

HURRICANE KATRINA

■ At least 55 people confirmed dead, higher toll feared

■ Katrina might be costliest U.S. hurricane on record

■ Last-minute turn east spares Big Easy toxic-soup scenario

'COMPLETE DEVASTATION'



MICHAEL SPOONEYBARGER The Associated Press

Fire and rescue personnel launch a boat amid floodwaters from Hurricane Katrina as they head out to rescue a family on Monday outside a hotel in Pascagoula, Miss.

Floridians could see 30-cent hike in gasoline prices

By Joseph Mann
Sun-Sentinel

Consumers still recovering from the most recent wave of gasoline price increases could face even higher prices — as much as 30 cents a gallon more — in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

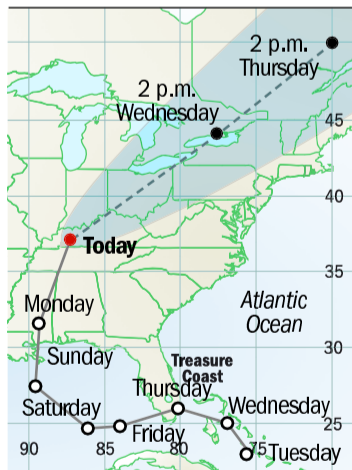
The storm shut down oil production in the Gulf of Mexico and tore through the heart of the U.S. oil refining industry, closing crude oil processing plants that supply most of the gasoline, diesel oil and other fuels used in South Florida.

Katrina created a frenzy among traders of crude oil and gasoline for future delivery, pushing prices to new highs. Crude futures reached more than \$70 a barrel but slipped to \$69.15 after the storm lost strength.

Gasoline for September delivery rose 13.37 cents to \$2.0606 a gallon on the New York Mercantile Exchange, the highest since the contract began trading in 1984.

Oil industry analysts fear shortages of crude and refined products could occur if Gulf oil rigs are damaged, as they were last year by Hurricane Ivan, and if refineries and ports cannot

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Updated information at TCPalm.com
Source: NOAA, 5 p.m. update

Tropical Storm Katrina

LOCATION: 33.5 N 88.5 W
MOVEMENT: NNE 22 mph
MAXIMUM WIND: 60 mph

What's next?

- President Bush was expected to authorize at least a loan of some oil from the nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserve.
- The National Hurricane Center projected Katrina would head north and turn toward the northeast, carrying its center through Tennessee, Kentucky and Ohio today and Wednesday.
- Tropical depression 13 on Monday degenerated into a broad area of low pressure but will be monitored for signs of regeneration. The remnants of the depression Monday were moving toward the northwest near 16 mph, about 745 miles east-northeast of the Lesser Antilles in the Atlantic Ocean.



DANNY VOWELL The Associated Press

Family members of a missing girl console each other in Hopkinsville, Ky. According to officials, an unidentified girl was swept away by the current while playing near a flooded culvert.

In the aftermath

- Storm disrupts research cruise by Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution. **PAGE A3**
- Damage from Katrina could hit \$26 billion, surpassing Hurricane Andrew in 1992. **PAGE A4**
- Louisiana Superdome a welcome but uncomfortable safe haven from storm. **PAGE A5**
- A photographic look at some of the devastation dealt to the Big Easy. **PAGE A6**
- NFL stars worry about family and friends in the path of Hurricane Katrina. **PAGE C2**
- More photos at TCPalm.com, plus up-to-the-minute forecasts and tracking maps.

How to help

For information about donating to relief efforts for victims of Hurricane Katrina, call your local chapter of the American Red Cross or the national organization at:

MARTIN COUNTY: (772) 287-2002
NORTH TREASURE COAST CHAPTER (INDIAN RIVER AND ST. LUCIE COUNTIES): (772) 562-2549; (772) 461-3950
NATIONAL: (800) HELP-NOW
ON THE WEB: redcross.org

Local United Way

MARTIN COUNTY: (772) 283-4800
ST. LUCIE COUNTY: (772) 464-5300
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY: (772) 567-8900

By the numbers

- 500,000:** People without power from Louisiana to the Panhandle.
- 40,000:** Estimated homes flooded in St. Bernard Parish just east of New Orleans.
- 9,000:** People who took refuge at the Louisiana Superdome.
- 145:** Wind speed when Hurricane Katrina plowed into the Gulf Coast at daybreak Monday.
- 22:** Storm surge in feet in Mississippi.
- 15:** Inches of rain predicted to hit the Gulf Coast and Tennessee Valley over the next few days.
- 12:** Depth of water in feet filling the streets of Biloxi, Miss.
- 8:** Inches of rain predicted for the drought-stricken Ohio Valley during the next few days.

Gulf Coast drenched in surging floods

By Allen G. Breed
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Announcing itself with shrieking, 145-mph winds, Hurricane Katrina slammed into the Gulf Coast just outside New Orleans on Monday, submerging entire neighborhoods up to their roofs, swamping Mississippi's beachfront casinos and killing at least 55 people.

Jim Pollard, spokesman for the Harrison County emergency operations center, said at least 50 people were killed by Katrina in his county, with the bulk of the deaths at an apartment complex in Biloxi. Three other people were killed by falling trees in Mississippi and two died in a traffic accident in Alabama, authorities said.

For New Orleans — a dangerously vulnerable city because it sits mostly below sea level in a bowl-shaped depression — it was not the apocalyptic storm

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