

Hurricane Katrina Update 9-12-05

To the Citizens of Slidell,

Our water service is now operational and the drinking water in the City of Slidell is safe to drink and cook with. You do not need to boil your water first. Our sewer system is also operational.

Cleco continues to do a tremendous job. There is electric and sewer service throughout the city except in those subdivisions hardest hit by the storm. If your electrical panel was submerged by water or received damage, a licensed electrician must notify the Building Safety Department that your panel is ready to be energized. This department will then notify Cleco. A licensed electrician must call 645-3651 to file process to restore power and to make all necessary electrical repairs. For more information or assistance on restoring your power, please contact Cleco at 1-800-622-6537.

Clean up is still in progress, thanks to our city work crews and the efforts of over 400 United States Marines from around the country. Telephone service is back up and running; however, Charter Communications has still not recovered.

A medical facility has been set up in the vacant lot next to Starbuck's on Front Street. Doctors and nurses from across the nation are there to help the citizens of Slidell.

Feeding locations are open throughout the city including First Baptist Church on Pontchartrain Drive, Harvest Church in the John Jay Shopping Center, Grace Memorial Church on Pearl Street, and the vacant lot next to Starbuck's on Front Street. FEMA is handing out ice, water and MREs at the old Wal-Mart on Gause Blvd & I-10.

Northshore High School is now designated as a Red Cross Shelter. It is fully staffed and operational.

The Slidell Office of Animal Control is currently housing over 400 pets displaced by the hurricane at the Public Operations building. If your pet is there, please pick up your pet as soon as you can. They are also giving out free dog and cat food.

St. Tammany Parish schools have a target date of October 3 to reopen schools. Please continue to check their website www.stpsb.org for daily updates. Pope John Paul High School plans to reopen on Monday, September 19.

I am pleased to report that many retail stores, grocery stores, restaurants, banks, and gas stations have reopened in Slidell.

Finally, a few words of caution -

If you are hiring a contractor to make repairs on your home, please verify that the contractor is licensed and insured, get a written contract, do not give any money in advance, and verify that the contractor has a work permit issued by the City of Slidell before any work begins.

Also, be careful if you are throwing out computers damaged by Katrina. Don't leave computers out on the street where your personal information could be retrieved from the computer's hard drive. Protect yourself from identity theft. Take out and keep the hard drive before your throw out your computer.

**Thank you and stay safe,
Mayor Ben Morris**