

## **Disaster News Update –November 12 to 18, 2007**

### **RECENT DISASTER / HAZARD ACTIVITY (Past 7 days)**

- **Drought:** Hawaii, Oregon, Washington, California, Montana, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Wyoming, Kentucky, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, West Virginia
- **Fire:** California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Montana, Colorado, Kansas, South Dakota, Minnesota, Missouri, Georgia, North Carolina
- **HazMat:** New Jersey (Gas Pipe Leak), West Virginia (Highway Chemical Spill)
- **Heavy rain / Flooding:** Tennessee, New Jersey
- **Strong winds:** Tennessee, North Dakota, Delaware, Wyoming, Washington, South Dakota,
- **Tornado:** Tennessee

### **CURRENT FEMA MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATIONS (Past 30 days)**

- [California:](#) Wildfires (10/24)
- [California:](#) Wildfires (10/23 – Emergency Declaration)
- Fire Declarations: [Hawaii \(10/28\)](#), [California 1 \(10/22\)](#), [California 2 \(10/22\)](#), [California 3 \(10/22\)](#), [California 4 \(10/22\)](#), [California 5 \(10/21\)](#), [California 6 \(10/21\)](#), [California 7 \(10/21\)](#), [California 8 \(10/21\)](#)

### **VOLUNTEER PROGRAM NEWS**

#### **Chico to send 117 volunteers to help with Katrina** (Chico Enterprise Record, 11/15)

Time has passed since the nation's thoughts were focused on the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The news media no longer carries daily reports and photos of the chaos and loss in the costliest hurricane in the history of the United States. Like the storm, the interest in the lives of those still struggling has waned. However, a large group of Chico students continue to help with the aftermath of the natural disaster and will be heading to Louisiana this January for the third consecutive year to help rebuild homes. A total of 117 volunteers will make the trek this year, explained Aaron Malatesta, spokesman for the group, and fundraising is continuing to pay for travel and lodging expenses for the effort. The goal is to raise \$100,000. Malatesta explained that the Chico efforts began three years ago through students in the Chico State University College of Engineering, Computer Science and Construction Management. The first year 22 students made the journey, with more joining the effort over the past two years. Malatesta said most engineering students serve an internship during the summer while earning their degree. This gives them the skills and know-how they will need in their future careers. The training makes them prepared for the volunteer work in Louisiana rebuilding houses. The team works with volunteer groups, primarily Habitat for Humanity (<http://www.habitat-nola.org>), the St. Bernard's Project (<http://stbernardproject.org>) and Common Grounds.

#### **Groups Sign On For Long Term Recovery in SoCal** (Disaster News Network, 11/15)

Formation of a long-term recovery committee to aid survivors of the wildfires which ravaged parts of San Diego County moved ahead this week with more than a dozen

community and faith-based organizations committing to the effort. "Everybody's come up to the plate to help San Diego County and we really do appreciate it very, very much," said Don Read, emergency disaster services director with The Salvation Army who chaired a conference call Tuesday with nearly three dozen local, state and national organizations and agencies. As the long-term committee comes together - a meeting was scheduled Tuesday in San Diego to formalize the arrangement - Read said it appeared that the recovery could be shorter than the recovery effort in the 2003 Cedar fire. Some 7,772 homeowners registered with FEMA after the Cedar fire, with 77 percent of them having insurance. The long-term recovery effort after that blaze lasted up to three years. In contrast, of the 5,787 homeowners who have registered so far for federal assistance in the most recent wildfires, 93.7 percent were insured, reported John Chavez of FEMA. "That's a real plus for the long-term recovery," Read said. "I think with those figures I would suspect most portions of the long-term recovery would be a little shorter than we had before. "We think that the long-term recovery committee will have fewer challenges than during 2003 because a larger percentage of those affected by the fires have insurance," he said.

