

New Orleans VA evacuated safely

Employee list

All patients and employees, with the exception of a small number of security personnel and engineers, have been evacuated from New Orleans VA. On pages two and three of this newsletter are the names of employees who were evacuated from New Orleans or VA Gulf Coast and their current locations. This list also contains employees from the two facilities who have called in to say they are safe.

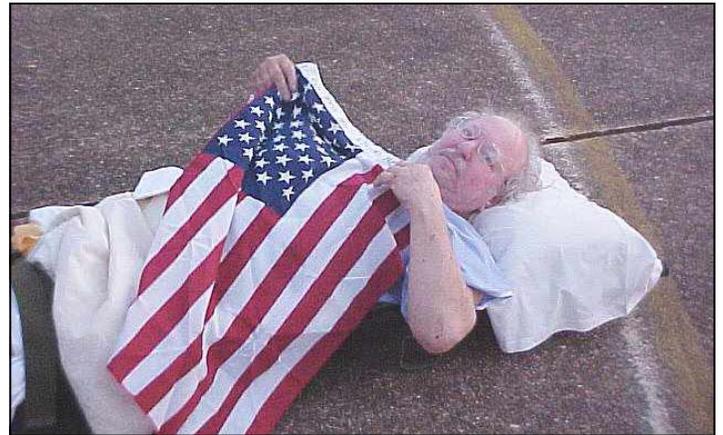
If the name of an employee you are concerned about is not on this list, please understand this is not a full list of employees who are safe. It is only a list of evacuated employees and a list of people who have called us.

Houston welcomes patients



VA physicians and nurses of the Patient Reception Team at Ellington Field in Houston, Texas welcome a patient evacuated from the New Orleans VA Medical Center.

Vietnam veteran fights a battle of a different kind



Richard Lemoine, a Vietnam veteran who served with the 101st Airborne, has fought a battle he probably thought he would never face.

Several weeks ago, Lemoine traveled to New Orleans VA for surgery. He was recovering at the VA when the hurricane hit.

On Thursday, Missouri and North Carolina Air National Guardsmen led an effort to evacuate patients including Lemoine.

Lemoine, an amputee, was placed on an evacuation device called an Evacusled that carried him down seven flights of stairs.

He was placed in the back of a 2 1/2 ton military vehicle that carried him to the airport in Kenner, LA. Here, C-130s flew the patients to Shreveport, Alexandria, Houston, Jackson, and Little Rock.

After arriving in Alexandria, a guardsman gave Lemoine the American flag, pictured above, with the inscription "God Bless You—S. Twine".

New Orleans VA and VA Gulf Coast evacuated employees

The following is a list of employees evacuated to Alexandria, LA; Jackson, MS; Little Rock, AR. This list also contains other employees from New Orleans VA and VA Gulf Coast who have called and reported they are safe. This is not a complete list of everyone who is safe, only those who have called the South Central VA Health Care Network office.

Employees at Alexandria VA Medical Center in Alexandria, LA

Adams, Stacy	Costales, Helena	Hontiveros, J. Gina	Payne, Betty	Troop, Maurice
Alexander, Gwendolyn	Coleman, Shirley	Hontiveros, Salvador	Pierce, Kevin	Tiambeng, Susan
Alper, Arnold	Cooper, Jimmy	Hutchinson, Jeffery, MD	Pierce, Leah	Tircuit, Alvin Jr.
Andrew, Joycelyn	Cormick, David	Isgitt, Patricia	Pierce, Ronnie	Thomas, Clay
Andrews, Latasha	Cromwell, Mary	Huges, Alice	Piper, Arthur	Thomas, Gail
Annunciacion, Georgia	Cupil, Randy	James, Julie	Richards, Marvin	Thomas, Kim
Baldassaro, Penny	Darensbourg, Oliver	Johnson, Lisha	Rios, Maria	Thomas, Larry
Banks, Robert E.	Daunoy, Sheila	Johnson, Steve	Rookey Craig	Thompson, Brian
Bartley, Ernest	Davenport, Artis	Jolla, Graham	Perry, Jimmy	Traina, Glenn L
Bell, Leslie	Davis, Daron	Jones, Joseph	Ryan, James	Tsuda, Ryan, M.D.
Bennett, Horace	Decatur, Issac	Kassiotis, Christos	Santa-Cruz-Miller	Turner, Ebony
Bennett Ivy	Dipia, Oke	Larkins, Berthard	Schally, Andrew	Veal, Reginald
Beraud, Eddie	Dugan, Wayne	Lavigne, Shirley	Sceau, Michael	Veal, Oliver
Bergeron, Louvinia	Duplessis, Gracias	LeBeauf, Robert	Shepard, Blanton	Warner, Diane
Bernard, Katherine	Dwyer, Donald	Lee, Alvin	Short, Bobbi	Warren, Linda
Bisland, William	Edwards, Claria	Lewis, Arlene	Simon, Jerome	Washington, Donna L
Black, Yolanda	Farley, Michael	Lewis, Debra	Smith, Anthony	Washington, Gloria
Blakes, Bernell	Fletcher, Marvin	Lewis, George	Smith, Stafford	Williams, Marshall
Bonds, Charles	Foley, June	Lobell, Wayne	Solomon, Anthony	Watson, Gerald,
Boulieu, Gloria	Fox, Morris	Lowery, Dawn	Solomon, Evera	Williams, Charles
Boyd, Sherron	Geil, Jacob	Lyons, Cherry	Stolf, Christine	Williams, Gwendolyn
Brooks, Rita	Graves, Alice	Maggiore, Leonard	Stewart, Maria	Williams, India
Broussard, Glenn	Franklin, Maxine	McCann, John	Thomas, Charlene	Williams, Mary E.
Brown, Cherise	Frank, Ronald	McCoy, Marie	Thomas, D'Juana	Williams, Rhonda
Brown, Pamala	Glover, Sheila	McLean, Alvin	Thomas, Hudson	Youngblood, Rhonda
Burden, Andrew	Gourrier-Cain, Angel	Merritt, Alexis	Thompson, Willard	
Burden, Chanci	Guruli, Zurab	Muse, Henry		
Burden, Joycelyn	Hadi, M. Azam	Marlal, Penny		
Burke, Susan	Hadi, Christine, Md	Mitchell, Joan		
Butler, Clarence	Haney, Jolanta, M.D.	Morgan, Wanda		
Cain, Alfred	Haney, Jolanta, M.D.	Morris, Danna		
Carr, Gary	Harper, Cecil	Palacios, Enrique, M.D.		
Charles-McKenzie, Vickie	Haynes, Kathleen	Narcisse, Alexander		
Cohen, Joy	Henderson, Violet	Parker, Denise		
	Holden, Ceano	Paulson, Michael		

