



FEMA

National Situation Report

As of 5:30 a.m. Tuesday, September 6, 2005

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Homeland Security Threat Level:

ELEVATED ■ ■ ■ ■

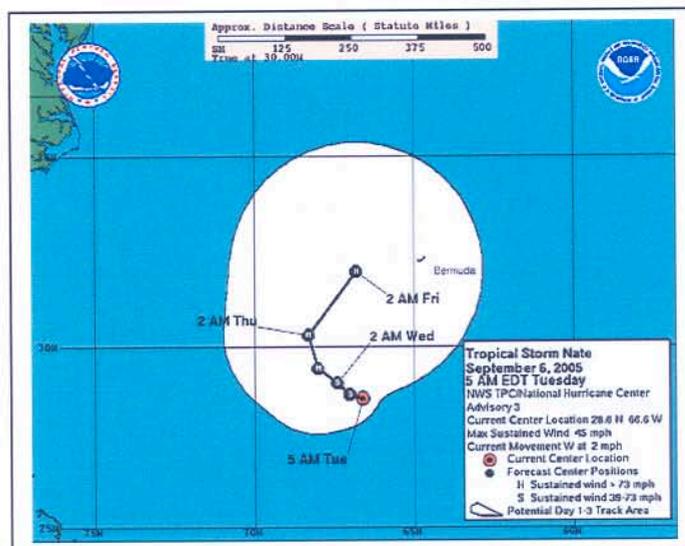
Fourteenth Tropical Storm of the Season Forms; Hurricane Maria Strengthens over Mid-Atlantic, Both Weather Systems Not Expected To Be a Threat to The U.S.

Tropical Storm Nate became of the fourteenth named tropical storm of the 2005 Atlantic Hurricane Season on Monday, September 5, and had top sustained winds of 45 mph with higher gusts. The center of Nate was located near latitude 28.6 north and longitude 66.6 west, about 275 miles south-southwest of Bermuda. Tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 45 miles from the center.

Tropical Storm Nate is meandering slowly toward the west at 2 mph. Steering currents are weak and some erratic motion is possible during the next 24 hours. Some strengthening is forecast during the next 24 hours and Nate could become a hurricane by late Wednesday but it is not expected to make landfall in the US.

Hurricane Maria, the fifth hurricane and 13th named storm of the Atlantic Hurricane Season, is now weakening as it moves slowly north-northeastward over the open Atlantic Ocean. The center of Maria was located near latitude 33.3 north and longitude 56.4 west, about 495 miles east of Bermuda. Maria should remain well to the east and northeast of Bermuda and is only a threat to shipping interests.

(National Hurricane Center)

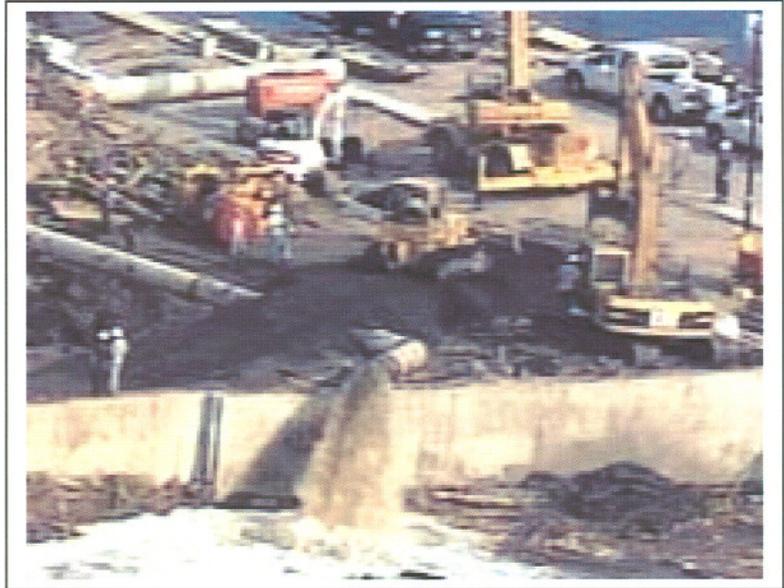


Levee Fixed by Army Engineers, Water Being Pumped Back Into the Lake

A week after Hurricane Katrina struck city of New Orleans, the US Army Corps of Engineers plugged the levee break that swamped much of the city and floodwaters began to recede, but drainage will take nearly three months in some neighborhoods, according to an Army spokesperson.

