



NEWS RELEASE

JOHN F. YOUNG, JR.
PARISH PRESIDENT

March 29, 2011

JEFFERSON PARISH PREPARES FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER

According to the National Weather Service, Jefferson Parish is expecting a line of strong to severe storms to move through the region late this evening and into the early morning hours.

A Tornado Watch will be in effect for the entire area through 10 pm. These storms are expected to move northeasterly into southern Mississippi. Large hail will be the greatest threat with these storms, with wind damage and isolated tornadoes lesser threats

Thunderstorms will also develop in advance of the cold front as it moves across the area. This portion of the threat is likely to occur after midnight, affecting western areas around Baton Rouge shortly after midnight, moving eastward to reach the New Orleans area around 3 or 4 am, and the Gulfport area around sunrise Wednesday. Damaging winds would be the main threat with the late night storms, with large hail and isolated tornadoes lesser threats.

Citizens are asked to help reduce the chance of street flooding by clearing debris from their streets and drains around their property; such debris impedes water flow into the drainage system. **Parish Ordinance Section 36-188** prohibits motorists from traveling on flooded streets, which may increase the possibility of structural flooding due to wake action caused by moving vehicles.

The Jefferson Parish Streets Department crews are on stand-by with barricades to close flooded streets. All pump stations requiring manning, are fully staffed. If floodwaters are threatening your home and you wish to have your street closed, contact 911 for assistance.

Jefferson Parish Emergency Operating Center (EOC), 349-5360, is operational until the inclement weather is over. To receive weather and emergency bulletins visit www.jpalert.com website.