



# Storm & Flood Preparedness

2011

INFORMATION TO HELP YOU MINIMIZE RISK TO LIFE AND PROPERTY

## Six years later, we must remain vigilant in efforts

My fellow residents:



We'll be observing the sixth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina this month, and with the quiet storm season we saw last year, that feeling of complacency may be creeping into some households.

This is fatalistic thinking. This is not time to let your guard down.

The authorities responsible for making predictions on how many storms we may see in a given year say that this year will be an above-normal hurricane season.

NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, a division of the National Weather Service, has said that we can expect:

- 12 to 18 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which:
- 6 to 10 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including:
- 3 to 6 major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5; winds of 111 mph or higher)

NOAA says there's a 70 percent likelihood that these numbers will occur, and they also say that data indicates we'll see more than the seasonal average of 11 named storms, six hurricanes and two major hurricanes.

The key thing that we remind you each year at this time is to prepare. Have a storm plan for your family that answers key questions (See "Think ahead" on Page 2, and "Before Hurricane Approaches" on Page 6). Have a plan for your business. Make sure everyone in your family or your co-workers are aware of the plan and the role they play in that plan.

Communication is the key to any plan.

In city government, public safety is one of our basic responsibilities to you. In the case of storms, our role is to inform you of the everyday steps you should take to prepare for storms or inclement weather, and as the threat approaches we communicate to you the best information we have when we have it. With that information, you can make an informed decision on what is best for you and your family. As many longtime residents know, the information we pass along to you is usually in the form of advice or recommendations; in extraordinary cases, when it becomes clear that life-threatening conditions are imminent, you can expect to see mandatory evacuations being ordered.

The information in this newsletter is designed to help educate you about what you should be doing now, and what you should be doing when a storm threatens. Remember, this information is not exclusively for hurricanes. It's called Storm & Flood Preparedness for a reason. Minimal storms or even strong rainstorms can cause flooding or other damage.

I ask you do your part to prepare.

God bless you and God bless Biloxi.

August 2011

Mayor A.J. Holloway and the Biloxi City Council:

George Lawrence • William "Bill" Stallworth  
Lucy Denton • Clark Griffith • Tom Wall  
Edward "Ed" Gemmill • David Fayard

## WHAT TO DO AND WHEN TO DO IT

Residents of Biloxi can plan on seeing a constant flow of information regarding weather bulletins and advice this hurricane season, as well as early warnings about storms. Here are key timelines to remember:



Hurricane Katrina bearing down on the Gulf Coast

### 72 hours before landfall

If Biloxi is in the probability cone, expect to see a recommended evacuation announcement.

### 48 hours before landfall

If Biloxi is in the probability cone, expect to see a mandatory evacuation order for Zone A and low-lying areas. At this point, casino resorts are expected to close.

### 36 hours before landfall

If Biloxi is in the probability cone, expect to see a mandatory evacuation order for Zone B.

### What you can do now

Don't wait until a tropical depression or hurricane is in the Gulf to begin preparing. There are steps you can take now. See the list on Page 6.

### More info

- To see evacuation zones and evacuation routes, see map on Page 2.
- Information also will be available via city e-news, and through a recorded message on the City of Biloxi Storm Info Line, which is at 435-6300.

## The story of a lifetime

Cable One will air the city's award-winning documentary "Katrina & Biloxi" on Aug. 29, the sixth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina striking the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The cable company is showing the 50-minute documentary to all of its Mississippi Gulf Coast customers as a public service, to help remind residents about the dangers of storms and flooding. Read more about the annual cablecast and find out how you can get your own commemorative DVD and photo album on Page 4.

# Do you have flood insurance?

Some homeowners may have been required to buy flood insurance when they obtained a mortgage or home-improvement loan.

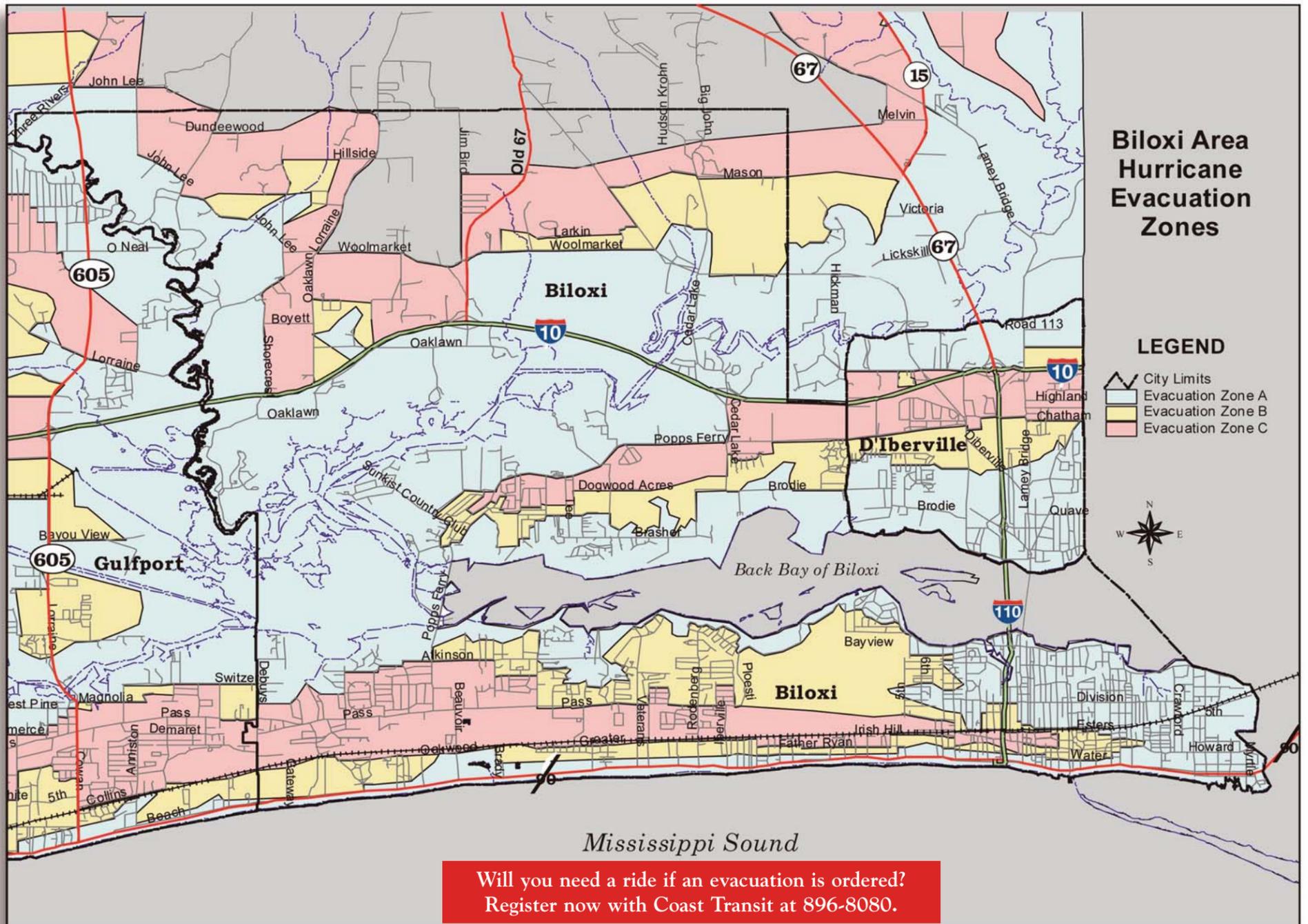
However, in many cases, these policies cover only the structure and not your possessions. You can protect your home and contents through the National Flood Insurance Program, in which the City of Biloxi participates.