**Convoy of Hope meets physical, spiritual needs** (New Orleans Times Picayune, 11/15)

First Assembly of God of Des Allemands is spearheading a local effort of community service and compassion. The first St. Charles Parish Convoy of Hope will be held Saturday at 10 a.m. at the old Lions Club Park in Des Allemands. The mission of Convoy of Hope, a worldwide outreach organization formed in 1994, is to transform entire communities with compassion, one life at a time. About 25 different organizations, including local churches, businesses, government agencies and community groups are working together to present this event, which will benefit less fortunate families in the community, said St. Charles Convoy of Hope director Mo Seneca of Des Allemands First Assembly of God. Many resources will be provided to help meet the physical and spiritual needs of the families, Seneca said. Free hot meals will be provided. Free groceries will be distributed, along with free health and dental screenings, social services and haircuts. "We have many different organizations that will offer services, and 150 to 200 volunteers who will help with this effort," Seneca said. "We're expecting about 1,000 to 1,500 people to attend." Among the organizations that will participate are the St. Charles Parish Library, United Way, American Red Cross and St. Charles Community Services. The St. Charles Sheriff's Office will be fingerprinting children and promoting the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program. Local volunteer fire departments also will lead fire safety and prevention programs.

**COMMUNITY PROGRAM NEWS**

**Essex County looks to digitally map towns** (Newark (NJ) Star Ledger, 11/15)

Through a digital mapping system, communities in Essex County could better identify structures in their communities, everything from fire hydrants to roads and power lines. That information could be accessed by computer and used during a natural disaster, fire, or other emergency - or in routine matters such as land-use planning. Essex County leaders are hoping towns will get on board with Geographic Information Systems (GIS),

a way of digitally-mapping the 22 municipalities in the county. A Millburn firm was hired by the county to assess the degree to which each municipality uses digital mapping and if they don't yet have it, how they'd like to use it. "It puts all of those informational needs at your fingertips," said Millburn Mayor Dan Baer, who has been lobbying the county to coordinate the mapping systems for a year. "This beats going from department, to department to department. And you can share the information with other townships." Phil LiVecchi, county director of public works, said there are a number of ways the mapping technology would be useful to individual towns. He said it could identify fire-prone areas or help police and fire vehicles responding to a mutual aid call.

**Churches asked to help as shelters from storm** (Oregonian, 11/14)

As this winter nears, advocates in Washington County are trying to find a better solution for homeless people living outside. By Jan. 1, if not sooner, they want to have a list of churches that will pledge to keep their doors open when the temperature drops to 32 degrees or colder. The 211 info call center --a social service information center available by calling 2-1-1 --will maintain the list and make referrals as needed. The grass-roots effort, with an old-fashioned sentiment of neighbors helping neighbors, is asking churches to put their faith into action and help the poor by putting a roof over their heads. But good works can be contingent on valid concerns. Those involved say some churches already feel stretched thin by all they do to provide social services. Others harbor fears or uneasiness about opening their doors to the homeless. Organizers of the Severe Weather Shelter Response Plan hope congregations can get past those obstacles. Nobody, they argue, should risk freezing to death outside. The effort is unique in the tri-county area. Portland is contracting with the American Red Cross to provide extra beds at a number of locations during severe weather. Clackamas County has no plans to provide extra shelter at churches during frigid times.

**Help for those least able to help themselves** (Ft. Worth Star Telegram, 11/14)

A tornado strikes a part of town where 100 people with special needs live. Police and firefighters can see on a computer map where those people live and can route them to a hospital. That's how the creators of the Special Needs Assistance Program envision their project. The Fort Worth-Tarrant County Office of Emergency Management has started the voluntary program, which will tell emergency responders about participants' disabilities. About 100 people have signed up since Sept. 1. "There's a tremendous upside to the program," said Calvin Brown, a Fort Worth emergency management officer and a creator of the program. "Folks want to be a part of this. It benefits the community." How does it work? People with special needs can call, mail or e-mail the information. Online participants will set up an account, answer security questions and provide information about themselves. Participants can specify, for example, if they use a wheelchair, crutches or medical equipment that requires electricity. The information stays active for one year, after which participants must reregister. Who's participating? Fort Worth is working with other cities all over Tarrant County. Eventually, the program will expand to 16 North Texas counties. The information could also become available to agencies such as the American Red Cross. They must agree to keep the information confidential and use it only for emergencies, said David Moss, a programmer analyst at Fort Worth Global Information System and the program's other creator.

