



# The City of Slidell

**PRESS RELEASE For Release: Immediate**

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## Hurricane Ike Update from Mayor Morris, 9-12-08, 8 p.m.

Here we go again.

The city is currently experiencing widespread flooding in low-lying areas as a result of the storm surge created by Hurricane Ike. As officials had anticipated, Palm Lake Subdivision and Camellia Drive are flooded, and many of that area's residents are being evacuated from their homes by boat. It's a reality that numbs the weary residents who are still working to recover from the flooding caused by Hurricane Gustav just a week ago.

The evacuation efforts will continue through the night until all residents who did not heed the voluntary evacuation requests have been assisted in leaving their residences, says Slidell Mayor Ben Morris. Law enforcement officials are manning the subdivision entrances to prevent unauthorized access to the subdivision and to prevent further damage that could be caused by vehicular-driven wakes.



Signs at the entrance to entrance to Chamale Cove subdivision greet motorists attempting to gain access to the bayoufront residences. "High water. Roads impassable during high water" state the signs. For drivers who opt not to heed the message, law enforcement officials are turning away sightseers and allowing admission residents who

choose to brave the flooded streets. However, much to the homeowners' frustration, high waters are indeed prohibiting them from going very far. A mere 100 feet from the entrance, the flooding is high enough to block even some of the SUV drivers. Those who have managed to reach their homes prior to the flooding are equally frustrated, stranded by the water that now surrounds them.

Mayor Morris is among those whose homes are affected. "My house is now an island," he says. As he works with first responders to assist the Palm Lake evacuations, he realizes that the boats they are using may ultimately provide his ride home at the end of the evening.

The subdivisions are just a few of the many areas experiencing the far-reaching effects of Ike. Slidell's Heritage Park, located near the city's Municipal





Trailer Park Complex (one of the poignant reminders of Hurricane Katrina), is slowly succumbing to the rising waters of Bayou Bonfouca. The boat launch is completely submerged, as is the roadway leading to it. The access road to the park's amphitheater is also completely under water, and of the many park benches that dot the park's perimeters, all that remains above water is a few inches of their bench backs. The park's sidewalks are three to four feet underwater.

And the water continues to rise.

There is a breach in the levee behind First Baptist Church, with volunteers and city employees currently working to close it. But there's currently no danger to any of the homes north of the levee, emphasizes the mayor.

The mayor also has strong words of advice for citizens who are out traveling throughout the city. "If you aren't a resident of the areas that have flooded, please keep out," he said. "If you *are* one of these residents, please limit your speed while driving to minimize the wake."

The last thing these homeowners need is additional damage caused by careless drivers, said Morris. "We have a zero-tolerance for that, and we will prosecute anyone who contributes to the problem," he stated.

"We hope the flooding will start stabilizing tonight," Morris continued. "Until then, we will continue to do what needs to be done to minimize damage."



**FUTURE UPDATES** – The City of Slidell's Emergency information is posted on our website at [www.slidell.la.us](http://www.slidell.la.us) on the front page and at the [Emergency Information](#) link. To receive alerts as soon as messages are posted, please subscribe to our free email notification service at [http://www.slidell.la.us/alerts\\_email.php](http://www.slidell.la.us/alerts_email.php). We have added the option for citizens who wish to receive only Emergency Updates (instead of all our news releases). If you have previously subscribed to our news service, please update your subscription to include the Emergency Updates if you wish to receive these. Periodic updates will also be posted on the city's blog hosted by The Times Picayune at <http://blog.nola.com/slidell>.

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