Local insurance agents can sell a flood-insurance policy separate from your homeowners or windstorm policy. Anyone can get – and everyone should have – flood insurance.

These policies are regulated by the federal government. Any agent can sell a policy and all agents must charge the same rates, which are set nationally. Your rates will not change even if you file a claim.

**There is a 30-day waiting period before the policy becomes effective.**

Contact your insurance agent to determine what type of coverage you have.



# Think ahead on evacuations, storm shelters

One of the toughest decisions that residents may have to make on when a storm approaches is whether they should evacuate their property and possessions for either a local shelter or out-of-town accommodations.

Depending on the severity of the storm, that decision can be made for those in low-lying areas: local authorities may order a mandatory evacuation.

In Biloxi, as many as six hurricane shelters can be activated in times of peril, but residents need to be aware of several factors if they are considering seeking refuge in a shelter.

The decision to open a shelter is usually based on the intensity of a storm and where it is expected to make landfall. Local Emergency Management leaders make the decision to open shelters in coordination with the American Red Cross, and the public is notified through

the media. In many cases, elementary schools are used for shelters, which are manned by Red Cross workers and public safety officers.

And the shelter sites can vary from year to year and storm to storm.

“The category of storms and the direction they are coming from are just a couple of the considerations when determining which shelters will be used,” Biloxi Emergency Management coordinator Sgt. Milton Houseman of the Biloxi Police Department says. “Things like tides are also a consideration, so the locations of shelters and when they are activated are made on a case-by-case basis.”

If you think you may seek refuge in a shelter, some points to consider:

- Bring enough food and water for at least the first

day. Bring your own blankets and other personal needs. Cots cannot be guaranteed. No pets, firearms, alcohol or tobacco products are allowed.

- Public transit systems – buses and taxis – will stop operating when sustained winds reach 35 mph.
- If you have an infant, bring an adequate supply of diapers and formula.
- If you or a member of your family is on a special diet, bring the necessary food.
- If you are on prescription medication, try to have a two-week supply of medication.

If you’re thinking about evacuating, be familiar with evacuation routes. Traffic may be delayed by bridges opening to marine traffic. Bridges, by the way, will not open for marine traffic when sustained winds reach 35 mph.

# It's illegal to sweep clippings into the street

Chances are, you’ve seen it done or even done it yourself: You cut your lawn, rake up the trimmings and pile them near the curb in front of your home. Or, you’ll sweep the trimmings into the street, where you hope they’ll be carried away by the wind.

These two scenarios result in one of the biggest causes of flooding in the city – **blocked storm drains**. These careless or unthinking actions negate the millions of dollars in improvements that the city is making citywide to drainage systems.

Piling leaves at the curb or sweeping trimmings into the street means that they will eventually find their way into the city’s storm drains. Either bag the leaves for pickup or

compost them. A stopped-up storm drain or ditch cannot carry run-off water as it is intended to do. When it rains, that water can flood streets, your property or your neighbor’s property.

It’s actually a violation of city ordinance to dump any material into storm drains, ditches, culverts, streams or waterways. (Sec. 9-1-15, Code of Ordinances, 1992). If you see anyone dumping debris into storm drains, ditches, culverts or streams, please contact the Public Works Department at 435-6271 or online at [rullivan@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:rullivan@biloxi.ms.us), or the Code Enforcement staff in the Community Development Department, 435-6270 or online at [dking@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:dking@biloxi.ms.us).

# Major repairs to flood-zone homes may trigger code issues

Homeowners with damaged structures in a flood zone will be required to make sure their homes fully comply with flood regulations before the city can issue a building permit for repairs, according to FEMA regulations.

Community Development Director Jerry Creel said some property owners may find that their homes had been built before standards were in place to govern construction in flood zones.

"Those who are looking to repair heavily damaged homes in a flood zone should be aware of a few things," Creel said. "If the damage amount exceeds 50 percent of the fair market value of the home, it's considered 'substantially damaged' by FEMA. This means that in order for a building permit to be issued, the home must be brought into full compliance with the city's flood ordinance and FEMA regulations."

A number of homes, particularly older ones in east

Biloxi, were built decades ago, before flood-zone regulations existed.

"They were grandfathered in, but the grandfather clauses will not carry over into additions or new construction," Creel said. "One of the biggest issues that property owners will face is that regulations now call for structures in flood zones to be elevated to the new D-Firms base flood elevations, which could range from 12 to 17 feet above the mean sea level, depending on the location of the property."

The city does not allow property owners to re-build in a manner that violates floodplain management regulations, Creel said, nor can they replace previously existing violations that were damaged in the storm.

"Failure to comply with the codes will result in significantly higher flood insurance rates for everyone," Creel said, "and, frankly, insurance rates will end up

increasing for all property owners."

In 2009, Biloxi's flood insurance rating improved from a 7 to a 6.

Biloxi residents, even those covered under the windpool, are eligible for flood insurance discounts of up to 20 percent, thanks to the city's enforcement of flood-zone regulations and its continuing efforts to educate the public about how to minimize the threat of storms and flooding.

You can see an online map showing flood zones in Biloxi at [biloxi.ms.us](http://biloxi.ms.us). You may also contact floodplain manager Rick Stickler at [rstickler@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:rstickler@biloxi.ms.us) or at 435-6270.

The flood zone map is also available at the Community Development Department on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard or at the Woolmarket Fire Station on Woolmarket Road.

## Be sure to get a building permit before construction

When you or a licensed contractor make repairs or alterations to your property, those repairs should be in compliance with established building codes. This ensures that work is up to code and will be able to withstand most weather conditions.

To make sure that your plans are within code, a building permit must be obtained from the City of Biloxi Building Division before you build, alter, regrade or fill on your property.

New buildings in the floodplain must be protected from flood damage. Biloxi's building code requires that new buildings must be elevated to the new D-Firms base flood elevation. (See the enclosed map for a view of the 100-year floodplain.)

The code also requires all additions and "substantial" improvements or repairs from damage to a building be treated as new construction. A substantial improvement or repair is one in which the value of an addition, alteration, repair or reconstruction project exceeds 50 percent of the total value of the existing building.

Before you begin a project, contact the Building Division at 435-6270 or online at [building@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:building@biloxi.ms.us). Qualified staff can help make sure that your project complies with building codes. Biloxi is currently under the 2008 IBC and the 2005 National Electrical Code.

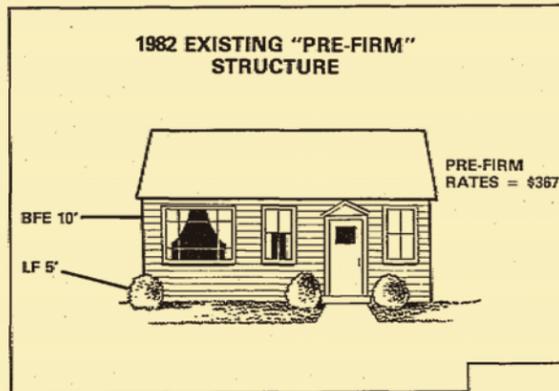
### Contractors must have city license

Property owners are warned to beware of transient contractors who typically set up shop in the wake of disasters such as Hurricane Katrina.