## **RESPONSE AND RECOVERY NEWS**

### **Tornado damage not enough to qualify for federal aid** (Associated Press, 11/17)

A small southeastern Tennessee town suffered millions in damages after a tornado touched down this week, but the county will not be eligible for federal disaster aid, officials said. "We knew immediately it would fall short it wasn't even close," Tennessee Emergency Management Agency spokesman Jeremy Heidt said of the \$2.5 million damage estimate. But Heidt expects that 90 percent of the damages during the F2 tornado on Wednesday night will be insured. The storms damaged 42 buildings and caused minor injuries to at least nine people, including three children, in the Marion County community of Kimball, about 25 miles west of Chattanooga. Steve Lamb, the county's Emergency Management Agency director, said he wasn't surprised but he expected everyone who had losses to be able to recover. "But we are a tight-knit community and a tight-knit county," Lamb said. "I'm confident everyone will see some kind of assistance to get their lives restored." The National Weather Service said the tornado's path was 200 yards wide and 2 miles long, with peak winds reaching 130 miles per hour. "The damage was substantial, that's all I can say," said Kimball Police Chief Tommy Jordan. City officials have contacted Tennessee congressmen and senators to see what other aid options are available.

### **\$23M for Charities Helping CA Wildfire Victims** (Chronicle on Philanthropy, 11/15)

Donors have pledged more than \$23M to help charities respond to the wildfires in Southern CA, which burned 500,000 acres, destroyed 1,600 homes, and killed seven people. The American Red Cross received the vast majority of that money, an estimated \$15.7M for wildfire relief. In addition, the charity said the emergency prompted people to give \$4.3M to the organization's general disaster fund. By October 29, the organization had stopped accepting contributions to the relief effort, its largest since Hurricane Katrina, since by then it had collected the \$15M or so it needed to pay for wildfire relief. Other charities received far smaller sums. The Salvation Army brought in commitments of about \$1.5M, followed by Direct Relief International, \$490,000; Save the Children, \$250,000; and Operation USA, \$3,000. Richard Walden, president of Operation USA, said that smaller relief groups like his were having a difficult time raising money, in part because most California newspapers listed only the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and several pet-rescue groups as suggested places to donate. "There's been a huge imbalance in terms of funds," he said. As of last week, the Red Cross was still operating a few shelters, providing mental-health counseling, and cleaning up communities devastated by the fires. Direct Relief International was funneling support to hospitals and clinics, while the Salvation Army was providing financial assistance to people who lost their homes, among other support.

### **CA Farmworkers Struggle After Fires** (Disaster News Network, 11/14)

Picking through the charred leaves and crisp remains of fruit and flowers, growers and farmworkers in San Diego County may feel alone in the fields. Each farmer has had to take a look at the wildfire damage to his crops and make the hard decisions about how to

handle the situation and get back on the road to recovery. For farmworkers, their road back to recovery will be especially long and difficult. Eric Larson, executive director of the San Diego County Farm Bureau, said there are few agencies offering fire recovery planning assistance to area growers. "They're pretty much on their own," he said. Larson's organization recognizes that each farm and nursery has been affected in a unique way because of the way natural disasters grab with indiscriminate fingers at one location while ignoring other spots nearby. Overall, he estimated, the county's \$1.5 billion agricultural industry suffered a \$42 million loss from the recent wildfires. At some farms, there was only minor damage. At others, there was 100 percent loss. For those who work in the fields and whose livelihood depends on the crops, the fires imposed a more personal toll. Most live paycheck to paycheck and income lost during the fires has left the already struggling workers in dire financial need. Most of the workers in the San Diego area are permanent employees who work year-round, Larson said. Migrant workers are added to the rolls in the spring to pick strawberries and in late summer to harvest tomatoes.

