



Thousands return to Jefferson; more rescued in St. Bernard

COMING HOME



STAFF PHOTOS BY RUSTY COSTANZA

KENNER: Jennifer Duplain, left, and Teresa Flannigan pause on Monday while cleaning floodwaters from the home of Lloyd and Lauren Landry in Kenner. Monday was the first day Jefferson Parish authorities let people back into the parish to view their homes.

METAIRIE: Mike Hollinger of Metairie on Monday sweeps water from the home he shares with his brother, Charlie. Their house had about a foot of water in it.



FEMA logs homes where dead lie

By Bruce Nolan
Staff writer

Tens of thousands of residents of Jefferson Parish crept through miles-long traffic lines Monday for their first look at the homes they had not seen in a week. At the same time, rescuers pulled the last few survivors of Hurricane Katrina out of flooded St. Bernard Parish and marked the homes that entombed the dead.

The return to Jefferson Parish, even to retrieve a few personal items, was the region's first taste of normalcy after a week of historic privation and horror.

In St. Bernard, however, officials said they were still pulling people out of flooded homes.

Incredibly, many resisted rescue efforts and wanted to remain. Sheriff Jack Stephens said he ordered deputies to handcuff and "forcefully remove" holdouts.

Stephens said water was receding somewhat. Authorities said some pumping was under way, and some flood water drained away as surrounding waterways fell to normal levels.

As that work continued, teams from the Federal Emergency Management Agency used global positioning devices to log the homes they would have to revisit to collect bodies already spotted.

As the effort to alleviate human misery continued, state officials reported they had repaired the lethal breach in the 17th Street Canal that destroyed much of the city. They said they expected to turn next to two similar breaches several miles east in the London Avenue Canal.

Entergy officials said they had repaired damaged electrical substations serving the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center and much of the Central Business District. Their work bore the imminent promise of the return of lights and power to the heart of the city.

But they could not energize the system until buildings in the area were checked to be sure they could receive power safely, Entergy spokesman Chanel Lagarde said.

But as the engineering rescue inched forward, all around lay waste and devastation, and the certainty that the stagnant waters

Return to Jefferson Parish brings surprises

Some areas spared; others devastated

By Matthew Brown
West Bank bureau

Maneuvering through streets clogged with splintered trees, soggy trash and pieces of wrecked houses, thousands of Jefferson Parish residents returned Monday to communities rendered almost

unrecognizable by Hurricane Katrina, the worst natural disaster to hit the region in modern history.

What they found -- and what the remainder of the parish's half million residents will soon discover -- was damage that varied dramatically from one neighborhood to the next.

Entire blocks in Metairie were ravaged completely by floodwaters, while others remained high and dry. The storm's furious winds peeled roofs off homes in Marrero and flipped large trucks onto their

sides in Gretna and Terrytown, but some residents in those communities were left with nothing more than a few broken branches littering the yard.

At one end of the spectrum, in the economically depressed Lincolnshire neighborhood of Marrero, was Martha Grinstead, who said Katrina had thrust her and her son into "a living hell." Floodwaters three feet deep ruined most of the family's belongings in their Rue St. Phillippe house. Wind ripped all the shingles off

the roof, leaving it pocked with holes. Rainwater soaked the ceiling tiles and attic insulation until they grew heavy and collapsed, leaving the living room, kitchen and den covered in a grey-black soggy muck.

"It's a lost cause," Grinstead said. "I brought home a new generator, but I'm not opening it up for this. ... My family is looking for a home for me in Lake Charles."

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