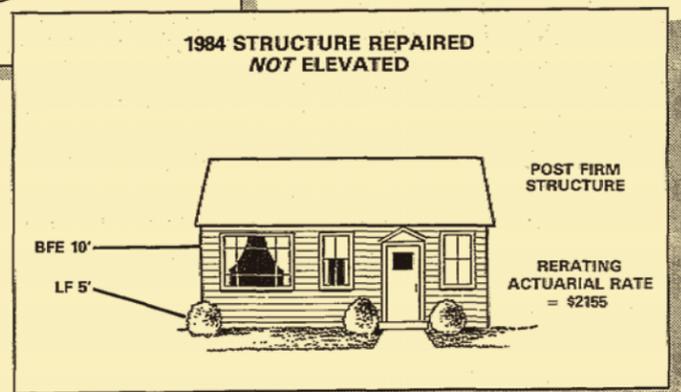
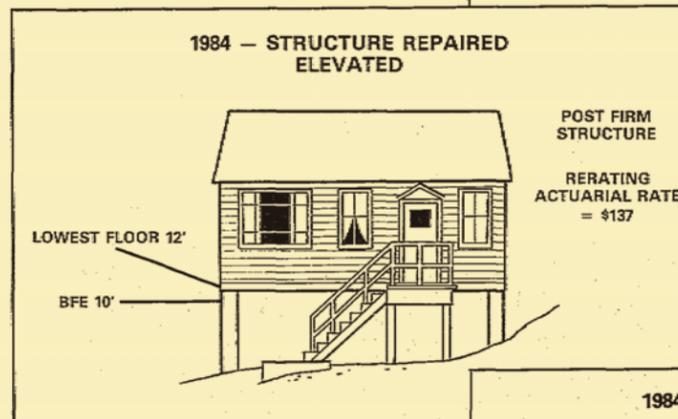
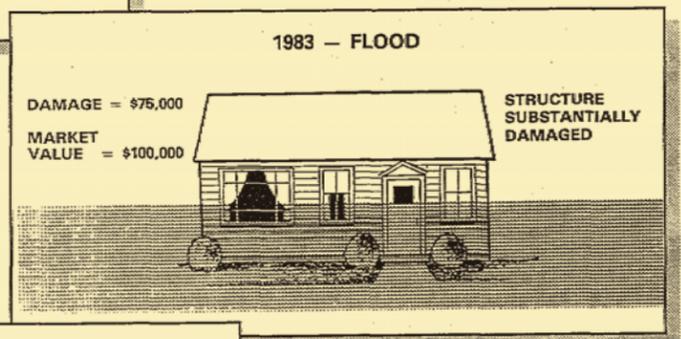
Ask to see the person's City of Biloxi license card, which is required to do business in this city. Do not pay any money in advance. Do not sign any contracts. And do not pay any money until the work has been inspected and approved by a city inspector.

If you have any questions or concerns, call the Community Development Department at 435-6280.

## How elevations impact your insurance rates



This 1980s FEMA graphic, which was originally distributed to Biloxi residents in December, 2005 illustrates the implications that homeowners face when making repairs to homes that pre-date the Flood Insurance Rate Map. In short, if your substantially damaged home is in a flood-prone area of the city and if your repairs did not include bringing the structure into compliance with current flood elevations, you face significant increases in the cost of your flood insurance. You can see the flood-prone areas of the city in the map on Pages 6 and 7 of this mailout. A larger version can be viewed online at [biloxi.ms.us](http://biloxi.ms.us) or at any city facility.



## You can take steps now to protect your property against flooding

There are some steps that you can take now to prepare your property against flooding.

One option may be "retrofitting," which is altering your home to eliminate or reduce flood damage.

### A few things to consider:

- Elevate your building so that flood waters do not enter or reach any susceptible portions.
- Construct barriers out of fill or concrete between your building and flood waters.
- "Dry flood proof" your non-residential building, which entails making walls and flooring watertight so water cannot enter.
- "Wet flood proof" your non-residential building, which entails modifying the structure and relocating

contents to lessen the damage caused by any flood waters that enter your structure.

- Sandbagging is a short-term measure that can also be helpful.

The City of Biloxi is home to many reputable, licensed building contractors who are qualified to make repairs for you. However, after each storm, a number of transient contractors sets up temporary shop in our community. **Before signing any contract or paying any money for repair work, you should ask to see the person's City of Biloxi license.**

If you have any doubts or questions, contact the Building Division at 435-6270 or online at [building@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:building@biloxi.ms.us) to ensure that this individual is licensed to operate in the City of Biloxi.

## Need More Info?

- To read FEMA's answers to frequently asked questions about repairing significantly damaged properties in flood zones, visit [biloxi.ms.us](http://biloxi.ms.us).
- To read FEMA's "Homebuilder's Guide to Coastal Construction," which provides technical guidance and recommendations concerning the construction of coastal residential, visit [biloxi.ms.us](http://biloxi.ms.us).
- Those with other questions can call the Community Development Department at 435-6280 or e-mail [building@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:building@biloxi.ms.us).

# Take a free ride

## Coast Transit urges needy to register now for emergency evacuation transportation

Coast Transit Authority is reminding residents in need of emergency storm-evacuation transportation to sign up now.

"We strongly advise that if at all possible you make your own emergency evacuation plans and evacuate the area when instructed to do so by the county EMA," said CTA Director Kevin Coggin. "It is always best to have your own plans in place, but we are available to provide assistance to the citizens of Harrison County if they need it."

CTA is managing the evacuation transportation program for Harrison County and will be providing transportation assistance for out-of-town evacuations, to local shelters of last resort, and shelters for pets and their owners.

Residents are advised to sign up now if there is a chance

they will need evacuation transportation. You should register with Coast Transit Authority immediately to make sure you are on the list to receive assistance.

The number to call is 896-8080.

Spanish speaking operators are available. CTA also needs to know as soon as possible of any special medical or other needs to those being transported.

Transportation to a pet shelter will be provided for dogs, cats, and birds only. The pets must be in carriers that can be lifted and loaded by the pet owner. There will be no assistance for loading and unloading pets.

The Harrison County Emergency Management Agency and the Humane Society of South Mississippi are providing

a pet shelter, but the pet owners must accompany the pet during transportation and stay at the same shelter with their pets.

Only two carry-on items per person will be allowed on the buses, either two bags or one bag and one pet carrier. There will be no exceptions.

"It is critical that you go ahead now and make preparations to leave if an evacuation is called," Coggin said. "You should prepare the items you must have to leave in orderly fashion so that you can leave quickly and you should have pet carriers in hand ready to use if you intend to take a pet. And, you should register immediately if you think you could require our assistance."

## You can get free how-to info on preparation and construction

Need more information about flood preparation and construction? The city has assembled a wealth of free how-to booklets about steps that you can take to minimize damage from storms and flooding.

The books are available at these locations:

- Community Development Department, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Municipal Building, 435-6280.
  - City Hall lobby, Lameuse Street.
  - Donal Snyder Sr. Community Center, Pass Road
  - Biloxi public libraries (Lameuse Street, Popp's Ferry Road, Division Street and Pass Road).
  - Woolmarket Fire Station, 8479 Woolmarket Road
- You can also contact the City's Building or Code Enforcement divisions online at [biloxi.ms.us/communitydevelopment](http://biloxi.ms.us/communitydevelopment).

For detailed info on building permits and construction requirements, contact the Building and Code Enforcement divisions at the Community Development Department, 435-6270 or online at [building@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:building@biloxi.ms.us). Those planning work in a flood-prone area should contact floodplain manager Rick Stickler at [rstickler@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:rstickler@biloxi.ms.us) or at 435-6270.

You can obtain a number of helpful emergency preparedness brochures online at FEMA's website ([www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)) or from the National Hurricane Center ([www.noaa.nhc.gov](http://www.noaa.nhc.gov)).

## Storm, disaster info can be kid stuff, thanks to website

It's never too soon to begin the education process about storms and the damage they can cause, and a host of educational activities especially for children are now available online.

The Flood and Storm section of Biloxi's web site (<http://biloxi.ms.us>) includes a direct link to

FEMA for Kids, which

features Herman, "the spokescrab" and kid-style information on how to be prepared for disasters and how you can prevent disaster damage.

Parents and teachers will find a number of family or classroom activities for groups.

