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Charlotte A. Randolph, *Parish President*

Office of Emergency Preparedness

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 9:15 A.M.
Sunday, August 31, 2008

Evacuations Continue, Levee Concerns Arise

As Hurricane Gustav approaches the Louisiana coast, Lafourche Parish residents who have decided not to evacuate should be prepared to deal with a potentially catastrophic event. If you are a resident living south of U.S. Highway 90 and you have decided to stay for the storm, please contact the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office Command Post at 532-4337 or 532-4338 to inform them of your intentions.

The Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office along with Lafourche Parish Government will be sweeping the Parish until 12 Noon for anyone needing assistance evacuating. "We estimate around 70% of the Parish has been evacuated," said Parish President Charlotte Randolph. "We are hoping that number will be closer to 85% by the end of the day."

Windell Curole, overseeing levees in Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes, is warning that South Lafourche residents that there is a concern about the levees being overtopped. "These levees were built to withstand a Category 3 or lower storm," Curole said. "There is definitely the possibility that the storm surge and rain will cause the levees in South Lafourche to be overtopped."

Anyone who is currently south of the floodgates in Golden Meadow must be on the north side by 3:00 P.M. today. At that time, the road will be completely blocked off to prepare for the storm, and you will be unable to cross back into the levee system.

A curfew has been set for 6:00 P.M. today (Sunday) in Lafourche Parish. Any residents left in Lafourche Parish must stay in their homes after that time. Any travelers after that time will be stopped and questioned by law enforcement officials.