



PREPAREDNESS NEWS AND INFORMATION

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

August 20, 2004

NATIONAL NEWS

[A Storm Of Help Follows Charley](#)

The Christian Science Monitor, August 18, 2004

Relying on a combination of grit and gratitude, Floridians are fighting to reclaim their lives in the aftermath of hurricane Charley. They are doing it with the help of an array of local, state, and federal officials who continue to arrive by the hundreds to assist in the relief effort.

[Roads Now Clear For Federal Money](#)

The News-Press, August 16, 2004

President Bush's declaration on Friday that much of Florida is a federal disaster area will allow billions in federal money to flow into damaged communities.

[President Orders Disaster Aid For Florida Storm Victims](#)

[With Laptops And Flashlights, Relief Agency Sets Up Shop](#)

The New York Times, August 17, 2004

On the first business day since Hurricane Charley slammed into Charlotte County, the Federal Emergency Management Agency on Monday was looking past disaster relief to recovery. The agency opened its first disaster relief center, where homeowners and business owners could come to apply for help like low-interest loans and unemployment insurance benefits.

[Federal Relief Is Distributed In Florida Areas Hit By Storm](#)

[Homeland Chief Promises Staff, \\$11 Million Aid](#)

The News-Press, August 18, 2004

The federal government will give Florida all the assistance it needs as the state rebuilds from Hurricane Charley, Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge promised after touring Southwest Florida's most devastated areas Tuesday afternoon.

[Homeland Security And HHS Chiefs Say Feds Will Ante Up](#)

[AMC Delivers Hurricane Relief](#)

Air Force Link, August 16, 2004

Air Mobility Command began operations Aug. 13 to support the Federal Emergency Management Agency by providing emergency relief to areas in Florida devastated by Hurricane Charley.

[Search And Rescue Dogs Deployed In The Aftermath Of Hurricane Charley](#)

PR Newswire, August 14, 2004

National Disaster Search Dog Foundation announced the deployment of key canine search teams from the Florida area as a result of the devastation of Hurricane Charley which left more than 1.8 million people without power, and widespread building damage in from the Fort Myers to Daytona areas.

[Tennessee Search And Rescue Team Goes To Florida](#)

[HSUS: Animal Rescue Efforts Underway In Florida](#)

U.S. Newswire, August 16, 2004

Disaster response experts from The Humane Society of the United States are on the ground in Florida and have established a temporary shelter to receive and house stray or injured animals.

MEMA Staff Heads To Florida

The Sun Herald, August 17, 2004

The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency on Tuesday sent three staff members to Florida to assist with Hurricane Charley recovery efforts.

SWEPCO Workers Assisting Hurricane Recovery

TheHometownChannel.com, August 17, 2004

A local electric company has sent 18 men to the Gulf Coast to restore electricity to victims of Hurricane Charley.

A Hurricane's Lessons In Florida

The Christian Science Monitor, August 16, 2004

Residents begin the massive cleanup of one of the costliest US natural disasters ever.

OPM Issues Emergency Personnel Regulations After Hurricane Hits Florida

GovExec.com, August 16, 2004

The Office of Personnel Management last week issued a series of regulations to help federal agencies respond to the aftermath of Hurricane Charley and hire emergency personnel who are needed in recovery efforts.

Health Threats Become A Concern In Aftermath Of Hurricane

The New York Times, August 18, 2004

Disaster relief officials warned on Tuesday that stressful housing conditions, intense summer heat and diseases from contaminated food and water could cause the problems from Hurricane Charley to increase in coming days.

Federal Agents Added To Flights

The Washington Times, August 17, 2004

Homeland Security Undersecretary Asa Hutchinson yesterday told senators that Secret Service agents and other armed federal officials are being used to bolster the Federal Air Marshal Service's efforts to guard airplanes from terrorist attacks.

Local Officials Bemoan Process For 'First Responder' Aid

GovExec.com, August 13, 2004

A report published by the House Homeland Security Committee showed that first responders have not yet received most of the \$6.3 billion in federal aid designated for terrorism preparedness.

Federal Official Outlines Choices For Emergency Responders

DHS Developing Plan To Improve Communication Among First Responders

GovExec.com, August 12, 2004

Several initiatives have been launched to better coordinate the efforts of "first responders" to emergencies to improve communication among agencies and law enforcement. A standardized framework of common terminology and protocols for all levels of government was created under the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

Lab Forges Link To Homeland Security

Sentinel Online, August 17, 2004

A research partnership between the federal Department of Homeland Security and the Air Force Research Laboratory at Griffiss Business Park was announced today.

THE CONGRESS

[9/11 Commissioners Cite Continued Gaps In Transportation Security](#)

GovExec.com, August 16, 2004

The leadership of the 9/11 commission on Monday urged the Homeland Security Department to produce a comprehensive plan for infrastructure protection and to take over management and enforcement of lists that prevent certain people from flying on commercial airplanes.

