
Odeshoo

**3226-DC**  
FCO: Patricia G.  
Arcuri

**3227-WA**  
FCO: John E.  
Pennington

**3228-OR**  
FCO: John E.  
Pennington

**3229-NM**  
FCO: Carlos  
Mitchell

**3230-IL**  
FCO: Janet M.  
Odeshoo

**3231-KY**  
FCO: Paul Fay  
Phone: TBD

**3232-MO**  
FCO: Arthur L.  
Freeman

**3233-SC**  
FCO: Paul Fay  
Phone: TBD

**3234-SD**  
FCO: Douglas A.  
Gore

**3235-PA**  
FCO: Patricia G.  
Arcuri

**3236-KS**  
FCO: Arthur L.  
Freeman

**3237-AL**  
FCO: Ron Sherman  
Phone: 334-270-7700

**3238-IN**  
FCO: Janet M.  
Odeshoo

**3239-IA**  
FCO: Arthur L.  
Freeman

**3240-VA**  
FCO: Patricia G.  
Arcuri

**3241-AZ**  
FCO: Karen E.  
Armes

**3242-MN**  
FCO: Janet Odeshoo  
Phone: TBD

**3243-NV**  
FCO: Karen E.  
Ames

**3244-ID**  
FCO: John  
Pennington

**3245-NE**  
FCO: Arthur L.  
Freeman

**3246-CT**  
FCO: Kenneth  
Horak

**3247-ND**  
FCO: Douglas Gore  
Phone: TBD

**3248-CA**  
FCO: Karen E.  
Armes

**3249-WI**  
FCO: Janet Odeshoo  
Phone: TBD

**3250-OH**  
FCO: Janet Odeshoo  
Phone: TBD

**3251-MD**  
FCO: Patricia G.  
Arcuri

**3252-MA**  
FCO: Kenneth  
Horak

**3253-MT**  
FCO: Douglas Gore  
Phone: TBD

**3254-NC**  
FCO: Shelley Boone  
Phone: 770-220-5265

The FEMA National Situation 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).