**Long-Term Recovery Committees Assist With CA Unmet Needs** (GovTech, 11/14)

Californians who suffered damages and losses as a result of the wildfires, and still have disaster-related unmet needs, may find help through long-term recovery committees. Under the guidance of the Southern California Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters, long-term recovery committees are being formed in San Bernardino and San Diego Counties. These committees provide services, based on need, through their voluntary member organizations to help affected families access the resources needed for their recovery. The long-term recovery committees are made up of faith-based, community-based, and voluntary agencies. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) personnel from the voluntary agency liaison group, in partnership with the individual assistance staff from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), also help with the coordination and keep voluntary organizations up to date with any changes in federal policy. "The need for these long-term recovery committees is crucial to the welfare of those who have lost so much," said Federal Coordinating Officer Mike Hall of FEMA. "The voluntary agencies involved continue to provide help long after the emergency phase has passed." "Local, state and federal agencies are doing all we can to help those affected recover as quickly as possible, but we can't do it alone," said Henry Renteria, director of OES and state coordinating officer for the fire recovery effort. "Volunteer agencies have played and continue to play a vital role. We are committed to continuing to work with them to help those affected by the fires recover as quickly as possible." Additional long-term recovery committees will be developed in the counties of San Diego and San Bernardino.

**PREPAREDNESS AND MITIGATION NEWS**

**NorthCom sending planes to CA in anticipation of fires** (Associated Press, 11/17)

Northcom, the military wing that handles homeland security, is sending planes to southern California in anticipation of new wildfires. Michael Kucharek, spokesman for Northcom, said Saturday that the national wildfire agency asked for help because it

suspects more wildfires. He said four planes are going. Two will be from the 153rd Airlift Wing from the Cheyenne Air National Guard and two Air Force Reserves aircraft from the 302nd Airlift Wing at Peterson Air Force Base. Northcom is based at Peterson in Colorado Springs. They will begin flying missions as early as Monday. After the September 11th terrorist attacks Northcom was created to work with the Homeland Security Agency to deal with terrorism and natural disasters.

**FEMA And ABA To Enhance Legal Services For Disaster Victims** (FEMA, 11/15)

Through a new agreement, the American Bar Association YLD, when requested by FEMA, now has "authority to coordinate and manage the delivery of legal services to disaster victims" by collaborating with other qualified organizations, such as the Legal Services Corporation, law firms, not-for-profit legal services providers, state and local bar associations, and pro bono organizations. Beginning with a 1978 agreement between FEMA and the ABA, volunteer attorneys working under the auspices of the ABA have coordinated the delivery of free legal assistance to disaster victims. When the president of the United States declares a "major disaster" and authorizes Disaster Legal Services, the ABA YLD recruits and coordinates volunteer attorneys to assist in providing legal assistance through telephone hotlines and at disaster recovery centers. Services rendered include assistance with insurance claims, counseling on landlord/tenant problems, assisting in consumer protection matters, remedies, and procedures, and the replacement of wills and other important legal documents destroyed in a major disaster. Under the new agreement, volunteer attorneys also may provide assistance in securing FEMA and other governmental benefits available to disaster victims. Over the past two years, volunteers working under the program have fielded more than 75,000 calls from 19 designated disasters, including the recent California wildfires. Volunteers have also aided victims of numerous other disasters, including hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Andrew and Isabel, the Oklahoma City bombing, and the September 11 terrorist attacks. To view the agreement in full, visit: [http://www.abanet.org/disaster/docs/fema\\_aba\\_agreement\\_11\\_07.pdf](http://www.abanet.org/disaster/docs/fema_aba_agreement_11_07.pdf).

**Emergency readiness, kid-style** (Washington Post, 11/14)

An effort across the United States is under way to make emergency preparedness so easy to understand, children can explain it to their parents. The homeland security instruction - - such as a weekly class in Washington-area schools -- is an effort to get families to prepare emergency kits and plan for disasters, The Washington Post reported Wednesday. And the message to children is spread through cartoons, Disney shows, rap music, games, even a first-responder camp. Disaster lessons for kids go back a long way. In the 1950s, Bert the Turtle prepared students for a nuclear strike in the "Duck and Cover" film. Later, the Federal Emergency Management Agency distributed Sesame Street earthquake kits. Why make elementary-age children the messenger? Officials point out children are the ones who harangued their parents to recycle, wear seat belts and stop smoking in previous nationwide campaigns. "We're hoping the kids will go home and talk about what's happening in their classrooms," said Dyonicia Brown of Serve DC, the agency running the city's program. "That will give us one more advantage to make sure the District of Columbia is prepared."

