

# National Situation Report

As of 5:30 a.m. Sunday, August 28, 2005

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**Homeland Security Threat Level: ELEVATED** ■ ■ ■

*NOTE: New NRCC website (<http://online.fema.net/nrcr/>), which is located behind the firewall, is available while under reconstruction. Many of the links are working and reflect current information. Please check back often. Comments should be sent to: [FEMA-NRCC@dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-NRCC@dhs.gov).*

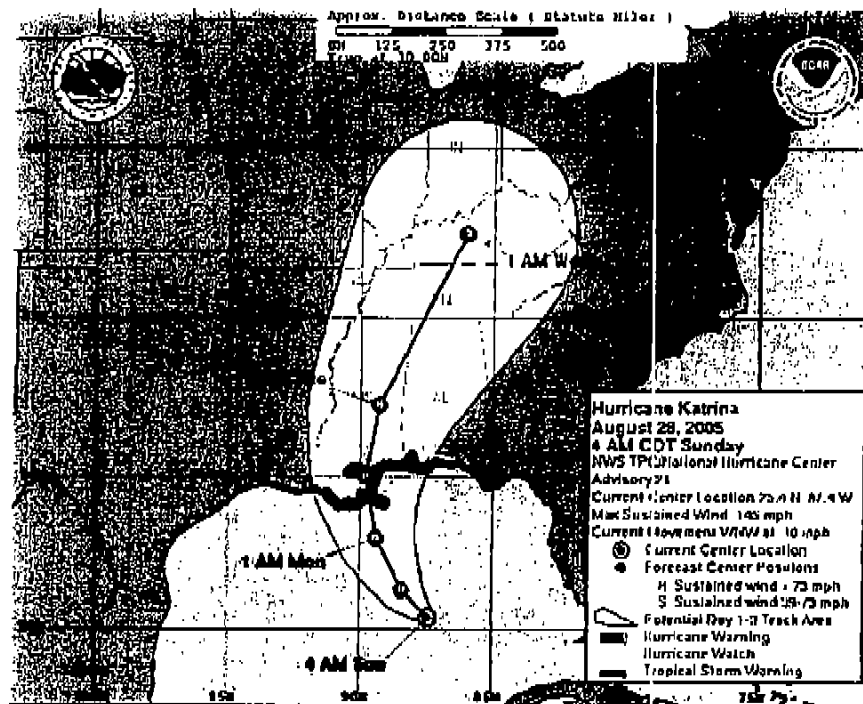
## Dangerous Category Four Hurricane Katrina Continues West- Northwestward But Expected To Turn Northward

A Hurricane Warning is in effect for the North Central Gulf Coast from Morgan City Louisiana eastward to the Alabama/Florida border including the city of New Orleans and Lake Pontchartrain.

A tropical storm warning and a hurricane watch are in effect from east of the

Alabama/Florida border to Destin, Florida and from west of Morgan City to Intracoastal City, Louisiana.

At 5 am EDT (0900z), a Tropical Storm Warning has been issued from Destin Florida eastward to Indian Pass, Florida and from Intracoastal City, Louisiana westward to Cameron, Louisiana.



At 5 am EDT (0900z), the center of Hurricane Katrina was located near latitude 25.4 north, longitude 87.4 west or about 275 miles south-southeast of the mouth of the Mississippi River.

Katrina is moving toward the west-northwest near 10 mph. A gradual turn toward the northwest is expected later today.

Maximum sustained winds are near 145 mph with higher gusts. Katrina is a Category Four hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale. Some strengthening is forecast during the next 24 hours.

Hurricane force winds extend outward up to 85 miles from the center and tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 185 miles.

Estimated minimum central pressure is 935 mb (27.61 inches).

Coastal storm surge flooding of 15 to 20 feet above normal tide levels, locally as high as 25 feet along with large and dangerous battering waves can be expected near and to the east of where the center makes landfall.

Rainfall totals of 5 to 10 inches with isolated maximum amounts of 15 inches are possible along the path of Katrina across the Gulf Coast and the southeastern United States. The hurricane is still expected to produce additional rainfall amounts of 2 to 4 inches over extreme western Cuba and 1 to 3 inches of rainfall is expected over the Yucatan Peninsula.