Sheets of metal and repeated helicopter drops of 3,000-pound sandbags along the 17th Street canal leading to Lake Pontchartrain succeeded Monday in plugging a 200-foot-wide gap, which opened at the height of the hurricane and flooded 80 percent of the city up to 20 feet deep. The water was being pumped from the canal back into the lake. State officials and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers say once the canal level is drawn down two feet, Pumping Station 6 can begin pumping water out of the bowl-shaped city.

Some parts of the city already showed slipping floodwaters as the repair neared completion, with the low-lying Ninth Ward dropping more than a foot. In downtown New Orleans, some streets were merely wet rather than swamped.



The news came as many of the 460,000 residents of suburban Jefferson Parish waited in a line of cars that stretched for miles to briefly see their flooded homes, and to scoop up soaked wedding pictures, baby shoes and other cherished mementoes.

Since many New Orleans streets are still filled with stagnant, fetid waters smelling of garbage and raw sewage, the military was considering using planes to spray for mosquitoes. Standing water could become a breeding ground for the mosquitoes, which could lead to a widespread outbreak of diseases such as the West Nile virus. *(Media sources)*

National Weather Forecast

Midwest: A cold front and sharp upper-level disturbance will trigger severe thunderstorms overnight across the northern and central Plains. From North Dakota to northern Kansas, there is a potential for small hail, strong winds, and even the chance of an isolated tornado. As a cold front pushes across the Plains overnight and Tuesday, more showers and storms are possible along the boundary from Minnesota into Kansas. Cooler temperatures are forecast for the region with temperatures in the 70s and 80s. Farther east, a high pressure ridge will continue to keep the Ohio Valley dry for another day. High temperatures from Chicago and Cleveland to Louisville and Cincinnati will be in the 80s across the region.

South: There is a developing area of tropical low pressure spinning off the coast of southeast Florida that will bring showers and thunderstorms across the Florida Peninsula on Tuesday. In addition to the rain, this low pressure is helping to increase surf along the Southeast coast. An increasing pressure gradient between the low and a strong high in the Northeast will cause breezy conditions at the beach and a greater threat of rip currents. A few showers may stray onto the coasts of Georgia and South Carolina. Sunny and warm conditions across the entire South is forecast for Tuesday with highs in the 80s across the Southeast and 90s from the Lower Mississippi Valley into Texas.

Northeast: It will be a chilly morning on Tuesday, particularly from eastern New York to Northern New England with temperatures in the 40s. A frost advisory is in effect overnight in northern Maine. High temperatures in the afternoon will be reaching into the 70s and 80s.

West: Sunshine will be plentiful from the Pacific Northwest to the northern Rockies and southward into the Southwest. High temperatures in the 70s are forecast for Seattle and Portland to San Francisco with 80s across interior plateaus. The Southwest deserts will once again climb into the 100s. Cooler weather will spill across the northern High Plains, where highs will top out in the 70s. Scattered afternoon showers and thunderstorms will once again develop across Colorado and New Mexico. (*NWS, Media Sources*)

Wildfire Update

CURRENT SITUATION: National Preparedness Level 4. The national preparedness was increased to level 4 on September 1 in recognition of current and predicted support to Hurricane Katrina. National Preparedness Level 4 means two or more geographic areas are experiencing incidents requiring Type 1 Teams. There is also competition for resources between geographic areas. Preparedness Level 4 may also mean 425 crews or five Type 1 Teams are committed nationally.

