WASHINGTON - At the direction of President Barack Obama, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) continues to coordinate the federal government's efforts to support state, local, tribal, private sector, and faith-based and non-profit partners, as the Gulf Coast states respond and recover in the wake of Isaac.

FEMA and Federal partners remain on the ground in communities affected by Hurricane Isaac. More than 1350 FEMA staff are on the ground in Louisiana and Mississippi, including 200 Community Relations staff who are assessing needs within the community and providing situational awareness to the state and local governments.

Incident Management Assistance teams are also on the ground in Mississippi and Louisiana to support state and local needs. Mobile Emergency Response Teams also are in Louisiana and Mississippi to support state emergency communications requirements including voice, video and information services.

As the floodwaters begin to recede, I urge disaster survivors not to return home until local officials give the all clear. There may be hazards that prevent you from being able to return to your home or place of business. Please check with your local officials before you return.

I am proud of the way the federal government and our partners are working together to assist the people of the Gulf Coast during this difficult time. I appreciate the cooperation of state and local governments, communities and faith-based and non-profit organizations. The Federal Government stands ready to support our partners as they continue their work.

I would like to thank all of the volunteers who have given their time and energy to help those affected by Hurricane Isaac. You continue to make a difference in the lives of those in need.