Isolated tornadoes will be possible beginning Sunday evening over southern portions of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and over the Florida Panhandle. *(NWS National Hurricane Center)*

## **National Weather**

**South:** Outer rainbands and high surf ahead of Hurricane Katrina will affect coastal Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and parts of the Florida Peninsula today. These outer bands may contain discrete thunderstorms that may produce short-lived tornadoes. Otherwise, winds will slowly increase along the central Gulf coast in advance of Hurricane Katrina. Northeast winds from 15 to 25 mph should be common, with a few gusts above 35 mph during the day. The threat of rip currents will continue to be high today, particularly along the Alabama and Florida Panhandle beaches. Heat and thunderstorms will dog others from the Carolinas to Texas again today. An area of thunderstorms will persist from the coastal Carolinas to north Florida. A weak frontal boundary will stall out from the southern Appalachians into the Lower Mississippi Valley, focusing thunderstorms from the Smoky Mountains to southern Arkansas. This boundary may also focus flooding rains once the remnants of Hurricane Katrina move inland Tuesday into Wednesday. There will be a significant footprint of heavy, potentially flooding rainfall from the Lower Mississippi Valley to the Tennessee Valley as Katrina moves well inland along a slow moving cold front.

Thunderstorms should continue to rumble across Oklahoma and parts of Texas into the overnight and then flare again today. While widespread severe weather is not anticipated, a few pulse severe storms producing strong wind gusts, hail, and heavy rainfall are possible.

**Northeast:** Excessive heat will continue to give the Northeast a break to round out this last weekend in August. Highs today should hold in the 70s over much of New England and Upstate New York, and manage only the 80s over the Mid-Atlantic and Appalachians. Rain and thunderstorms may put a damper on your day from Upstate New York to Virginia. A few of these storms may turn briefly severe with high winds and some hail in Upstate New York and western New England. A stubborn combination of strong high pressure off Newfoundland plus a stalling frontal boundary will keep the threat of rain along much of the Northeast seaboard again tomorrow.

**Midwest:** Only a few minor blemishes are expected to tarnish the end of the last weekend in August in the nation's mid-section. Only the Ohio Valley will be sweating in late summer 90-degree heat on Sunday. On the flip side, highs should hold in the 70s over much of the Upper Midwest, including Minnesota, the eastern Dakotas, and much of Michigan. Folks near Lake Superior and the Boundary Waters of Minnesota, northwest Wisconsin, and western Upper Michigan may need to grab a jacket for some 60s Sunday. Clouds and light showers can be expected to accompany these chilly temperatures in northern Minnesota, northern Wisconsin, and the U.P. of Michigan. A second sluggish frontal boundary may spawn additional storms from southern Michigan to Kansas. Some locations are running an August rainfall surplus of over 6 inches from the past 2 weeks' heavy rains.

**West:** Two active areas will dominate the western weather picture this weekend. Thunderstorms will rumble again today in the southern Rockies and adjacent High Plains. While severe weather should be rather hit-or-miss, locally heavy rainfall and a brief high wind gust or burst of large hail are possible in the strongest of storms.

A cool front will slide into the Pacific Northwest, and clouds, showers, and perhaps a rumble of thunder is possible in association with this cool front. This will keep temperatures much of the day in the 60s in Seattle-Tacoma, and in the 70s in Portland. Ahead of the front, highs will soar well into the 90s in the interior Northwest and northern Rockies, including the active wildfire areas. Unfortunately, stronger winds and thunderstorms (lightning strikes and shifting winds) should become a problem in the wildfire battle tomorrow as the front sweeps through. Following highs in the upper 90s in Boise today, mid-70s should result on Tuesday behind the front. (NWS, Media Sources)



### Hurricane Katrina Upgraded to Category 4

Coastal residents jammed freeways and gas stations as they rushed to get out of the way of Hurricane Katrina, which grew into a dangerous Category 4 storm early Sunday as it headed for New Orleans and the Louisiana coast. Katrina gained strength overnight, become a Category 4 with 145 mph sustained winds as it moved over the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico early this morning. Katrina could become a

Category 5 storm before landfall.

✓ A hurricane watch extended from Louisiana to the Alabama-Florida border, and President Bush declared a state of emergency in Louisiana. His spokesman urged residents along the coast to heed authorities' advice to evacuate. Katrina could be especially devastating if it strikes New Orleans because the city sits below sea level and is dependent on levees and pumps to keep the water out. A direct hit could wind up submerging the city in several feet of water.

✓ Making matters worse, at least 100,000 people in the city lack the transportation to get out of town. The Superdome might be used as a shelter of last resort for people who have no cars, with city bus pick-up points around New Orleans.

Owners of gas stations in and around New Orleans were forced to direct traffic as lines to the pumps stretched down surrounding streets. Gas stations were running low on gas by midafternoon Saturday