

SHELTER NEWS AND TIPS

INSERT SHELTER NAME HERE
 INSERT SHELTER ADDRESS HERE
 INSERT DATE HERE



Message to Louisiana Residents

We are grateful that you heeded the warnings and evacuated to safety before Hurricane Gustav made landfall. It is natural that you want to return home. For your safety, we ask for your patience.

Right now, across the coast, damage assessments are being made. Search and rescue crews are operating, widespread power outages exist, some roads are not passable and vital businesses are closed.

No matter where you are taking shelter right now, you can be confident that state, local and federal officials' top priority is ensuring your safe return.

Once a parish is declared safe, we will immediately begin an orderly process to help you get home as soon as possible.

If you utilized state-assisted transportation, you will be transported back home as soon as possible. In order for you to be returned, several key actions have to be finalized and are currently underway.

All state and local highways and roads must be cleared for coaches and local buses.

Local cities and/or parishes will have local transportation coordinated to return citizens from the state drop-off locations to your homes.

Local cities and/or parishes must announce the all clear for re-entry.

State assisted buses and drivers are ready and available to return citizens to their home cities when these actions are finalized.

Important Phone Numbers and websites:

Safe Return to Parish: Call 1-866-288-2485 or log on to emergency.louisiana.gov.

Road Closures: 1-888-762-3511 (out-of-state) or 511 (in -state).

Find family in a shelter: 1-800-957-1601.

Sheltered Pet Information: 1-800-558-9741

Food Stamp Questions: 1-888-524-3578.

Report Price Gauging: 1-800-351-4889

Report Environmental Hazards: 225-219-3621

UPDATES: Pets, Power and Levees

Many of you have questions about your pets. We can assure you they are comfortable and receiving good care.

There are 1,300 pets sheltered in Shreveport and 1,665 pets are sheltered in Alexandria. As soon as it is safe to return home, you and your pets will be reunited.

More than 1.4 million homes in Louisiana are reported to be without power. Crews are working around the clock to restore power, and that work will continue over the next few days.

As weather permits, levee engineers from the Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration began assessing levee conditions on Tuesday.

State and Orleans Levee District officials are in the process of delivering needed resources to the east bank of Plaquemines Parish to close a levee gap near the Caernavron Siphon near the towns of White Ditch and Scarsdale.

In South Lafourche, no breeches or levee overtopping were reported.

In Terrebonne Parish, some flooding was reported in the towns of Montegut, Chauvin, Cocodrie and Dulac.

The levee system that protects New Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes fared well in the storm.

For the latest on Hurricane Gustav, you can visit emergency.louisiana.gov or call the emergency hotline at 1-866-288-2484 to listen to a recorded message with the most up-to-date information.

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DSS offers guidelines for shelter safety, security

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide assistance during this difficult time and understand your desire to return to more comfortable and familiar surroundings as soon as possible.

During this transition period we must all do our part to provide a reasonably safe and secure shelter for ourselves and those around us.

Please refer to the following guidelines, which have been created to help us in our common effort. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

- Whenever large numbers of people live in close quarters, **frequent hand-washing** curbs the spread of colds, flu and other illnesses.
- To help prevent pests and other hazards, please **keep your area clean and tidy**.
- Please **use privacy areas to change clothes**. Proper attire is required at all times.
- If you have any concerns about safety or security, **contact the shelter manager immediately**.
- The shelter manager is located at _____.

2-1-1: For additional assistance to help stabilize your living situation as quickly as possible, please dial 211, a toll-free United Way referral service that will connect you with more than 600 local aid organizations and agencies.

To Find Your Family:

1-800-957-1601

To register as safe or check on others:

www.disastersafe.redcross.org

1-800-RED CROSS

1-866-GET INFO

Mealtimes: _____

Restroom locations: _____

Shower locations: _____

Lights on: _____

Lights out: _____

Phone access: _____

Internet access: _____

Security: _____

First aid station: _____

Playgrounds: _____

Gathering place, in case of emergency: _____

Chaplains: _____

Local law enforcement, non-emergency number: _____