Weather Update #5: St. John the Baptist Parish

ST. JOHN PARISH (September 5, 2011) - St. John Parish begins saying farewell to Tropical Storm Lee as conditions improve throughout the parish and weather forecasts calm. Conference calls with state officials and other Parish Presidents have concluded and extended Emergency Operations Center hours end. Cool weather can be enjoyed while water levels decrease and many prepare for work and school in the morning.

This evening's forecast is not expected to change drastically. Northwest winds with 30 mph gusts will continue to move through the area allowing water to slowly move out of low-lying areas. There have been some reports of trees and tree branches falling. This activity could continue as long as current wind conditions persist. Although water levels are not subsiding at a rapid rate, there are no reports of rising water which is a positive sign for all areas. Parish officials expect water to remain in some low-lying areas through tomorrow, but most roadways are expected to be safe.

Schools will open for regular operations in the morning. "Due to an increase in school and work traffic, individuals are asked to please use caution and drive slowly through areas that may have water on the streets. Please be considerate while driving," asked Parish President Natalie Robottom.

Please be reminded all Interstate ramps at Highway 51 are closed due to high water until further notice. Motorists should also plan to utilize I-10 at Belle Terre Blvd. or travel to I-310 to access I-55. Residents of Palmetto Lakes, Indigo, Spring Meadow, and Ridgewood are advised to exit their subdivisions at Hwy 51 near Lake Pontchartrain Elementary due to flooding on Woodland Drive.

Infiltration is causing heavy strain on the wastewater system. Residents are asked to please refrain from non-essential use if possible to allow for all stations to catch up and function properly. If any issues occur overnight 911 should be called. Public Works and Utilities crews will be on call should problems arise.

The weather outlook for today continues to show mostly sunny, but it will cool off and you will want long sleeves and a light jacket as you head outside.