To see the FEMA for Kids site, visit <http://biloxi.ms.us/floodstorm> and click on For Kids at the top right.



President Bush consoles east Biloxi residents in this image from the city-commissioned documentary 'Katrina and Biloxi.'

## City, Cable One to air 'Katrina & Biloxi'

The City of Biloxi and Cable One will air "Katrina & Biloxi: A Story of Resolve and Resilience" on Monday Aug. 29, the fifth anniversary of the storm, to help educate residents about the dangers of storms and flooding.

Cable One will air the program Coastwide at 10:30 a.m., 8:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. on Cable 13.

The 50-minute documentary includes video of the city before, during and after the storm and uses interviews with Biloxi leaders, residents and volunteers to tell the story of Biloxi's encounter with Katrina, the worst natural disaster to ever strike the United States.

"This is a great story," Mayor A.J. Holloway said of the documentary, "and I hope Biloxi residents and all residents of the Gulf Coast tune in so they'll be reminded of just how great our community is, and how far we've come. The biggest thing people, though, is to heed the advice you'll hear in this presentation: take storms seriously and prepare accordingly."

The 50-minute documentary is part of a DVD produced by the city and Tom Nebel Productions, a firm that accompanied the Atlanta Fire Department to Biloxi in the aftermath of the storm. The DVD also comes with a 52-page full-color photo album that was produced by the city and The Ad Group, a Biloxi advertising agency.

The \$85,000 investment has grossed nearly \$350,000 for the city, with sales in 46 of the 50 states and around the globe. Online discounts are available at [biloxi.ms.us](http://biloxi.ms.us).

The "Katrina & Biloxi" effort has won awards from the American Advertising Federation and the Public Relations Association of Mississippi.

## Federal agencies encouraging residents to use direct deposit

In those critical days after Hurricane Katrina, the U.S. Treasury Department worked with the Social Security Administration to get displaced Social Security and other federal benefit checks to recipients, as quickly as possible. But those who already were using direct deposit had immediate access to their funds from virtually anywhere, thanks to ATMs and financial institution networks.

That's why the Treasury and the Federal Reserve Banks – through **Go Direct** – are urging Social Security check

recipients who live along the Gulf Coast to switch to direct deposit. The recommendation, offered in light of devastating hurricanes, is aimed at ensuring citizens receive their federal benefits without disruption.

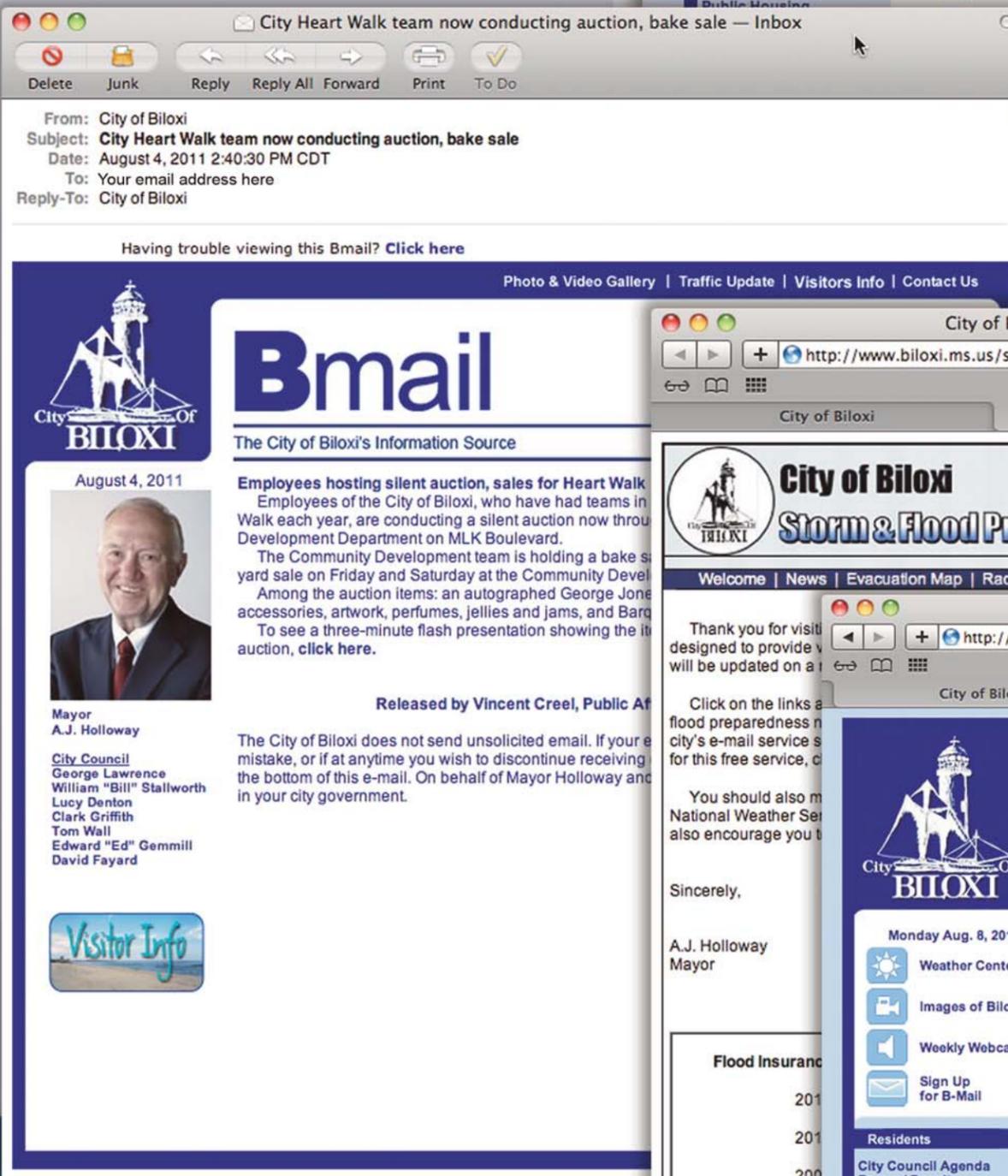
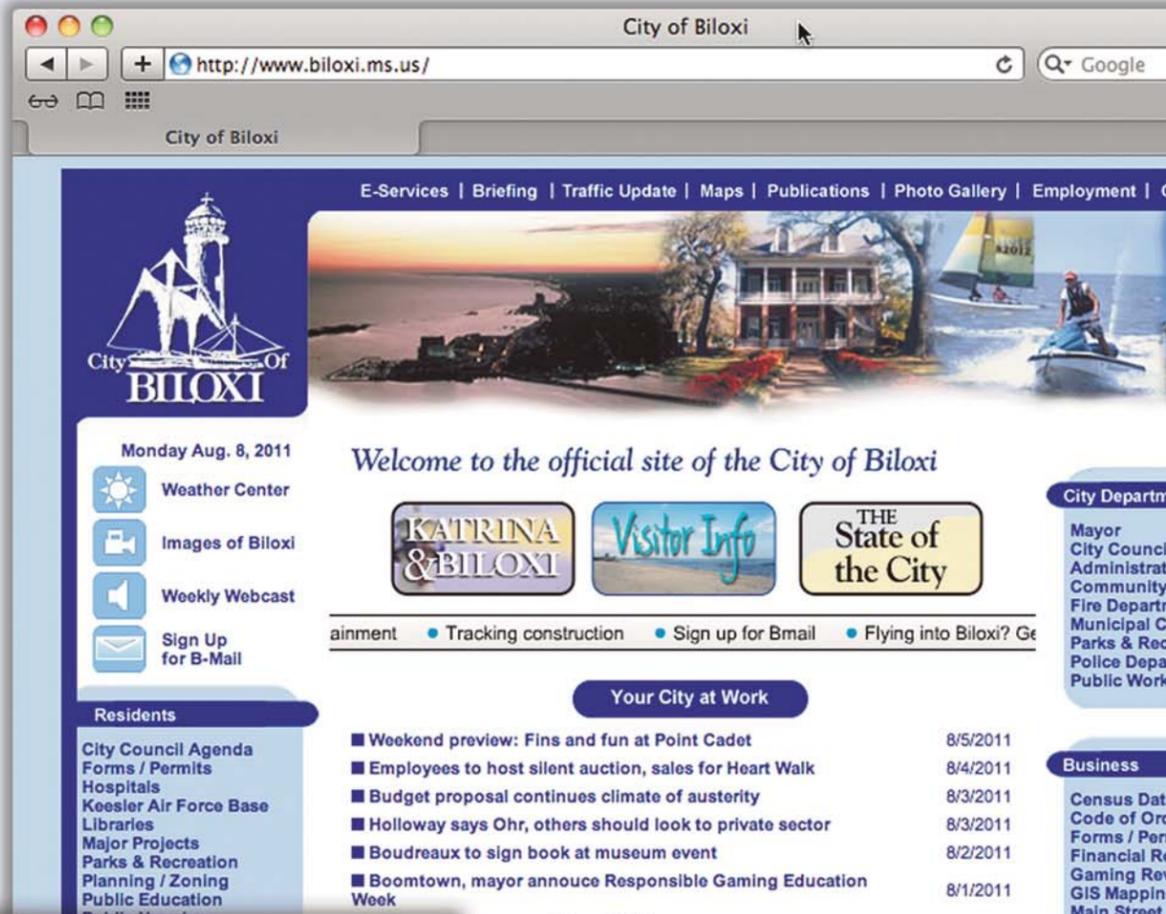
**Go Direct** makes it easy to sign up for direct deposit. People can sign up by calling the toll-free **Go Direct** helpline at (800) 333-1795 or by visiting [www.GoDirect.org](http://www.GoDirect.org) to sign up online. To learn more about **Go Direct**, visit [www.GoDirect.org](http://www.GoDirect.org).