[Castle: Better Rail, Air Security Needed](#)

[9/11 Panel Seeks Billions More In Federal Spending](#)

GovExec.com, August 18, 2004

Commissioners do not deny that they made several expensive recommendations, but say federal agencies have no other choice but to make investments in order to protect the public.

HEARINGS

- [Chairman Cox Opening Statement: Homeland Security Committee Examines 9/11 Commission Recommendations On Information Sharing](#), *U.S. House Of Representatives Select Committee On Homeland Security*, August 17, 2004
- [Statement By The Honorable Lee Hamilton At House Homeland Security Committee Hearing](#), *U.S. House Of Representatives Select Committee On Homeland Security*, August 17, 2004

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

[Hurricane Charley Deals A Devastating Blow](#)

CattleNetwork.com, August 17, 2004

Charley, a category 4 hurricane, made landfall along Florida's west coast on August 13, dealing a devastating blow to the Fort Myers and Port Charlotte/Punta Gorda areas. Charley caused extensive wind and storm-surge damage along and to the south of its point of landfall, which occurred on North Captiva Island.

[Fire Crews Head South After Evacuations](#)

St. Petersburg Times, August 17, 2004

A group of Largo firefighters joins several other bay area crews to help those in southern counties after diverting area residents from Charley's path.

[Search, Rescue Teams Return From Scenes Of Devastation](#)

Local10.com, August 17, 2004

Teams from Miami-Dade County and the city of Miami, along with search dogs, covered 40 square miles in the searches. They didn't find anyone, so they turned their efforts to helping the injured.

[Manatee Rescuers Ready For A Break](#)

Bradenton Herald, August 17, 2004

As part of the Tampa Bay Regional urban search and rescue team, Bradenton firefighters were one of the first special operations teams to arrive in Charlotte County hours after Hurricane Charley charged its way into Florida through the mouth of the harbor on Friday. Seventy-two hours later, the team's ready to go home.

[No Bodies Or Survivors Found As Search Nears Completion](#)

[Hernando Response Team Set To Help Victims](#)

St. Petersburg Times, August 18, 2004

The county's emergency volunteers are being asked by the state to sort, pack and deliver relief donations.

[Local Volunteers Lend A Hand In Charley's Wake](#)

[Inmates Help Clean Up Destruction Caused By Hurricane Charley](#)

PolkOnline.com, August 17, 2004

Local residents and emergency workers aren't going to have to do all the cleaning up after Hurricane Charley. The sheriff's office is putting at least 50 inmates to work in communities hardest hit by the storm.

[City Recognizes New Emergency Service](#)

The Malibu Times, August 19, 2004

A Malibu doctor is lobbying the city to endorse the emergency response program he created to address what he sees as deficiencies in the city's disaster preparedness, but the city has been slow to react to what it says is another incarnation of a response team it already has.

[Mock Drill Provides Serious Education](#)

North East Booster, August 18, 2004

The drill, designed by the county's Office of Emergency Management, began early Saturday morning at the light rail station in Hunt Valley. While this is the second year the county has conducted a full-scale, mock mass-casualty disaster, it's the first time area hospitals asked to be included.

[City Moving Closer To Getting Warning Sirens](#)

The Dothan Eagle, August 18, 2004

Dothan commissioners are closer to committing money to buy additional warning sirens as recommended by the Houston County Emergency Management Agency and Local Emergency Planning Commission.

[New CISAC Fellows To Pursue Broader Homeland Security Strategies](#)

Stanford Report, August 18, 2004

Eight scholars have been awarded a new multidisciplinary fellowship to investigate ways governments and agencies can be organized to respond more effectively to terrorism.

[Indiana Experts Taking Security Steps -- Just In Case](#)

Northwest Indiana Times, August 16, 2004

Agriculture and security officials in Indiana say the nation cannot disregard the threat of terrorism against farm targets, even through the chances of an attack may seem low.

RELATED INFORMATION

RECENT REPORTS

- [Homeland Security: Efforts Underway To Develop Enterprise Architecture, But Much Work Remains](#), August 2004

SPOTLIGHT WEBSITES

- [FEMA Hurricane Charley Information](#), www.fema.gov

- [Florida Division Of Emergency Management](http://www.floridadisaster.org), *www.floridadisaster.org*
- [Disaster Help](http://www.disasterhelp.gov), *www.disasterhelp.gov*
- [Hurricane Charley Relief](http://www.hurricanecharleyrelief.com), *www.hurricanecharleyrelief.com*

OPINION

- [How Police Can Intervene](#), *The Washington Times*
- [Las Vegas: Media Got It Wrong On Terrorism](#), *Las Vegas Sun*

The information contained in this newsletter was collected from Internet sources. Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the official position of the Department of Homeland Security or FEMA's Preparedness Division.