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## **N e w s      R e l e a s e**

August 27, 2012 – 11:30 AM

### **ST. CHARLES PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE STORM PREPARATIONS**

Presently, the storm track models project Isaac to pass directly through St. Charles Parish from the southeast to the northwest. St. Charles Parish is presently under a mandatory evacuation.

#### **MANDATORY EVACUATION**

A "mandatory evacuation" indicates that that conditions from Hurricane Isaac are expected to be such that widespread damage and flooding are possible and likely. It also means that vital services such as food stores, fuel, and medical services will be unavailable for an indefinite period. Accordingly, residents are requested to seek shelter outside of St. Charles Parish.

Even though a mandatory evacuation is ordered, no one will be forced to leave their property. Residents need to be aware however, that important emergency services such as police, fire, medical, and rescue will be unavailable during the height of the storm as it passes through. Also, necessities such as electricity, food, fuel, medicine WILL be unavailable for an extended period of time during and after the storm. If you stay, you should be prepared to be self-sufficient.

#### **POLICE PATROL**

The St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office's Hurricane plan has been activated. All employee vacation has been cancelled. Every deputy including detectives and specialized divisions will be deployed on 2 twelve hour shifts beginning this afternoon. As a result our patrol strength and visibility will be at least 3 times what it normally is. Some patrol units will be displaying emergency lights for extra visibility during the night. Deputies will patrol as the storm passes until conditions become too dangerous for driving. As soon as conditions improve, patrol will resume. Our 911 Center will field calls throughout the event.

#### **CURFEW**

A curfew will NOT be implemented for tonight Monday August 27, however, anyone cruising neighborhoods is subject to being detained and questioned as to their intention. Anyone who is not in the process of evacuating should remain home off the public roads either in a vehicle or on foot. This will assist us in protecting your neighborhood and property.

We do anticipate that a dusk to dawn CURFEW will be ordered for Tuesday August 28<sup>th</sup> as the storm passes through. We anticipate that by dusk on Tuesday power will be out and will remain out for several days.

## FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND RE-ENTRY

The St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office strongly believes in the right of citizens to access their private property and to be able to get to their workplace. St. Charles Parish will do everything possible to facilitate our local industry to operate and protect their assets. Essential employees of any business should have their valid state ID with them. It is also suggested that they carry a letter from their employer or a placard. Sheriff's deputies will honor employees need to enter St. Charles Parish and get to their workplace.

We also have no plans to restrict anyone's access in an out of St. Charles Parish. This might only occur on a limited basis if a specific area becomes heavily damaged or flooded making entry into that specific area unsafe. We will make every effort to allow residents to re-enter St. Charles Parish after the storm has passed. Residents again need to be self-sufficient when they return as food, fuel, power, and medicine will probably be unavailable for days.

St. Charles Parish does not however, have jurisdiction over roadblocks and checkpoints that may be established in other Parishes. We recommend that anyone seeking re-entry to St. Charles Parish use a major artery such as I-10 or I-55. We will also advise State Police that St. Charles Parish residents should be allowed to travel to and enter the parish.

The St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office is preparing for the worst and hoping for the best.