



SEVERE WEATHER UPDATE

September 2, 2011

For Immediate Release

On Thursday, September 1, 2011, Mayor Michael Yenni and members of his staff attended an evening briefing conducted by Parish President John Young and other officials at the Jefferson Parish Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Gretna. The purpose of the briefing was to provide updated storm information and coordinate the emergency response activities of all municipal and Parish agencies in connection with the tropical system currently in the Gulf of Mexico.

CURRENT CONDITIONS: TROPICAL DEPRESSION #13

As of 9/1/11 at 7:00 PM, the system has been classified as a TROPICAL DEPRESSION and a TROPICAL STORM WARNING IS IN NOW EFFECT FOR SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA. **A TROPICAL STORM WARNING MEANS THAT TROPICAL STORM CONDITIONS ARE EXPECTED WITHIN THE NEXT 36 HOURS SOMEWHERE WITHIN THE SPECIFIED AREAS.**

A FLASH FLOOD WATCH IS IN EFFECT FOR PORTIONS OF SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA AND SOUTH MISSISSIPPI.

AT 8:00 PM CDT THE NWS REPORTED THAT THE CENTER OF TROPICAL DEPRESSION #13 WAS LOCATED NEAR LATITUDE 26.6N LONGITUDE 91.4W. THIS WAS ABOUT 240 MILES SOUTH-SOUTHWEST OF NEW ORLEANS LA...OR ABOUT 210 MILES SOUTH-SOUTHWEST OF HOUMA LA. STORM MOTION WAS NW OR 315 DEGREES AT 6 MPH. STORM INTENSITY WAS 35 MPH.

ANTICIPATED IMPACT

The main threats from this tropical system will be heavy rain, higher than normal tides, strong winds and tropical funnels/waterspouts near the shoreline. Tides are expected to continue to rise up to 4 feet above normal, with worst case flood inundation up to 1-3 feet above ground level somewhere within the surge zone. The National Weather Service reports the highest tides are expected to begin Friday and last through the weekend.

Rainfall over the next five days is expected to be heavy; from 10-15 inches, with locally higher amounts of up to 20 inches possible across southeast Louisiana and coastal Mississippi. This will likely produce ponding on roadways and flooding of low-lying areas.

Maximum winds are expected to increase to 35-40 MPH, with 45 MPH gusts.

Citizens are asked to help reduce the chance of street flooding by clearing debris from their streets and drains around their property; such debris impedes water flow into the drainage system. Lawn furniture and equipment should be secured or stored inside.

EMERGENCY DECLARATION

Jefferson Parish President John Young has declared a state of emergency for Jefferson Parish for the purpose of coordinating emergency activities throughout the Parish. The City of Kenner is coordinating closely with Parish officials on all aspects of emergency response.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Law enforcement agencies throughout the Parish will be aggressively enforcing ordinances and statutes prohibiting motorists from traveling on flooded streets. This activity may increase the possibility of structural flooding due to wake action caused by moving vehicles. **Kenner Code of Ordinance Section 7-66 prohibits operation of motor vehicle or boats on flooded or inundated public roads, highways or bridges.**

REPORT FLOODING

If local flooding conditions exist that would cause vehicular traffic to push water into a home, contact 504-468-7515 to request the street be closed until the water recedes.

PUBLIC WORKS

Kenner Public Works crews will be conducting inspections and mitigation activities on Friday and will be on stand-by throughout the weekend to respond as needed. PWD personnel will be available to dispatch barricades to close flooded streets if necessary.

All pump stations requiring manning, will be fully staffed by Parish employees for the duration until the threat of the rain from this system is over.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER / COMMAND POST

The Jefferson Parish EOC will activate to Level 2, Partial Activation, beginning Friday at 8:00 AM until further notice.

City of Kenner EOC will activate to Level 1, Monitoring, beginning Friday at 8:00 AM until further notice.

City of Kenner Unified Command Post (UCP) may be activated if needed.

City officials will be participating in NWS and JP DEM conference calls to coordinate local activities.

WEATHER ALERTS

Stay tuned to NOAA Radio, and commercial radio/television weather reports for updated storm information.

Residents who have not already done so are strongly encouraged to sign onto JPALERT to receive weather and emergency bulletins. Visit the Parish website at: www.jpalert.com to register.

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