Nationally, fire activity was light with 136 new fires reported. Six new large fires were reported: three in Idaho, and one each in Texas, California, and Wyoming. Two large fires were contained: one each in Wyoming and Colorado. An upper trough over the Northern Rockies will move out of the region while a weak high pressure moves into the Pacific Northwest. The Gulf Coast will experience partly cloudy skies with a slight chance of thundershowers.

Sun Devil Fire, California: The 150-acre brush fire in a San Diego canyon that threatened some 200 homes should be fully contained early Tuesday, firefighters said. The Sun Devil Fire started in Rancho Peñasquitos Canyon behind Mount Carmel High School at 12:56 p.m. Monday, according to a San Diego Fire Rescue spokesman. Ten to 15 mph winds fanned the fire eastward, burning to within a half-mile of 200 homes, and at least 100 residents were evacuated, but were allowed back into their homes Monday evening. No structures were damaged.

The fire was 40 percent contained Monday evening, with full containment expected by 2 a.m. Tuesday. Control is expected sometime Tuesday. The winds made the fire difficult to fight, but it slowed significantly when evening humidity came in from the ocean, about 8 miles away, the spokesman said.

A total of 350 firefighters from San Diego Fire, U.S. Forest Service and CDF battled the blaze, along with five water-dropping helicopters and five air tankers. One firefighter was treated for heat exhaustion and released back onto the fire lines. The cause of the fire has not been determined.

A FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant number 2582 for the Sun Devil Fire was approved at 1030 p.m. EDT on September 5, 2005. FEMA Region IX will continue to monitor wildfire activity until the fire is fully contained. (*National Interagency Fire Center, National Interagency Coordination Center, FEMA Region IX*)

Other Tropical Cyclone Activity

There is no tropical cyclone activity in the Eastern or Central Pacific.

In the Western Pacific, neither Typhoon 14W (Nabi), which made landfall in southwestern Japan, nor Tropical Storm 15W pose any threat to any U.S. interests. (*National Hurricane Center, Joint Typhoon Warning Center*)

Earthquake Activity

A moderate earthquake occurred at 2:16 a.m. EDT on Tuesday, September 6, 2005. The magnitude 5.6 event has been located in northern Alaska. The epicenter was located at a depth of 20.5 miles, about 105 miles south of Kotzebue, Alaska. The earthquake was felt 120 miles away in Nome, Alaska. The magnitude is such that a tsunami will not be generated.

(USGS National Earthquake Information Center)

Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs)

