

State Deploys Resources to St. Tammany to Assist with Evacuation Efforts

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September 1, 2012

State of Louisiana News Desk #: 225.358.5361

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BATON ROUGE -- State agencies deployed resources today to assist St. Tammany Parish officials who called a mandatory evacuation following a concern that Lock No. 2 -- operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers -- along the Pearl River Diversion Canal is failing.

The Louisiana National Guard is deploying 48 Guardsmen, 24 high-water vehicles, six flat bottom boats, 9 Zodiac boats and two bridge erection boats.

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) has 29 agents going door-to-door to spread the word about the mandatory evacuation in the area. LDWF has 47 agents with 47 vessels and 47 trucks en route to the area. The assets will be staged at the Creek Side Elementary School in Pearl River. The Wildlife and Fisheries agents will be deployed for any search and rescue missions that may take place if the lock fails.

The Department of Health and Hospitals is deploying three ambulances to St. Tammany Parish to transport medically fragile evacuees.