



HURRICANE RITA

FLOODED AGAIN

Breach in Industrial Canal inundates Lower 9th Ward, Arabi

WATER SEEPING INTO GENTILLY FROM LONDON AVENUE CANAL

SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA, TEXAS PREPARE FOR HURRICANE RITA'S WRATH TODAY



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Water surges through patched levee breach into the Lower 9th Ward after repairs to the Industrial Canal levee erode on Friday, as Hurricane Rita adds to Hurricane Katrina's destruction.

Latest hurricane washes away signs of renewal

By Gwen Filosa and Michelle Krupa
Staff writers

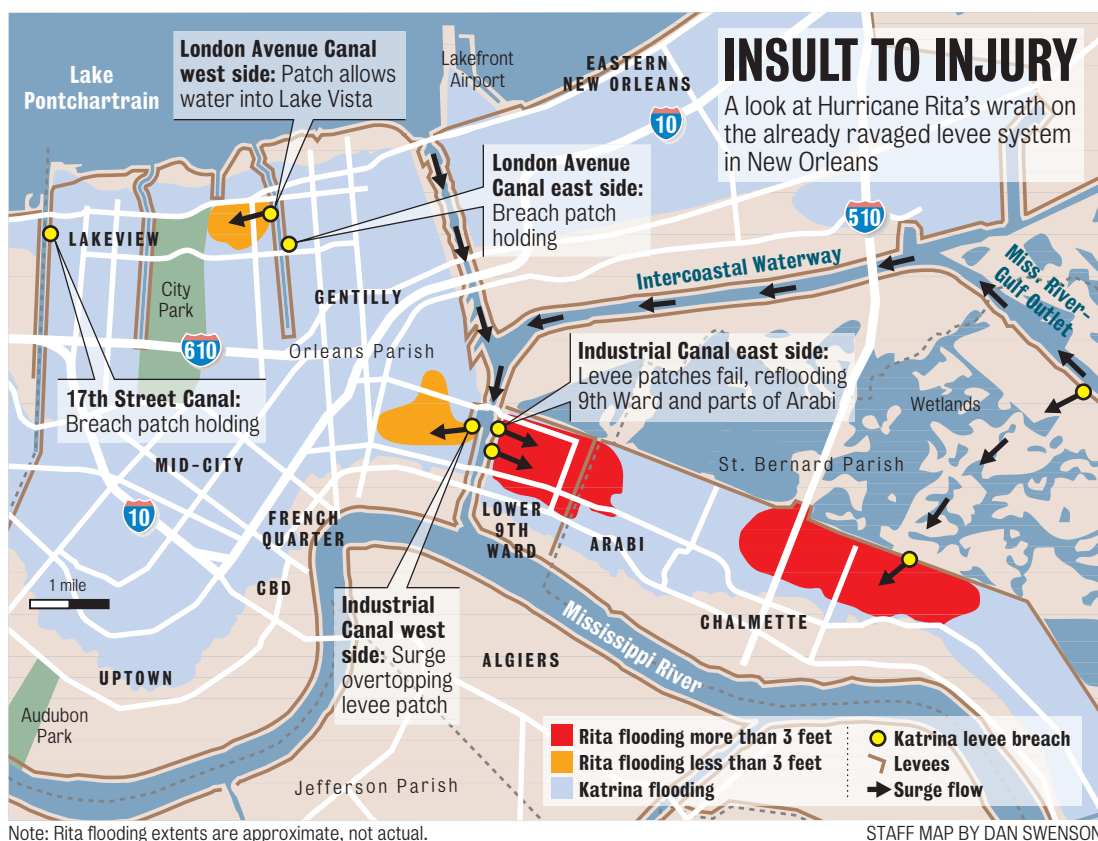
Water rushed over levees on both sides of the Industrial Canal on Friday, threatening the 9th Ward, just drained from Katrina.

But the breaches threatened few lives, as New Orleans, from Lakeview to Uptown and from the Bywater to Mid-City, remained a vacant and scarred place, most residents waiting in exile as the second storm in less than a month bore down on Louisiana.

It was a respite interrupted by a new wave of fear. New Orleans, along with St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes, took water in familiar places, clearly unprepared for a grazing by Category 3 storm aimed for the Texas-Louisiana border. About 150,000 people had been evacuated from southwest Louisiana, with about 35,000 at in-state shelters, authorities said.

Gov. Kathleen Blanco said Task Force Rita was staged on the edge of the storm to provide relief after the hurricane

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Weakened Rita heads for Texas, Louisiana border

By Bruce Nolan
Staff writer

Hurricane Rita bore down on the Texas-Louisiana border late Friday with winds of 125 mph, driving millions of evacuees ahead of its 15- to 20-foot storm surge and taking dozens of lives even before landfall.

Slicing northwestward across the Gulf of Mexico, Rita merely sideswiped metropolitan New Orleans. But her storm surge, accompanied by gusting winds and lashing rain, blew out a freshly repaired levee along the Industrial Canal and once again sent water coursing into the Lower 9th Ward.

There were also reports of significant seepage from the walls of the London Avenue Canal, which was breached by Hurricane Katrina on Aug. 29.

The National Hurricane Center said it expected Rita to hit the Texas coast in the vicinity of Port Arthur about daybreak today.

At 4 p.m. the center said Rita was about

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