**Free FEMA Publications Give Flood Advice** (FEMA, 11/14)

Free publications from FEMA about how to protect yourself and your property from flooding are a toll-free phone call or mouse-click away. FEMA publications provide helpful information about what to do before, during and after a flood in order to decrease the toll such disasters take on lives and property. Order these publications by calling 1-800-480-2520, or you can download or order copies from the FEMA web site at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov). Many publications are available in Spanish and other languages. These resources provide information on topics such as: Flood Prep and Safety (F-684). Important tips about how to prepare for a flood. Homeowner's Guide to Retrofitting (F-312). Describes six ways to protect a residence from flooding, including information on technical and financial assistance. Repairing Your Flooded Home (F-234). Step-by-step guidance for repairing flooded property. Why You Need Flood Insurance (F-683), and Your Homeowner's Insurance Doesn't Cover Flood (F-61). Provides information about the Federal Flood Insurance Program, which is the only coverage available for flood damage to property. After Disaster Strikes: How to Recover Financially from a Natural Disaster (F-292). Information about how to protect against the financial consequences of a disaster. Materials can also be ordered through regular mail by sending a request to: FEMA Distribution Center, P.O. Box 2012 8231, Stayton Drive, Jessup, Maryland 20794-2012.

## **GULF COAST RECOVERY NEWS**

### **[MS asks companies to re-bid on Katrina cottages program](#)** (Associated Press, 11/17)

The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency has asked companies to re-submit bids to oversee the Hurricane Katrina cottages pilot program. MEMA said it decided not to extend its \$8.9 million contract with Florida-based PBS&J Engineering, the firm in charge for the last nine months. MEMA officials said it has nothing to do with PBS&J's performance. The agency wants to "get the lowest bid from the best qualified contractor," officials wrote in an e-mailed response from The Clarion-Ledger newspaper. The state did not use a competitive bid process when it selected PBS&J. Officials said they needed to move forward with the cottage program as soon as possible, and the firm was working on other recovery projects when it was chosen. "We would be nowhere near where we are now, with almost 600 families in our units, had we gone out with a competitive bid in the beginning," MEMA spokeswoman Ashley Roth told the newspaper. "We now have the time to go through the competitive process while the program is underway." A PBS&J spokeswoman said the firm will submit another bid. In September, the state asked PBS&J to review the cottages' installation process after a Georgia businessman alleged the structures were not securely fastened to the ground. The businessman, Jerry Brown, hoped his foundation design would be used in the installation process. A PBS&J engineer wrote the cottages were secure, and state officials said they were satisfied with the response. MEMA stipulated its next contract with a program manager should not exceed \$6 million. It would expire in March 2009 but could be extended. Bid proposals will be opened Nov. 27.

### **[Poor are lagging in hurricane aid from Mississippi](#)** (New York Times, 11/16)

Like the other Gulf Coast states battered by Hurricane Katrina, Mississippi was required

by Congress to spend half of its billions in federal grant money to help low-income citizens trying to recover from the storm. But so far, the state has spent \$1.7 billion in federal money on programs that have mostly benefited relatively affluent residents and big businesses. The money has gone to compensate many middle- and upper-income homeowners, to aid utility companies whose equipment was damaged and to prop up the state's insurance system. Just \$167 million, or about 10 percent of the federal money, has been spent on programs dedicated to helping the poor, mostly through a smaller grant program for lower-income homeowners. And while that total will certainly increase, Mississippi has set aside just 23 percent of its \$5.5 billion grant money -- \$1.25 billion -- for these programs. About 37 percent of the residents of the state's coast are low income, according to federal figures. Mississippi is the only state for which the Bush administration has waived the rule that 50 percent of its Community Development Block Grants be spent on low-income programs, according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which administers the program. It is also the only state to ask for such waivers. State officials, from Gov. Haley Barbour on down, insist that the state does not discriminate by race or income when it hands out aid to storm victims.

