



TROPICAL STORM LEE - UPDATE

September 3, 2011

For Immediate Release

STORM TRACKING

Tropical Storm Lee now located in the north-central Gulf of Mexico just south of the Louisiana coast. **Tropical Storm Warnings** and **Flash Flood Watches** are currently in effect for all of our warning area. In addition, a **Tornado Watch** has been issued for a good portion of the outlook area.

At 1 PM, the center of Tropical Storm Lee was located near latitude 29.3 N, longitude 91.8 W, or about 114 miles south-southwest of New Orleans. Wind speed was charted at 60 mph.

This continues to be a heavy rain event. The City of Kenner has experienced some minor street level flooding thus far and some canal overtopping has occurred. Some small trees have blown over and minor wind damage has been reported at several locations.

WHILE THERE MAY BE AN OCCASIONAL LULL IN STORM ACTIVITY, WEATHER REPORTS SUGGEST THAT THE NEW ORLEANS AREA WILL CONTINUE TO EXPERIENCE HEAVY RAIN AND STRONG WINDS THROUGHOUT THE REMAINDER OF THE WEEKEND AND PERHAPS INTO MONDAY.

Mayor Michael Yenni recommends that all Kenner residents remain tuned to NOAA radio or commercial radio/television for news, weather bulletins and information concerning this storm event.

ROADWAY CONDITIONS

DURING THE HEAVY RAINS EARLIER TODAY SEVERAL CANALS OVERFLOWED THEIR BANKS, MAKING DRIVING HAZARDOUS IN SOME AREAS OF THE CITY. MOTORISTS ARE CAUTIONED TO BE EXTREMELY CAREFUL WHEN TRAVELLING ON ROADWAYS NEARBY CANALS! FLOOD CONDITIONS CAN MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO DISTINGUISH WHERE THE ROAD ENDS.

PUBLIC WORKS

Kenner Public Works Department crews, led by Director Jose Gonzales, are in the field monitoring conditions, responding to calls for service, setting barricades where necessary, cleaning drains, and otherwise mitigating where appropriate.

Emergency response activities are being coordinated with Entergy, Veolia Water, Parish officials, and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. Crews are being dispatched to any reported power outages, downed power lines, sewerage or drainage issues, downed trees, roadway obstructions, damaged light poles, malfunctioning traffic control signals, and missing street signage.

To report any potential hazardous conditions, contact the **Public Works Department: (504) 468-7515.**

LAKETOWN

As of 9/3/11 at 11:00 AM, the recreational area located on the peninsula at Lake Pontchartrain (Lake Town) is closed to vehicular and pedestrian traffic. This includes the Boat Launch and Pier. Kenner Police and the East Jefferson Levee District Police Department will continue to patrol Lake Town and the levee system to limit access to this area as long as hazardous conditions exist.

PUMPS

The Jefferson Parish Department of Water reports that all pumps are currently online. SCADA data and pump operations are being closely monitored by both Kenner Public Works Department and Parish officials.

UTILITIES

Entergy reports approximately 150 residents located throughout the City lost power during today's severe weather. About 100 customers in the Vintage Avenue / Loyola area were affected. Repair crews were dispatched and service to most customers was reported restored by 12:00 PM.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Kenner Police Department is actively patrolling all areas of the City, responding to calls for service and will continue to aggressively enforce statutes and ordinances regulating motor vehicle traffic on flooded roadways. Police Chief Steve Caraway reminds all residents that **Kenner Code of Ordinance Section 7-66 prohibits operation of motor vehicles or boats on flooded or inundated public roads, highways or bridges.**

FIRE SERVICE

The Kenner Fire Department remains on alert and available to respond to fires, hazardous materials incidents and all other emergencies. Fire Chief John Hellmers cautions residents to **take shelter during heavy thunderstorms and be aware of the possibility of tornadoes.** Motorists are reminded to be on the lookout for and avoid downed power lines.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Mayor Yenni and members of his staff continue to participate in briefings and conference calls with municipal and parish authorities and emergency management officials to coordinate activities across the region.

City officials are working closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and East Jefferson Levee District on matters concerning flood control and levee protection in Kenner.

The Kenner Office of Emergency Management is actively monitoring developments associated with Tropical Storm Lee and coordinating municipal agency activities with Jefferson Parish Emergency Management officials.

WEATHER ALERTS

Residents who have not already done so should sign onto www.jpalert.com to receive severe weather and emergency bulletins via email, cell phone or digital device.