

A New Day

HURRICANE KATRINA RECOVERY NEWS FROM THE CITY OF BILOXI

My fellow Biloxian:

Biloxi is on the way back. The return to normalcy began 100 hours ago, on Monday night, when the winds from Hurricane Katrina began to subside. And you can see milestones in that recovery every day. Last night, for instance, electricity was restored as far east as Porter Avenue.

Traffic signals – where they're still in place – are operating in locations on Pass Road; banks and other firms are beginning to open their doors for business.

Churches will probably see thousands of people at worship services today. We thank God that we're alive and that we still have the ability to begin the monumental task of rebuilding our community.

Just as our ancestors did so in generations before us, we have overcome a huge challenge. We survived an unprecedented natural disaster. Now, let's have an unprecedented response – one where we'll rebuild this city – again – to one of the greatest communities in America.

We need to take it one day at a time. One success at a time. As Brian Dykes, one of the Biloxi Police officers said this morning as he maneuvered his patrol car out of the Lopez-Quave parking lot: "Ain't nothing to it." That's the attitude we need.

God bless you and keep the faith. Biloxi is on the way back.



Points of distribution for food, water and ice

Points of distribution have been established in Biloxi at these locations by 7 each morning:

- Cedar-Popp's Shopping Center, Cedar Lake and Popp's Ferry roads, south of I-10 Cedar Lake exit.
- Wal-Mart at Pass Road in west Biloxi.
- Food Tiger supermarket, Division Street at I-110 overpass.
- Chevron station, Highway 67 at Hudson-Krohn Road, Woolmarket.
- Biloxi Community Center, Howard Avenue, east Biloxi.

Power on way back; crews working street by street

Mississippi Power Co. workers have announced that, as of Sunday morning, electric service had been restored to 3,500 Biloxi customers, and the remaining 14,000 should have power restored in the next day or two.

"Our crews are making significant progress," says MPC's Kurt Brautigam.

Wondering about the status of a missing person? Call National Red Cross Missing Person line, toll-free, at 1-877-568-3317.

U.S. 90 closed to public; I-110 bridge fully re-opened

Highway 90 in Biloxi is closed to the public – no motorists or pedestrians are allowed.

Sections of the highway collapsed during the storm, and crews are moving debris toward U.S. 90 for later pickup.

The I-110 bridge over the Bay of Biloxi, which was reduced to two lanes of traffic after cracks were discovered under the bridge Saturday, has been fully re-opened to traffic.

MDOT officials inspected the bridge and said it was safe to carry traffic.

Water system still crippled; don't drink the water from tap

The Public Works Department reports that all but two of the city's 23 water wells are operating, and areas where the wells are functioning, primarily in west and north Biloxi, water pressure is very low.

The only two wells not operating are at Tanglewood and the smaller of the two wells serving Eagle Point.

Residents should not drink the water, and use it sparingly to conserve water pressure should it be needed for firefighting purposes.

Public Works Director Richard Sullivan reports that water samples are being taken.

Sewer system damaged; don't flush the toilets

Although water service is being restored to parts of the city, residents must refrain from flushing commodes because of heavy damage to the city's wastewater system.

Tip for using the restroom: Place a plastic supermarket bag in the bowl of your commode, with the handles of the bag overhanging the rim of the bowl. After use, tie

the handles of the bag and drop it into your blue BFI trash receptacle.

Don't pay for work in advance; check 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.

News and notes

Volunteers needed: Anyone interested in volunteering in the Katrina relief effort should call 435-6112.

City employees: Any city employee who has not yet reported for duty should immediately report to the Community Development Department on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Public safety help: Biloxians will be seeing a number of out-of-town police and firefighters on city streets, responding to emergency calls. These visitors have the same police powers as regular Biloxi police officers. Residents are asked to obey all commands from law enforcement officers.

Garbage pickup: BFI expects to begin residential garbage pickup service beginning Tuesday. Mayor A.J. Holloway hopes the firm can begin before then, and asks for residents to be patient.