

# Evacuation

**“EVACUATION”** means an operation whereby all or part of a particular population is *temporarily* relocated, whether individually or in an organized manner, from a sector that has been struck by a disaster or is about to be struck by a disaster to a place considered not dangerous for health or safety of the populace.

## TYPES OF EVACUATIONS

### **VOLUNTARY / RECOMMENDED EVACUATION**

A **“voluntary” or “recommended” evacuation** order is issued when the threat to lives is not yet imminent but conditions exist or such circumstances may exist in the near future. It is “recommended” that persons relocate to a safer location.

This type of evacuation will concentrate on people who are most vulnerable to a hurricane and the effects of both water and wind. It is directed at offshore workers, persons on coastal islands or in wetlands, persons aboard boats, and those living in mobile homes and recreational vehicles. No special traffic control or transportation measures will be implemented. Statutory authority: La.R.S. 29:723 and 730.3.

### **MANDATORY EVACUATION**

A **“mandatory” evacuation** order is issued when danger is imminent and conditions exist that seriously imperil or endanger the lives of those in a defined area. Persons are “strongly urged” people to relocate to a safer location. **Personal discretion is not to be considered a deciding factor.** A person who refuses to comply with a “mandatory” evacuation order shall not be forcibly removed from his home; however, all public services will be suspended during a mandatory evacuation and those failing to comply with a mandatory evacuation order shall not be rescued or provided with other lifesaving assistance. Because of deteriorating weather conditions, at some point evacuation routes will be closed. ***A curfew will be implemented when a mandatory evacuation order is issued.***

Authorities will put maximum emphasis on encouraging evacuation and limiting entry into the risk area. The Louisiana Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), Louisiana State Police (LSP), State Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) and the Louisiana National Guard (LNG) will assume primary responsibility for coordination and for traffic control on all major evacuation routes throughout the state (i.e., Interstate). Local law enforcement agencies will coordinate traffic control within municipalities. Statutory Authority: La.R.S. 29:723 and 730.3.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

**City of Kenner   Office of Emergency Management   (504) 471-2100**  
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## FORCED EVACUATION

A **“forced” evacuation** order is issued and will apply to the public in general and may include personnel designated as essential or critical workforce. Forced evacuations are designed for small geographic areas affected by local disaster or emergency. These are issued as a “last resort” when a disaster or emergency has been declared and danger of loss of life is imminent, and conditions exist that critically imperil or endanger the lives of those in the defined area.

During a forced evacuation, government officials may direct and compel all persons in designated areas to relocate to safer locations for their own safety. After a “forced” evacuation order is issued, no person who refuses to evacuate shall have a cause of action for damages, death, or injury against the state or any political subdivision, or other agencies, or the agents, employees or representatives of any such agency. **A curfew will be implemented when a forced evacuation order is issued.** Statutory Authority: La.R.S. 29:723 and 730.3.

## HURRICANE EVACUATION STRATEGY

The overall strategy of all Southeast Louisiana Parishes for dealing with a potential catastrophic hurricane is to evacuate as much of the risk population as possible from the path of the storm. Evacuees would then relocate to a place of relative safety outside the projected high water mark of the storm surge flooding and hurricane force winds.

The New Orleans metropolitan area represents a difficult evacuation problem due to the large population and a road system for evacuation that is limited and susceptible to flooding. It has been estimated that it could take approximately 72 hours to evacuate most of this area. **The public is encouraged to act in their best interest and voluntarily evacuate the high-risk areas before a recommended evacuation.**

**If you plan to evacuate, leave as early as possible before hurricane gale force winds and storm surge cause road closings. Leaving early may also help you to avoid massive traffic jams encountered late in an evacuation effort. Listen to the radio and television for storm reports.**

An evacuation notice will be issued when a hurricane is forecasted to present a danger to the City. The timing of this notice will depend on the probability of landfall and the severity and forward speed of the storm.

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## Evacuation

During a state of emergency or during a named tropical storm or hurricane in or threatening the Gulf of Mexico, the Parish President may order a **voluntary** or **mandatory** evacuation.

See State Evacuation Plan / Contraflow for more detailed discussion.

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