

Message

From: America Rising; Ex. 6
Sent: 8/29/2017 12:03:26 PM
To: Abboud, Michael [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b6f5af791a1842f1adcc088cbf9ed3ce-Abboud, Mic]
Subject: Fwd: Print Alert | CBS NEWS: Harvey's heavy rains stoke fears of flooding in Louisiana

----- Forwarded message -----

From: America Rising Console <updates@arcorconsole.com>
Date: Mon, Aug 28, 2017 at 10:48 PM
Subject: Print Alert | CBS NEWS: Harvey's heavy rains stoke fears of flooding in Louisiana
To: Ex. 6

[Click here to view this alert on the America Rising Console.](#)

Harvey's heavy rains stoke fears of flooding in Louisiana

CBS News | August 28, 2017 - 9:24PM

[View Source](#)

MOSS BLUFF, La. -- Bands of heavy rain from Harvey lashed southwest Louisiana on Monday, and the state's governor said potential flooding could pose a "dangerous situation."

Gov. John Bel Edwards told reporters he expects the potential for flood damage to increase as the rain continued to pummel the area.

"We do have a long way to go with this particular storm," he said. "This is going to play out over several days."

While Louisiana doesn't appear to be facing catastrophic damage on par with Harvey's destructive toll on Texas, images of the devastation in Houston are stirring up painful memories for many Hurricane Katrina survivors in Louisiana.

"It really evoked a lot of emotions and heartbreak for the people who are going through that now in Houston," Ray Gratia said as he picked up sandbags for his New Orleans home, which flooded during the historically destructive 2005 hurricane.

After Katrina's landfall, levee breaches left much of New Orleans underwater for weeks. New Orleans was on the outskirts of Harvey's rainbands Monday, but residents are on edge with the city's pump and drainage system still not working at full capacity.

"I have a hard time believing you have as many streets closed as we do without having some damage out there," Edwards said.

Meanwhile, Lake Charles Mayor Nic Hunter says fewer than a dozen homes had been damaged in the southwest Louisiana city, but the number is likely to rise as torrential rains continue to batter the region this week.

Hunter says roughly 35 to 40 people were staying at a shelter opened by the city. Some of them had been displaced from flooded homes.

Kent Kuyper, a Nation Weather Service meteorologist in Lake Charles, said about 5 to 10 inches of rain was expected to fall Monday in southwest Louisiana.

Floodwaters covered roads and crept toward homes in Brenda Bradley's neighborhood in Moss Bluff, a Lake Charles suburb in Calcasieu Parish. Bradley, 72, and her husband, Jimmie, had stacked sandbags at their doors. The rising water was lapping at the steps to their back porch Monday morning.

"We've got to try to save what we can," Bradley said. "We're in our 70s and there's no way we can lift all (our) furniture up."

President Trump issued a federal emergency declaration on Monday for five parishes in southwest Louisiana: Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis and Vermillion. More areas can be added later.

A White House statement says the action authorizes the Federal Emergency Management Agency to coordinate disaster relief efforts. The declaration also authorizes the federal government to cover 75 percent of costs of certain emergency protective measures.

Edwards requested the declaration in a letter to the White House on Sunday.

"Significant lifesaving efforts such as search and rescue, transportation to shelters, logistical support, and shelter operations will be particularly needed in parts of southwest Louisiana and can be supported by the federal government with an emergency declaration," the governor wrote.

Mr. Trump praised emergency workers and officials for their response to the "historic" flooding in Texas.

"My administration is coordinating closely with state and local authorities in Texas and Louisiana to save lives and we thank our first responders and all of those involved in their efforts," he said in joint appearance at the White House with the President of Finland.

Mr. Trump is planning to visit the Houston area Tuesday, and said he may return to the region Saturday to visit Louisiana, which is also getting heavy rain.

The Louisiana National Guard had staged high-water vehicles and boats, but hadn't had to deploy any yet on search and rescue in southwest Louisiana, Edwards said Monday.

About 20 people, including eight from Texas, spent the night in a central Louisiana shelter, Edwards said.

In New Orleans, residents arrived at fire stations across the city Monday to get sandbags for their homes as outer bands of heavy rain from Harvey began heading east from Houston.

Harvey, the most fearsome hurricane to hit the U.S. in more than a decade, came ashore late Friday about 30 miles northeast of Corpus Christi, Texas, as a Category 4 storm. The slow-moving storm has caused catastrophic flooding in Texas.

Louisiana also is assisting Texas, sending teams of 40 wildlife and fisheries agents with 40 boats to join search-and-rescue efforts across state lines. A caravan of Louisiana agents was on its way to the Houston area on Monday morning after spending the night in Beaumont, Texas.

Tornado and flash flood watches covered parts of southwest Louisiana as Harvey dropped torrential rains on that part of the state.

An emergency response official in coastal Cameron Parish said the threat of flooding from Harvey's torrential rains could be "new ground for us." Danny Lavergne, director of Cameron Parish's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, said approximately 30 roads in the parish were covered with water but remained passable on Monday morning. Elevated homes didn't appear to be at risk of flooding Monday, according to Lavergne.

But he added it was "early in the game," with more heavy rain in the forecast.

"It's far from being over," he said.

Cameron Parish has roughly 6,800 residents living in the coastal community, which was devastated by storm surge from Hurricane Rita in 2005 and Hurricane Ike in 2008. This time, Lavergne says the greatest threat is the sheer volume of rainwater.

"We don't know how fast we can drain this (water) off. It's new ground for us," he said.

Kent Kuyper, a Nation Weather Service meteorologist in Lake Charles, said about 5 to 10 inches of rain were expected to fall Monday in southwest Louisiana.

Bradley's Moss Bluff home hasn't flooded since 2006, when seven inches of water damaged the two-story house. But she has had other close calls: Flooding from a storm in May damaged her 86-year-old next-door neighbor's home.

"Now she's out of her home again and praying it doesn't flood again," Bradley said.

Gratia said his New Orleans home only got about a foot of water during Katrina, but the bigger problem was mold. He said it was weeks before the city allowed residents to return and by then mold had consumed the entire first floor of his two-story house.

Having been through Katrina, Gratia has some advice for Texas flood victims.

"First of all, I hope they have flood insurance, because that's a critical factor, but document everything you can to document your loss," he said. "Take photos. Get in there as quickly as you can and air out the place. It will help with the mold situation or avoid mold."