# We deliver.

Thousands of people turn to the Biloxi web site each day to find out details about upcoming city meetings, special events, issues of local interest, or to see the hundreds of online photos or hours of video.

But you don't have to visit the web site each day for information. We can deliver it directly to your Inbox with Bmail, the city's free e-news service. Thousands of Biloxi residents and interested followers from across the country already use Bmail to keep up with Biloxi's progress. You should, too.

Just to go biloxi.ms.us and click on Bmail to sign up. It's free. It's all Biloxi. All the time. And pass the word to your neighbors, and friends and family across the country.



biloxi.ms.us



# king Map



## Stay tuned for more storm information

The National Weather Service monitors hurricane and storm activity, and issues official bulletins to local and regional TV and radio stations. Since television coverage may be interrupted by power outages, you should also have a battery-operated radio to follow emergency advisories. It is vital that you monitor these weather broadcasts, especially as a storm approaches.

Additionally, the City of Biloxi relays vital information on a regular basis through its online e-mail program. To sign up for the notices, visit <http://biloxi.ms.us>, where you'll also find detailed and regularly updated weather forecasts.

Here is a list of local outlets where you can obtain information:

### Television

WLOX-TV 13  
WXXV-TV 25  
The Weather Channel

### Radio-FM

WQYZ 92.5  
WMJY 93.7  
WJZD 94.5  
WZNF 95.3  
WUJM 96.7  
WCPR 97.9  
WKNN 99.1  
WGCM 102.3  
WBUV 104.9  
WXRG 105.9  
WXYK 107.1  
WZKX 107.9

### Radio-AM

WQFX 1130  
WBSL 1190  
WGCM 1240  
WROA 1390  
WXBD 1490  
WTNI 1640

### Online

biloxi.ms.us  
sunherald.com  
wlox.com

### By Phone

City of Biloxi  
Storm Info Line  
435-6300

## 2010 Storm Names

Arlene	Harvey	Ophelia
Bret	Irene	Philippe
Cindy	Jose	Rina
Don	Katia	Sean
Emily	Lee	Tammy
Franklin	Maria	Vince
Gert	Nate	Whitney

### Major flood-producing storms that have impacted Biloxi since 1969 include:

- Hurricane Camille
- Hurricane Elena
- Tropical Storm Allison
- Hurricane Frederic
- Hurricane Georges
- Tropical Storm Isidore
- Hurricane Katrina

## Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale

**1** 74-95 mph No real damage to building structures. Damage primarily to unanchored mobile homes, shrubbery, and trees. Also, some coastal road flooding and minor pier damage

**2** 96-110 mph Some roofing material, door and window damage to buildings. Considerable damage to vegetation, mobile homes, and piers. Coastal and low-lying escape routes flood 2-4 hours before arrival of center. Small craft in unprotected anchorages break moorings.

**3** 111-130 mph Some structural damage to small residences and utility buildings with a minor amount of curtain-wall failures. Mobile homes are destroyed. Flooding near the coast destroys smaller structures with larger structures damaged by floating debris. Terrain continuously lower than 5 feet above sea level (ASL) may be flooded inland 8 miles or more.

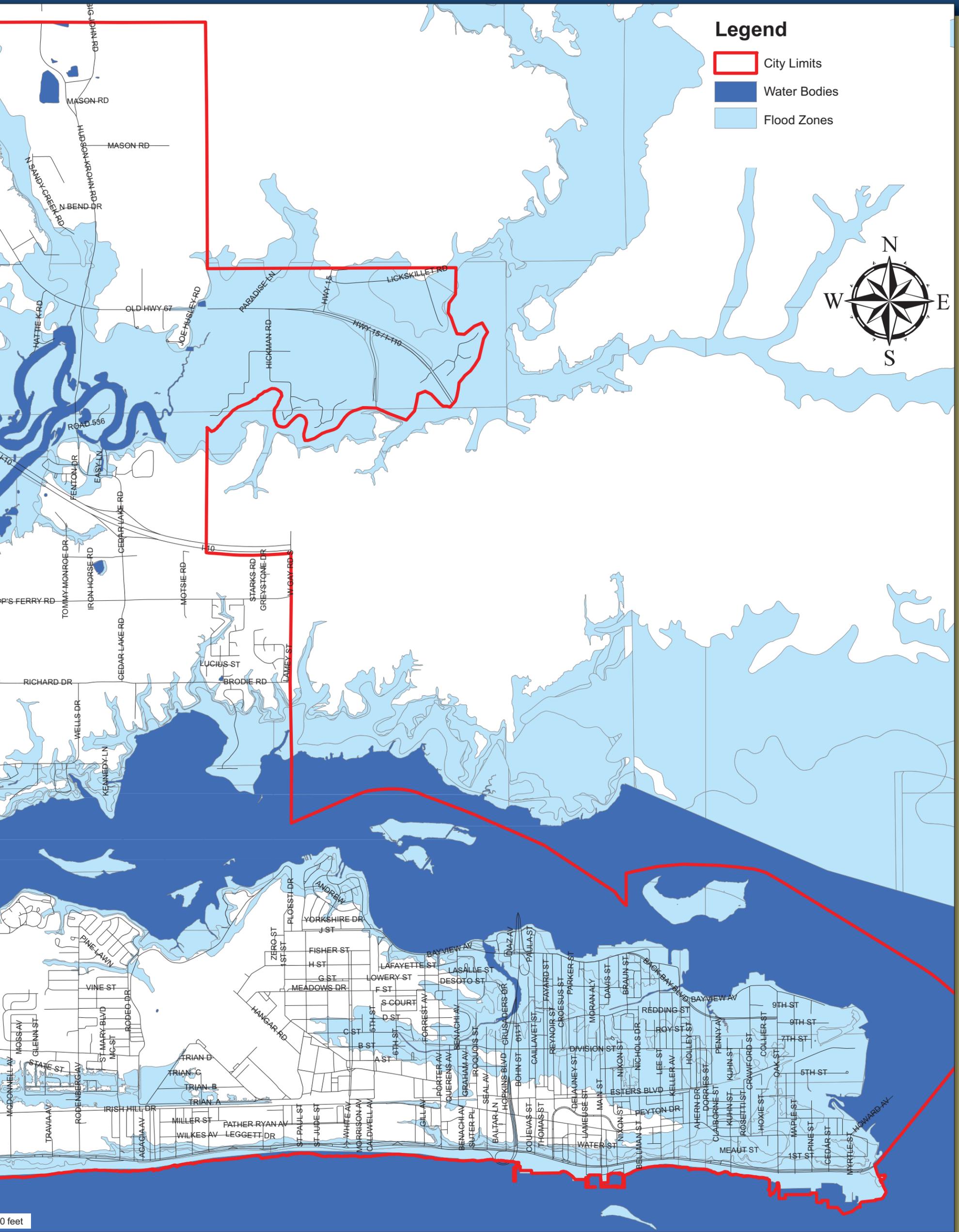
**4** 131-155 mph More extensive curtain wall failures with some complete roof structure failure on small residences. Major erosion of beach. Major damage to lower floors of structures near the shore. Terrain continuously lower than 10 feet ASL may be flooded requiring massive evacuation of residential areas inland as far as 6 miles.

