

LOUISIANA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

JOINT INFORMATION CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 31, 2008

Department of Social Services News Update

DSS Announces Updated Shelter Information

BATON ROUGE - The Department of Social Services announced the following information today:

DSS has four state-run Critical Transportation Needs Shelters open right now with a capacity of approximately 10,000 people. They are full. The locations are:

Shreveport (2)
Bastrop
Monroe

FEMA, with the support of Red Cross Critical Transportation has two Critical Transportation Needs Shelters open filled right to capacity with approximately 5,500 people. The locations are:

Shreveport
Alexandria

Five Medical Special Needs Shelters are open with approximately 1,000 patients taking refuge. Several hundred spots remain. The locations are:

Baton Rouge
Alexandria
Bossier City
Hammond
Monroe

Five other states are currently sheltering Louisiana residents. They are:

Texas-11,000
Oklahoma-4,000
Alabama - 3,000
Arkansas -3,000
Tennessee-1,050

Louisiana has agreements with three other states:

Missouri
Georgia
Kentucky

General Population Shelters: 123 are open in Louisiana with at least 25,500 taking shelter right now.

The shelter information points are working well and the Shelter Information Task Force says people did listen to warnings and started to appear in shelters earlier than they usually see during a storm.

DSS continues to encourage those who are on the road to stop at the shelter information point below in order to receive a reservation and ensure they have a spot in the nearest general population shelter available.

The shelter-information points (also listed on the Louisiana evacuation guides) are located at:

Tourist Welcome Center, U.S. 65 & 84, 1401 Carter St., Vidalia.

Tourist Welcome Center, 836 I-20 West, Tallulah.

Sammy's Truck Stop, I-49, Exit 53, 3601 La. 115 West, Bunkie.

Med Express Office, 7525 U.S. 71, Alexandria.

LSU-Shreveport, P.E. Gym, One University Place, Shreveport.

Pickering High School, 180 Lebleu Road, Leesville.

Tourist Information Center, 8904 U.S. 165, Oberlin, La

DSS Secretary Ann Silverberg Williamson strongly encourages mobile home residents in non-evacuation areas, to contact their local emergency officials to receive information on available in-parish shelters.

For the latest on Hurricane Gustav, you can log onto emergency.louisiana.gov or call the state's emergency hotline at 1-866-288-2484 to hear a recorded message with the most up-to-date information.