

# News Release

## Jefferson Parish, Louisiana

Issued by: Patricia Borne  
Public Information Officer



### Our Mission Is:

“Provide the services,  
leadership, and vision to  
improve the quality of life  
in Jefferson Parish.”

**Aaron F. Broussard**  
Parish President

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 30, 2009

### GET EMERGENCY ALERT MESSAGES INSTANTLY

As we begin the height of hurricane season, Jefferson Parish Officials are encouraging citizens to sign-up for emergency alerts. There is no charge for the service and has proven to be a success.

Citizens can choose to be alerted via e-mails and/or through text messages on their cell phones, alpha numeric pagers, and blackberry type devices. Registering is quick and easy on-line by going to <http://jeffersonparishla.mystateusa.com>. Click on the Public Alert Sign Up Box on the top left side of the page. Fill in the blanks and click the button on the bottom of the page titled “Sign Me Up.” Or you can go to [www.jeffparish.net](http://www.jeffparish.net) and click on the link “Disaster Planning Information” and then click on “Emergency Alert System” in left column. This will direct you to the MyStateUSA webpage.

The electronic system is called MyStateUSA and is part of the IPAWS (Integrated Public Alert and Warning System) pilot program provided to the entire state by FEMA. It has been expanded to include private citizens who wish to receive the service. Additionally, citizens who do not have access to the internet can enroll to receive the alerts on their electronic devices by calling the Jefferson Parish Department of Citizens Affairs at 736-6000 and providing their name, cell phone and/or pager numbers and provider.

Emergency messages will be sent to registered users, either parish-wide or to those in a specific threat area, depending on the nature of the emergency. Periodic testing of the system will occur on a monthly basis; the messages will be marked as a test.

The system also enables government at all levels to share information during any crisis. The system can also be used to communicate with evacuated citizens after a hurricane or other crisis to provide information about the condition of the parish and when they can return.

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