**Report highlights progress, obstacles** (The Advocate, 11/14)

A new quarterly report on the post-Hurricane Katrina recovery of New Orleans and the metropolitan area is a mixed bag of positive developments that have taken place since the storm's two-year anniversary in August and the key challenges that lie ahead. The "New Orleans Index" - a joint effort of the Brookings Institution of Washington, D.C., and the Greater New Orleans Community Data Center - applauded the rebounding of New Orleans' population to 70 percent of pre-storm levels and the reopening of 21 additional public schools in the city this fall. The report also trumpeted last week's congressional allocation of \$3 billion to help fill a shortfall in the state's troubled "Road Home" program and a congressional override of President Bush's veto of the federal Water Resources Development Act, which authorizes at least \$7 billion for hurricane protection, coastal restoration and flood control projects in Louisiana. As for the challenges, the report noted that housing remains "unaffordable for many," with rents still 46 percent higher than before Katrina; some 10,000 homes are for sale in the metro area, with a good portion "likely to require major renovations"; not a single building on the main campus of Southern University at New Orleans - the city's only historically black public college - has been restored and students attend classes in FEMA trailers nearby; and "similar neglect" has plagued Orleans Parish's criminal justice system.

**About half of LA Road Home money in homeowner hands** (NO CityBusiness, 11/14)

Of the \$9.2 billion already calculated in Road Home benefits for homeowners damaged by hurricanes Katrina and Rita, \$4.5 billion is already in the hands of eligible applicants. Road Home officials report interviews have been held or scheduled 196,659 interviews with homeowners who can apply for up to \$150,000 in compensation to help rebuild or relocate. An estimated 162,000 applicants are expected to be found eligible and paid. Payouts have fallen far short of the \$150,000 ceiling per claim. The first 68,752 homeowners were paid an average award of \$65,975. ICF International, the Fairfax, Va., company in charge of verifying claim eligibility, is closing an average of 1,185 claims per week through the first 58 weeks of payouts. With \$10.3 billion now available for The

Road Home, the projected shortfall is just \$130 million, which is the closest the program has been to full funding since the Federal Emergency Management Agency underestimated applicant eligibility by 51 percent at 123,000. Most homeowners say they plan to rebuild with 136,346 applicants, or 73.3 percent, reporting they will rebuild their homes. Another 16,570, or 8.9 percent, say they will rebuild somewhere in Louisiana. Of the remainder, 21,185, or 11.4 percent, are undecided, another 9,517 plans are unknown (5.1 percent) and 2,336 homeowners, or 1.3 percent, plan to rebuild out of state.

**FEMA touts \$4K relocation assistance program in LA** (NO Citybusiness, 11/14)

FEMA has helped 658 families already, another 178 will soon move and tens of thousands more are eligible for relocation assistance. More than 1.2 million households were forced from their homes following hurricanes Katrina and Rita. With recovery well under way in Louisiana, many are ready to come home. After the storms, many applicants rented apartments, placed their children in schools and found jobs in new temporary homes as they waited to return. The FEMA program reimburses eligible applicants for relocation expenses up to \$4,000 incurred between Aug. 29, 2005 and Feb. 29, 2008. Relocation expenses may not exceed the FEMA Individuals and Households Program cap of \$26,200, and the applicant must not have received funds from any other state, federal or voluntary agency subsidized travel home program. Applicants returning to Louisiana must relocate to housing not provided by FEMA and not a hotel or motel. For families already living in Louisiana in FEMA travel trailers or mobile homes, FEMA will pay moving expenses to a FEMA-funded rental resource anywhere in the continental United States. Eligible applicants were displaced from their primary residence in a disaster-declared area as a result of hurricanes Katrina and Rita and have incurred or will incur relocation travel expenses within the defined period. Relocation assistance will be limited to travel costs including airfare, train, bus and/or a rental vehicle. Furniture transportation expenses also are eligible, including commercially rented equipment for hauling and commercially purchased moving materials or moving services. Evidence of expenses such as receipts must be provided for reimbursement. Mileage, gas and other travel-related expenses such as food, incurred while using a privately owned vehicle are not eligible costs. Moving costs for recreational or large luxury items such as boats or recreational vehicles are not eligible expenses.

**FEMA agrees to final debris collection** (New Orleans Times Picayune, 11/14)

FEMA has agreed to continue financing curbside collection of storm debris in St. Bernard Parish and will pay for one final sweep in mid-December, the parish said. Residents must haul storm debris to the curb for the pick-up. FEMA had stopped paying to pick up debris from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, but recently agreed to the final work, St. Bernard Parish President Henry "Junior" Rodriguez said in a news release. However, FEMA will not pay for collection of debris from new construction or renovation work. The parish recently started picking up new construction debris, using its own trucks and labor.