



CITY OF KENNER

PRESS RELEASE

MICHAEL SIGUR
ACTING MAYOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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KENNER OFFICIALS CLOSELY MONITORING STORM APPROACHING GULF

Kenner officials are holding regular briefings to follow the progress of the low pressure system in the Caribbean that appears poised to enter the Gulf of Mexico as soon as this weekend, Acting Kenner Mayor Michael Sigur said Friday.

“At this point, we are on alert and following this very closely,” Sigur said. “I want to stress to all residents to be vigilant, make sure you have your storm plans and preparations in place, and follow the forecasts and news regarding this system.”

As of 7 a.m., the tropical weather – identified by forecasters as Invest 99L, because it is not yet a tropical storm or even a tropical depression – was generally located from eastern Cuba northward to the central Bahamas.

Forecasters are in general agreement that the system will move northwesterly toward the Florida Keys and likely enter the eastern Gulf of Mexico Sunday or Monday.

At that point, the long-range forecast is very uncertain, though one of the possibilities is for the system to move toward the central Gulf coast. The intensity of the storm is also in question, with some forecast models predicting it will become a hurricane after it reaches the Gulf, and others predicting it will not.

The National Weather Service says there is a 20 percent chance the system will form into at least a tropical storm within the next 48 hours and a 60 percent chance that happens within the next 5 days.

“It’s still very early, and this is certainly no time to panic,” Sigur said. “We have seen the track and intensity forecast change significantly each of the past few days and that could certainly continue. This is a time for residents to be vigilant and make sure they are prepared.”

Sigur and Emergency Management Director Doug Dodt offered the following recommendations for residents:

- Monitor weather forecasts and the Kenner website, www.kenner.la.us.
- Check and clean out the storm drains near your home, if needed.

- Make sure you have an updated family evacuation plan
- Be ready to stock up on hurricane supplies – water, batteries, canned food, etc. – if necessary

In the meantime, here are some websites to consider monitoring when tropical weather threatens.

Kenner forecast page:

<http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?CityName=Kenner&state=LA&site=LIX&lat=29.9939&lon=-90.2417>

New Orleans/Baton Rouge forecast office: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lix/?mystation=KNEW>

Jefferson Parish Emergency Management (sign-up available on page for JP Alert system):

<http://www.jeffparish.net/index.aspx?page=185>

City of Kenner: www.kenner.la.us

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