**5** greater than 155 mph Complete roof failure on many residences and industrial buildings. Some complete building failures with small utility buildings blown over or away. Major damage to lower floors of all structures located less than 15 feet ASL and within 500 yards of the shoreline. Massive evacuation of residential areas on low ground within 5 to 10 miles of the shoreline may be required.

## AFTER THE STORM

- Stay tuned to local radio for information.
- Help injured or trapped persons.
- Give first aid where appropriate.
- Do not move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger of further injury. Call for help.
- Return home only after authorities advise that it is safe to do so.
- Avoid loose or dangling power lines and report them immediately to the power company, police, or fire department.
- Enter your home with caution. Beware of snakes, insects, and animals driven to higher ground by flood water.
- Open windows and doors to ventilate and dry your home.
- Check refrigerated foods for spoilage; if electricity is off, keep refrigerator and freezer closed as much as possible.
- Take pictures of the damage, both to the house and its contents for insurance claims.
- Drive only if absolutely necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges. Refrain from sightseeing.
- Use telephone only for emergency calls.
- Inspecting utilities in a damaged home
  - Check for gas leaks. If you smell gas or hear blowing or hissing noise, open a window and quickly leave the building. Turn off the gas at the outside main valve if you can and call the gas company from a neighbor's home. If you turn off the gas for any reason, it must be turned back on by a professional.
  - Look for electrical system damage. If you see sparks or broken or frayed wires, or if you smell hot insulation, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker. If you have to step in water to get to the fuse box or circuit breaker, call an electrician first for advice.
  - Check for sewage and water lines damage. If you suspect sewage lines are damaged avoid using the toilets and call a plumber. If water pipes are damaged, contact the water company and avoid the water from the tap. You can obtain safe water by melting ice cubes.





**Legend**

- City Limits
- Water Bodies
- Flood Zones



0 feet

**Where to turn for help**

The Community Development Department is here to help minimize the risk you face from storms and flooding. If you are having flooding problems, advice is available to help you resolve your flooding issues. To make an appointment, call contact Floodplain Manager Rick Stickler at (228) 435-6270 or [rstickler@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:rstickler@biloxi.ms.us)

Flood Protection Assistance also is available from such sources as the American Red Cross, the Small Business Administration, FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, United Way, Salvation Army, Catholic Social and Community Services, Back Bay Mission.



# Cảnh báo sớm về bão năm nay

Năm 2005 Biloxi đã chuẩn bị đối phó bão lụt kỹ hơn bao giờ hết trong lịch sử của thành phố, nhưng chính thành phố bị bão tàn phá này lại phải đương đầu với một loạt vấn đề mới trong mùa bão này mà chính xác là cư dân nhất thiết phải có kế hoạch đối phó bão của từng cá nhân và chuẩn bị sẵn các trang bị dự phòng bão.

Thị trưởng A.J. Holloway nói rằng đối với hơn 2,000 cư dân hiện đang sinh sống tạm thời trong trailers và lều trại và hàng ngàn tình nguyện viên thành phố, nắm được nguồn thông tin về bão lụt kịp thời sẽ vô cùng cần thiết trong mùa bão này. Ngoài ra, Holloway nói: “Cư dân nên dự đoán có những đề nghị sớm hơn thường lệ về việc di tản khỏi các khu vực đất thấp.”

“Chúng tôi đã nhắc đi nhắc lại với giới truyền thông quốc gia rằng cơn bão Katrina không phải là cuộc thử sức đầu tiên của chúng ta, mà chúng ta hy vọng nó sẽ chỉ là cuộc thử sức lớn nhất mà chúng ta từng thấy.” Holloway vừa qua đã nói với một nhóm gồm hơn hai chục lãnh đạo các ban ngành chủ chốt của thành phố và các trưởng phòng cấp trung trong các cuộc họp chuẩn bị đối phó bão. “Tất cả chúng ta đều biết nó sẽ chưa phải là cuộc thử sức cuối cùng. Tôi tự hào về toàn bộ công việc mà quý vị và toàn thể cư dân Biloxi đã làm và sẽ tiếp tục làm. Giờ đây, tôi đề nghị tất cả mọi người chuẩn bị lại.”

Năm nay, điều quan trọng nhất là, Holloway nói, phải thông báo việc di tản kịp thời cho công chúng biết.

“Nếu chúng ta ở trong vùng dự báo có bão”, ông nói, “người dân phải dự đoán sẽ có một thông báo di tản trong vòng 72 giờ, một cuộc di tản bắt buộc đối với Vùng A và các vùng thấp trong vòng 48 giờ, và một cuộc di tản bắt buộc đối với Vùng B trong vòng 36 giờ.”

Khi có lệnh di tản, cư dân sinh sống tạm thời trong các trailers không được đưa xe trên đường. Holloway nói: “Do không sử dụng cầu Biloxi-Ocean Springs trong mùa bão năm nay, chúng ta bị giới hạn ở một số tuyến đường di tản, và chúng ta không muốn bị những trailers này gây tắc nghẽn giao thông. Các trailers này phải ở đúng vị trí quy định.”

Biloxi sẽ mở đến năm trung tâm tạm cư, nhưng số lượng và địa điểm của các trung tâm này sẽ tùy thuộc vào chiều hướng và cường độ của cơn bão. Phương tiện vận chuyển công cộng sẽ được thông báo cho những người không có phương tiện để đi đến các trung tâm tạm cư ngoài thành phố. Ngoài ra, phải thông báo kế hoạch sử dụng đường tạm xe lưu thông hai chiều ở các trục đường chính sớm hơn thường lệ.

“Người dân không cần phải nhắc đến lần thứ hai mới di tản” Holloway tuyên bố, “nhưng chủ yếu là lệnh di tản phải phát sớm hơn, xét vì chúng ta phải đối phó nhiều yếu tố.”

Holloway và Giám đốc Quản lý David Staehling nói rằng thành phố đã chuẩn bị rất kỹ hơn bao giờ hết lúc Katrina ập vào ngày 29 tháng 8, 2005.

