

LOUISIANA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

JOINT INFORMATION CENTER

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 6, 2008

**Department of Health and Hospitals News Update**

**Louisiana Chief Medical Officer Reports No New Gustav Fatalities**

BATON ROUGE - Please find the attached memo sent from Louisiana Chief Medical Officer Louis Cataldie, M.D., regarding fatalities related to Hurricane Gustav:

**From:** Louis Cataldie, M.D.  
**To:** Secretary Alan Levine  
**Date:** September 6, 2008  
**Re:** Fatalities Related to Hurricane Gustav

This memorandum delineates the current number of confirmed hurricane-related fatalities. As Chief Medical Officer for the state of Louisiana, I am working closely with local coroners and police departments to identify fatalities as a result of Hurricane Gustav and offering assistance to local authorities. I have confirmed no new fatalities today. The total fatalities related to Hurricane Gustav stands at 23.

Any death that is determined by the jurisdictional coroner to have been caused as a result of Hurricane Gustav will be counted as a storm-related death. General criteria for classifying a death as hurricane-related include:

- Death due to activities associated with evacuation (i.e., evacuation stress precipitates a heart attack)
- Death due to the effects of the storm itself (i.e., a tree falls on a person during the storm)
- Death associated with recovery efforts (i.e., a person is electrocuted by a fallen electrical line while cleaning up fallen tree limbs)

I will continue to notify you at the end of each day of newly-confirmed deaths related to Hurricane Gustav.

For the latest on Hurricane Gustav, you can visit [emergency.louisiana.gov](http://emergency.louisiana.gov) or call the state's emergency hotline at 1-866-288-2484 to listen to a recorded message with the most up-to-date information.