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NEWS RELEASE

Issued by:
Jefferson Parish Department of Public Information
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For Immediate Release

Date: Tuesday, September 13, 2005
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Event: Hurricane Katrina
Advisory 65

Jefferson Parish Westbank Residents Return

On Wednesday, September 14, 2005 beginning at 5 a.m. residents, from the cities of Gretna, Westwego and the Town of Jean Lafitte can return to their homes permanently.

Essential services such as electricity, sewerage and water are improving daily but are still not up to standard. Commercial establishments, such as grocery stores, gas stations and pharmacies are scarce but are beginning to open. Therefore, if you have the means to stay away for a longer period of time it would be advisable for you to do so.

Those returning to the cities of Gretna, Westwego and the Lafitte must have a some form of identification to prove you are a resident of that city in order to be admitted. Drivers attempting to re-enter without identification will be turned away.

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Here are a few major re-entry tips for citizens returning:

- Make sure you have some cash, credit cards and checks may not be accepted
- Make sure you have a full tank of gas, there is a short supply of gas in the area
- Bring a camera to take photos for insurance purpose
- Bring sufficient prescription drugs
- Bring sufficient non-perishable foods
- Bring sufficient sanitation supplies
- Bring sufficient plastic bags
- Bring sufficient disinfectant, cleaning supplies
- Bring sufficient batteries
- Bring sufficient baby supplies
- Manuel can opener
- Bring paper products (plates, cups, napkins)

Please be advised that many traffic signals have been destroyed. Therefore, you must be prepared for police at traffic signals or four-way stops at all major intersections in Jefferson Parish. Additionally, many intersections in Jefferson Parish may not have any traffic signaling at all and therefore, you must drive at reduced speeds and very carefully.

New curfew times are from 5 a.m. through 8 p.m. Citizens should be prepared to see armed military and paramilitary units of various law enforcement agencies

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