“Trước khi bão vào chúng tôi đã ký hợp đồng tạm thời dọn dẹp vật liệu đổ nát trước bão, về mặt này chúng ta đã giải quyết xong, và, dĩ nhiên, chúng ta cũng được hưởng chế độ bảo hiểm gián đoạn kinh doanh 10 triệu đô la” Staehling nói. “Năm nay chúng ta phải cẩn thận sắp xếp ổn thỏa lại các việc này, mặc dù chúng ta có thể gặp khó khăn trong việc xin thêm \$92,000 đô la cho bảo hiểm gián đoạn kinh doanh cho năm nay.”

Trong các cuộc họp chuẩn bị đối phó bão của thành phố mới đây, nhân viên thành phố đã xem xét kế hoạch để sắp xếp các loại xe cấp cứu và các thiết bị nặng vào các khu vực an toàn hơn, bố trí nhiên liệu và các nhu yếu phẩm khác cho sau bão, cập nhật thông tin liên lạc cho các nhân viên chủ chốt. Việc chỉ sử dụng hai trong số ba cây cầu hiện có trên bán đảo Biloxi cho tuyến đường di tản cũng được thảo luận.

## Những điều bạn cần biết

Cư dân Biloxi có thể lập kế hoạch tiếp tục xem thấy các nguồn thông tin thông báo thời tiết và khuyến nghị về mùa bão năm nay.

Trong các kế hoạch xem duyệt lại năm nay, gồm có kế hoạch cấp báo sớm.

### Các mức thời gian cần nhớ:

**Di tản theo đề nghị:** Nếu Biloxi nằm trong vùng dự báo có bão, dự đoán sẽ có thông báo di tản trong 72 giờ trước khi có cơn bão đổ vào đất liền.

**Di tản bắt buộc đối với Vùng A và các khu vực đất thấp:** Nếu Biloxi nằm trong vùng dự báo có bão, dự đoán sẽ có thông báo di tản bắt buộc đối với Vùng A và khu vực đất thấp 48 giờ trước khi bão đổ vào đất liền. Vào thời điểm này, các casino resorts nên đóng cửa.

**Di tản bắt buộc đối với Vùng B:** Nếu Biloxi nằm trong vùng dự báo có bão, dự đoán sẽ có lệnh di tản bắt buộc đối với Vùng B 36 giờ trước khi bão đổ vào đất liền.

(Xin xem bản đồ ở trang 2 để biết các vùng di tản và các tuyến đường di tản)

Ngoài ra, cũng có thể xem thông tin qua báo điện tử của thành phố, và điện thoại ghi âm từ đường dây điện thoại về thông tin bão của Thành phố Biloxi, số 435-6300.

# Advertencias a venir anterior esta estación

Biloxi fue preparado mejor para las tormentas y el flooding en 2005 que en cualquier otra hora en la historia de la ciudad, pero la ciudad tormenta-devastada hace frente a un anfitrión de nuevas ediciones esta estación del huracán, que los medios él son vital importantes para que los residentes tengan sus kits personales del plan y del huracán de la tormenta en lugar.

Alcalde A.J. Holloway dice que con más de 2.000 acoplados y campistas temporalmente contener residentes y a millares de voluntarios en ciudad, teniendo un flujo oportuno de la información de la tormenta y de la inundación será vital esta estación del huracán. Además, Holloway dicho, residentes debe esperar ver recomendaciones temprano-que-generalmente con respecto a las evacuaciones de areas de bajo-mentira.

“Dijimos a medios nacionales en varias ocasiones que Katrina no fuera nuestro primer rodeo, pero esperábamos que sería el más grande que veríamos siempre,” Holloway dijo recientemente a grupo de dos jefes de docena servicios dominantes de la ciudad y de encargados mid-level en uno de una serie de reuniones de la preparación de la tormenta. “Todos sabemos que no será nuestro dura, aunque. Soy orgulloso de todo el trabajo que usted y todos los residentes de Biloxi han hecho y continúan para hacer. Ahora, le estoy diciendo conseguir listo otra vez.”

“La cosa más importante esta estación, Holloway dicho, proporcionará lainformación oportuna de la evacuación al público.

“Si estamos en el cono de la probabilidad,” él dijo, “gente debe esperar ver un aviso recomendado de la evacuación 72 horas hacia fuera, una evacuación obligatoria para la zona A y las áreas de bajo-mentira 48 horas hacia fuera, y una evacuación obligatoria para la zona B 36 horas hacia fuera.”

Si se da una orden de la evacuación, no se permitirá ningunos acoplados temporales en los caminos. Holloway Dicho: “con el Biloxi-Oceano suelta el puente hacia fuera para esta estación del huracán, somos limitados en el número de las rutas de la evacuación, y no deseamos estos acoplados que soportan tráfico. Seguirán siendo donde están.”

El tanto como cinco abrigos podrían abrirse en Biloxi, solamente número y localización de esos abrigos dependerían de la trayectoria y de la fuerza proyectadas de la tormenta. El transporte público sería anunciado para ésos sin los medios del recorrido a los abrigos de la hacia fuera-de-ciudad. Además, cualquier plan del contraflow

para el tráfico en los caminos importantes sería anterior anunciado que generalmente.

“La gente no tendrá que ser dicha dos veces para evacuar,” Holloway declarado.

“Solamente él es vital que sale la palabra anterior, en vista de los muchos factores que hacemos frente.” Holloway y el director de la administración David Staehling dijeron que la ciudad fue preparada mejor que en cualquier otro momento en que Katrina pulsó de agosto el 29, 2005.

“Teníamos nuestro contrato temporal del retiro de la ruina en lugar antes de la tormenta, golpeamos el funcionamiento de tierra en eso frente, y, por supuesto, teníamos la póliza de seguro de la negocio-interrupcio'n \$10 millones en efecto, también,” Staehling dicho. “Miramos para tener todas esas cosas en lugar otra vez este año, aunque podemos tener dificultad el conseguir la política de la interrupción del negocio para otros \$92.000 de este año.”

Durante la serie reciente de la ciudad de reuniones de la preparación de la tormenta, los planes repasados personal de la ciudad para los vehículos de la emergencia del estacionamiento y el equipo pesado en áreas más seguras, arreglando para el combustible de la poste-tormenta y otras fuentes, y poniendo al día la información del contacto para los personales claves. Las rutas de la evacuación que usaban solamente dos de tres puentes disponibles en la península de Biloxi también fueron discutidas.

## Lo que todo residente tienen que saber:

Habra constante informacion sobre: trayectoria de la tormenta, posible inundaciones, rutas de tomar.

**Rutas de evacuacion recomendada:** 72 horas que las tormenta esta en el modo de probabilidad.

**Evacuacion mandatoria para la Zona A y areas bajas:** Espere ver evacuacion en 48 horas y casinos cerrados.

**Evacuacion mandatoria para la Zona B:** Espere ver evacuacion madatoria en 36 horas.

(Para ver rutas de evacuacion y zonas, ver el mapa en las pagina 2.)

**Etc:** Informacion via city e-news y llamando por telefono el City of Biloxi Storm Info Line, para un mensaje grabado 435-6300.

## The color of construction

City simplifies permits, adds splash of color to better identify work

Identifying the types of construction going on in Biloxi is simpler these days – for contractors, property owners and city inspectors, as well as citizens interested in construction in their neighborhoods. Tracking construction is a particularly vital concern in flood zones.

The city's Community Development Department is now using color-coded permits that clearly illustrate the type of permit granted for construction work, and the new system has reduced what once may have required a contractor to obtain five separate permits to having everything all on one permit.

It's all part of the city's continuing efforts to help streamline and simplify the process, and to amplify that different types of work may be required to meet stricter standards.