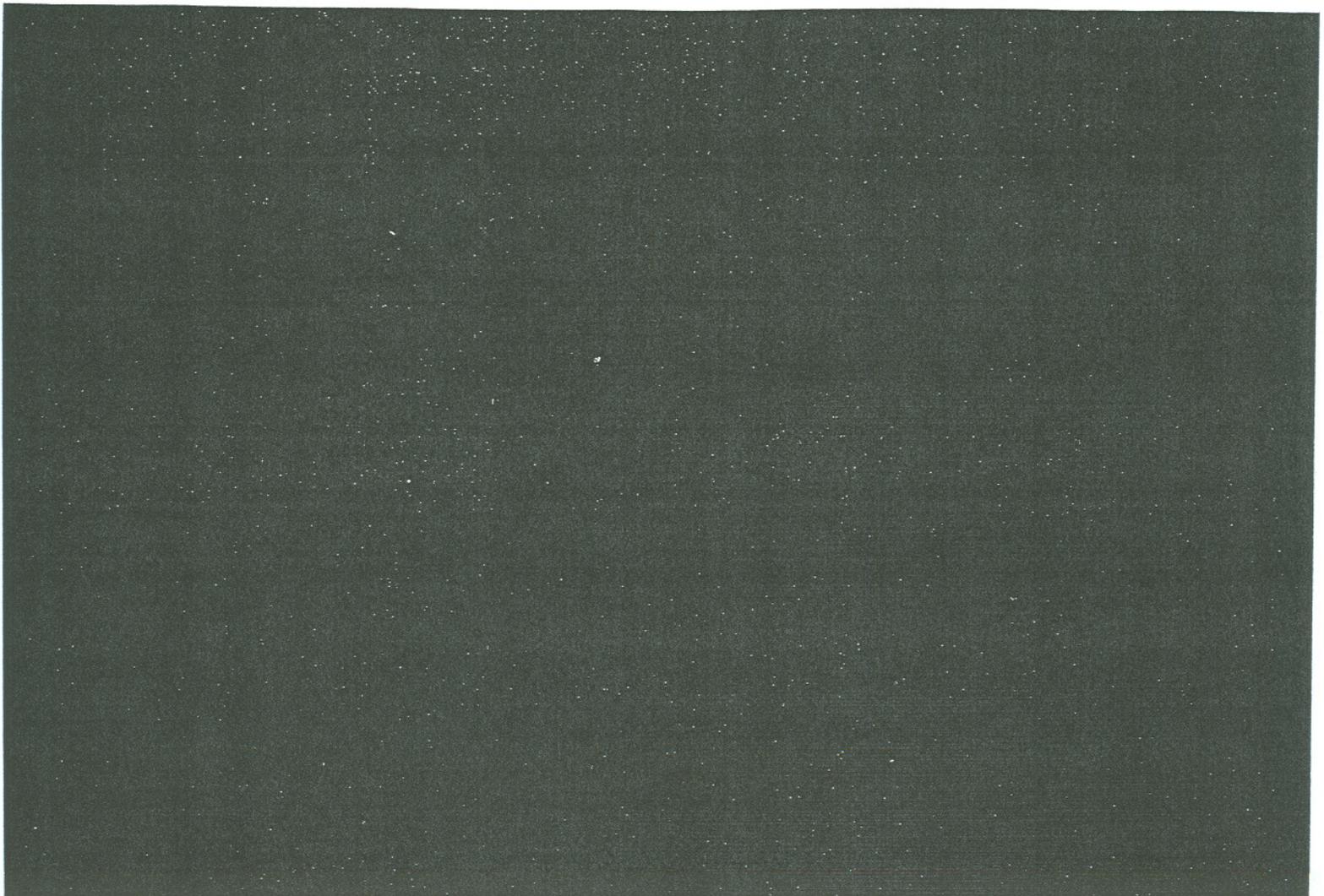
No new activity to report. *(FEMA HQ)*

Disaster Declaration Activity

The following emergency declarations were declared on September 5, 2005 for Hurricane Katrina and FEMA is authorized to provide Public Assistance Category B (emergency protective measures), including direct Federal assistance, at 100% Federal funding for the following states:

- FEMA-3217-EM for the State of Tennessee with assistance for all 95 counties.
- FEMA-3218-EM for the State of Georgia with assistance for all 159 counties.
- FEMA-3219-EM for the State of Oklahoma with assistance for all 77 counties.
- FEMA-3220-EM for the State of Florida with assistance for all 67 counties.
- FEMA-3221-EM for the State of West Virginia with assistance for all 55 counties.
- FEMA-3222-EM for the State of North Carolina with assistance for all 100 counties.
- FEMA-3223-EM for the State of Utah with assistance for all 29 counties.
- FEMA-3224-EM for the State of Colorado with assistance for all 63 counties.

FEMA Readiness Alert Status:



Disaster Teleregistration Activity Chart

DR	Incident Type	09/04/05	Cumulative
1605-AL	Hurricane Katrina	2,359	20,689
1604-MS	Hurricane Katrina	12,267	41,367
1603-LA	Hurricane Katrina	34,244	199,890
1599-WY	Tornado	5	217
1595-FL	Hurricane Dennis	29	39,640
1593-AL	Hurricane Dennis	15	13,810
Total		48,919	315,613

Joint Field Operations as of September 5, 2005

