PLAQUEMINES PARISH UPDATE

Tropical Storm Lee Update

PLAQUEMINES PARISH (September 5, 2011) - TS Lee has weakened, been downgraded to a remnant low and has moved out of the area. All flood advisories and warnings have been cancelled. There should be no more than minor accumulations of water expected for the rest of the evening and day tomorrow.

Parish President Billy Nungesser stresses that the focus is on reopening Highway 23. The back levee has not been cut yet. The water outside the levees needs to drop below the water trapped inside before that happens. In the meantime the pumps are operating to drain the floodwaters.

Tides against the Citrus Land and Myrtle Grove levees were lower today providing an opportunity to gain control and contain the overtopping of the levee. As of 1800 hours overtopping had been stopped and dewatering had begun. Drainage crews will work through the night. It is expected that the dewatering operation may take up to 3 days to complete.

Highway 23 is expected to remain closed tonight as the dewatering continues. Hwy 23 should be ready to reopen for traffic on Tuesday sometime. Meanwhile traffic will continue to be diverted around the high water using the river levee with the Sheriff's Office directing alternating one way trips to accommodate vehicle movement. In addition, the ferry service at Pointe a la Hache and Belle Chasse will resume operating on the normal schedules and can be used as an alternate route.

The voluntary shelter set up at the Belle Chasse High School Gym was closed as of 9/5/11 at 9:00am.