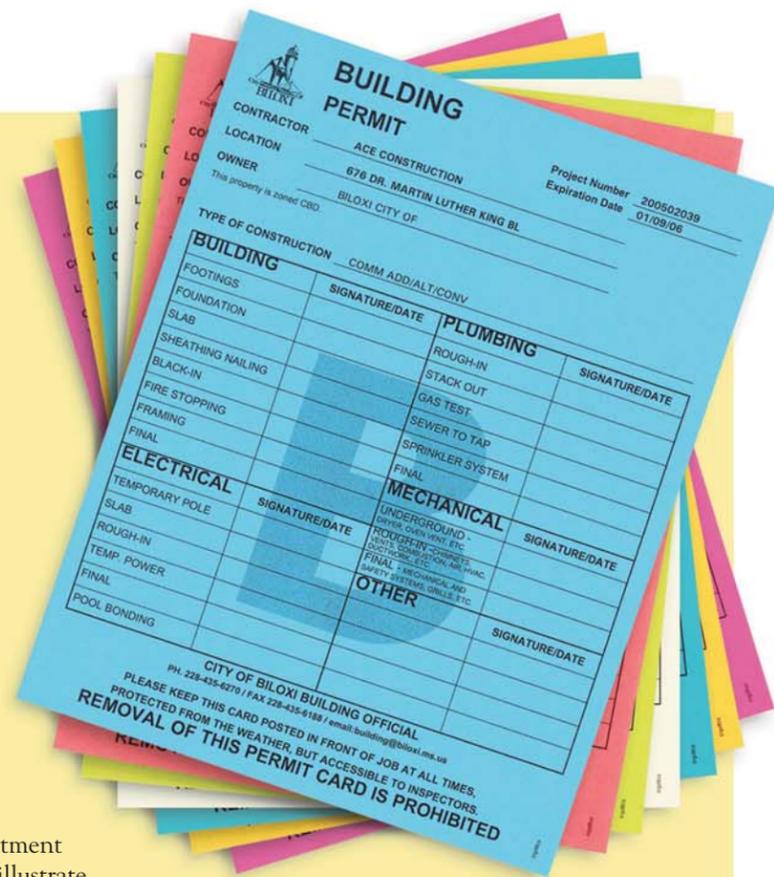
For instance, work in an area susceptible to flooding, known as a special flood hazard area, must comply with FEMA regulations and the city's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. Those planning any work in a flood-prone area should contact floodplain manager Rick Stickler at rstickler@biloxi.ms.us or at 435-6280.

Previously, permits were a standard beige color, and contractors may have been required to obtain separate permits for building, electrical, plumbing, gas and mechanical (heating, ventilation and air conditioning).

“Now,” says Jerry Creel, the city's Community Development director, “when someone passes by a project, they won't be seeing a collection of non-descript permits. Instead, they'll see a color-coded permit, and they'll know that if it's blue, then the project is in a flood zone, which means that things like elevation will be more serious than on the typical construction job. These color-coded permits are designed to help call attention to those issues.”

The colors:

- Lime green permit is the basic permit for work where there are no special conditions or enhanced requirements.
- Blue permit is for properties or structures located in a special flood hazard area.
- Beige signifies the “Architectural/Historical Review District,” which means that the proposed project has been reviewed and approved by the Architectural and Historical Review Committee.
- Red is a Demolition Permit.
- Orange is for “Moving” a structure.
- Purple is for “grading” or “filling” a site.



# Frequently Called Numbers

Area code is 228 unless otherwise noted.

- Animal control** ..... 392-0641  
To report stray or dead animals, leash-law violations
- Auto Tag/Property Tax Information** ... 435-8242  
County Courthouse at Lameuse Street and MLK Boulevard
- Birth Certificates** ..... 601-576-7960  
State Department of Vital Statistics in Jackson
- Building Permits** ..... 435-6270  
To obtain permits for construction and improvements
- Business Licenses** ..... 435-6247  
To obtain a license to do business in the city
- City Council** ..... 435-6257  
To reach councilmembers or clerks of council
- City Court** ..... 435-6125  
Information on traffic tickets and court docket
- Code Enforcement** ..... 435-6270  
To report weeded lots, unsafe buildings, abandoned vehicles
- Drivers Licenses** ..... 392-1183  
Automall Parkway, D'Iberville, near library
- Emergency Police and Fire** ..... 911  
Non-emergency: 435-6100 (police) or 435-6200 (fire)

- Garbage Collection** ..... 328-1820  
Advanced Disposal manages the city's residential garbage collection
- Housing Authority** ..... 374-7771  
To get information on public housing
- Human Resources** ..... 435-6259  
For info on city employment; on third floor, City Hall
- Mayor's Office** ..... 435-6254  
Citizen services, proclamations, public records requests
- Museums information** ..... 435-6244  
Info on city museums or to rent historic properties
- Parks & Recreation** ..... 435-6281  
Info on programs, or to rent most city facilities
- Planning Commission** ..... 435-6266  
To apply for a change in your zoning or land use
- Public Schools** ..... 374-1810  
Administrative office for all Biloxi public schools
- Streets and Drainage** ..... 435-6271  
To report pot holes, damaged street signs or traffic signals
- Visitor Info** ..... 374-3105 or 1-800-BILOXI-3  
Visitors Center is immediately north of the Biloxi Lighthouse.

- Voter Registration** ..... 435-6279  
To register to vote or change in address
- Water Service** ..... 374-7953  
Meter Reading Specialists manages city water department

## Utilities

- Cable TV**
- Cable One** ..... 374-5900
- Electricity**
- Mississippi Power** ..... 800-532-1502
- Coast Electric Power Assoc** ..... 388-3109
- Gas**
- CenterPoint Energy Entex** ..... 896-7500
- Water/sewer**
- City of Biloxi** ..... 374-7953 or 435-6236

More information is available online at [biloxi.ms.us](http://biloxi.ms.us). To receive e-news, click on Bmail.

# City Hall is open 24/7

Find a wealth of information about city programs and initiatives online

The collage displays several key features of the City of Biloxi website:

- Sign Up for Bmail:** A prominent feature for receiving timely advisories and news about city events.
- Forms / Permits:** A section for downloading and submitting various city forms.
- Katrina Sculptures:** A dedicated page for information about the 'Katrina Sculptures' project, including photos and videos.
- Storm & Flood Preparedness:** A section providing resources for residents to prepare for natural disasters.
- Photo Galleries:** A collection of photos and videos from various city events and projects.
- City Departments:** A list of city departments and their respective services.
- Special Events:** Information about upcoming city events and programs.
- Spill Info:** A section for reporting and managing spills.

[biloxi.ms.us](http://biloxi.ms.us)

Information about your city government, the ongoing recovery effort and hurricane preparation is at your fingertips, and it's available for you any time, any day. And while you're there, sign up for timely e-news updates by clicking on "Sign up for Bmail." The city's web site is your No. 1 source of information for all things Biloxi.



# Storm & Flood Preparedness 2011



P.O. Box 429  
Biloxi, MS 39533

**Important Storm & Flood  
Preparation Info Enclosed**

**Biloxi Resident**

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**OFFICIAL CITY OF BILOXI PHOTO ALBUM & DVD**

**KATRINA & BILOXI**  
A STORY OF RESOLVE & RESILIENCE

Dozens of full-color photographs and inside information, plus video storm footage

City OF BILOXI  
biloxi.ms.us

DVD featuring Jim Cantore of The Weather Channel and the people of Biloxi

Thousands of people across the country and around the globe have purchased their copy of "Katrina and Biloxi," and now the City of Biloxi is making the DVD and companion photo album available at Biloxi city facilities and all public libraries in Harrison County for the low price of \$20.

You can also place orders for friends across the country securely online at [biloxi.ms.us](http://biloxi.ms.us). We'll handle the shipping. Just click on "Katrina & Biloxi."

Buy it now at any Biloxi municipal facility, any public library in Harrison County or online at [biloxi.ms.us](http://biloxi.ms.us)

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