

LOUISIANA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

JOINT INFORMATION CENTER

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 31, 2008

**GOHSEP Update**

**This is a GOHSEP Situational Report**

GUSTAV DECREASES TO CATEGORY THREE, BUT STILL PROJECTED TO MAKE LANDFALL ON LOUISIANA COASTLINE

TO PREPARE FOR GUSTAV, GOHSEP ACTIVATED ITS EOC AT LEVEL 3 AT 1800 HOURS, 27 AUGUST 2008 WITH SELECT ESF'S AND GOHSEP PERSONNEL. GOHSEP INCREASED ITS LEVEL OF ACTIVATION TO LEVEL 2 AT 0600 HOURS, 28 AUGUST 2008 AND AGAIN UP TO LEVEL 1 AT 0600 HOURS, 31 AUGUST 2008.

GOHSEP HAS BEEN CONDUCTING TELECONFERENCES WITH THE SOUTHEAST AND SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA HURRICANE TASK FORCES AND SHELTER TASK FORCE ALONG WITH UNIFIED COMMAND BRIEFS TWICE A DAY AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO THROUGHOUT THE EVENT.

**1. Parish Declarations & Pending Declarations:**

**PARISHES DECLARED** (63):

Acadia, Allen, Ascension, Assumption, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Bossier, Caddo, Calcasieu, Caldwell, Cameron, Catahoula, Claiborne, Concordia, Desoto, East Baton Rouge, East Carroll, East Feliciana, Evangeline, Franklin, Grant, Iberia, Iberville, Jackson, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, Lafourche, Lasalle, Lincoln, Livingston, Madison, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Orleans, Ouachita, Plaquemines, Point Coupee, Rapides, Red River, Richland, Sabine, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Tensas, Terrebonne, Union, Vermillion, Vernon, Washington, Webster, West Baton Rouge, West Carroll, West Feliciana, and Winn.

**PARISHES PENDING DECLARATIONS** (1):

Bienville - Will declare on 31 Aug 08, Sunday.

**2. Tropical Weather Update:**

At 1000 hours CDT 31 August 2008, the eye of Category Three Hurricane Gustav was near 25.3N and 86.0W moving NW at 17 mph. GUSTAV is about 325 Miles Southeast of the Mouth of the Mississippi River. This general motion is expected to continue during the next couple of days. On this track the center of Gustav is forecast to move into the Central Gulf of Mexico on Sunday and then make landfall on the northern Gulf coast in the vicinity of the Terrebonne/Lafourche Parish line on Monday.

Maximum sustained winds are near 120 mph with higher gusts of 150.

From the southeast Gulf, the forecast track continues to indicate that Gustav head northwestward reaching the central Gulf Coast Monday afternoon. Gustav will slow as it moves inland, likely unleashing excessive rainfall and devastating flooding. The outer rain bands of Gustav will begin impacting more of Louisiana

and coastal areas of Mississippi, Alabama, and the Florida Panhandle as early as late Sunday with scattered downpours and thunderstorms. Wind, rain, and waves will increase significantly through Monday with the worst conditions arriving along the Louisiana coast by Monday afternoon.

### 3. LOUISIANA WEATHER:

Southwest Louisiana: Seasonal weather is projected through Friday with a 20% chance of thunderstorms today, Monday, and hurricane conditions starting Monday night.

Hazardous Weather: Today and tonight hot conditions with isolated shower or thunderstorms. Sunday through Tuesday according to the official NHC forecast, Hurricane Gustav is expected to make landfall at category 3 strength near the Saint Mary Parish coast very early on Tuesday morning, then move slowly northwest across Southwest Louisiana.

Southeast Louisiana: Seasonal weather is projected through Friday with a 50% chance of thunderstorms today, Monday, and hurricane conditions starting Monday night.

Hazardous weather: Sunday through Tuesday major Hurricane Gustav is expected to make landfall somewhere along the Louisiana coast late Monday or Tuesday morning. Tropical storm force winds and wave conditions may onset around midnight Sunday night and early Monday morning along the coast with tropical storm force winds spreading inland during the day Monday.

Central Louisiana: Seasonal weather is projected through Tuesday with a 30% chance of thunderstorms today, Monday and Tuesday.

Hazardous Weather: Today and tonight hot conditions with isolated shower or thunderstorms. Sunday through Tuesday according to the official NHC forecast, Hurricane Gustav is expected to make landfall at category 3 strength near the Saint Mary Parish coast very early on Tuesday morning, then move slowly northwest across Southwest Louisiana.

Northern Louisiana: Seasonal weather is projected through Friday with a 60% chance of thunderstorms today, with a 100% of rain on Monday and Tuesday.

Hazardous Weather: This afternoon and tonight showers and thunderstorms will develop. Thunderstorms should wane into the evening after loss of daytime heating. Strong thunderstorm wind gusts will be possible with the stronger convection along with brief but locally heavy rainfall and deadly lightning.

4. FIRE: None.

5. MEDICAL: None.

6. TERRORIST ACTIVITY: None.

National Threat Level: Yellow (Elevated).

Transportation Safety Administration: Orange (High).

7. CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL, NUCLEAR, EXPLOSIVE: None.