Employees at Central Arkansas Veterans Health Care System in Little Rock

Howe, Erika, M.D.
 Henry, Kevin
 Hamblin, Mark, M.D.
 Faciane, Rhonda
 Lewis, Brian, M.D.
 Sterling, Feral

New Orleans VA and VA Gulf Coast evacuated employees

...continued from page two

Employees at G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center in Jackson, MS

Freeman, Adrena S	Jacobs, Shirley J
Trader, Robert	Francis Jr, Morris
Cupil, Randy	Francis, Derrick
Thomas, Clay	Goff, Gail
Thomas, Kim	Weilbaecher, Thomas
Glonek, Lauren	McGill, Kelly
Buckner, Lawrence	Hubbard Jr, Frank
Toups, Sara	Grant, Bernard
Riley, Ginna	Pratt, Alfred
Keith Catambay	Simmons, Charlene
Rivera, Basilio	Pembrick, Roland
Cooper, Roy	Rowley, Michael
Gaylord, Terri	Clark, Leona B
Lastrapes, Ashton	Crowder, Cynthia
Williams, Evy M	Khalil, Georgette
Collins, Donna	Davis, MD, Nicole
Gilmore, Debra	Rosiere, Larry
Adams, Frank	Frazier, Louis
Ellis, James	Brouillette Jr, Charles
Taylor, Maxwell	Turrell, Lori

Employees who have called in to report they are safe

Harris, Cathy	Walker, Romona	Raggio, Matt
Clark, Tony	Richardson, Aron	Williams, Melvin
Lejeune, Dogue	Maybin, Albert	Johnson, Melvin
Brunner, Richard	Robinson, Deana	Johnson, Michele
Anderson, Gail E.	Erasa, Andres	Steadman, Jim
Reeves, Lakisha	Lewis, Charles	Panatella, Salvatore
Robertson, Vincent	Johnson, Gilda	Bennett, Joyce
Robertson, Rose Mary	Johnson, Michael	Herbert, A. Foster Dr.
Vicknair, Debra	Powe, Nenia	Cantrell, Barbara
Elliott, Jean	Hartman, Nazareen	Gular-Hughes, Debra
Colgan, Martha R.	Charles, Debra	Brown, Marilyn
Kauchak, Robert	McWephy, Lisa	Robinson, Warner
Burns-Meier, Linda	Markey, Kristine	Schwartz, Elizabeth Dr
Cosey, Linda	Harrison, Shawn	Adams, Susan
Angelico, Eileen	Ruckert, Calvin	
Lucena, Ruben & Betsey	Blount, Lynette	

Employees at Overton Brooks VA Medical Center in Shreveport, LA

Blount, Lynn	Marlav, Penny	Garrett, Gwendolyn	Hammend, Timothy	Lucena, Betsy
Lucero, Sam	Marlav, Sarah	Eschete, Dennis	Becknell, Thelma	Buth, Jamie
Gates, Cynthia R.	Alston, Lorenzo C.	Gleming, Ludella	Bass, David W.	Divens, Latana
Hontiveros, Gina	Anderson, Nancy	Coates, James	Guler, Karcivglu	Wayman, James
Hontiveros, Sal	Barnes, Ronnie	Fung, Jean	Merrill, William	Parker, Jerome Sr.
Thompson, Brian	Haney, Yolanta	Collins, Chanting	Merrill, Mary	Francois, Joyce
Andrews, Latosha	Johnson, Joyce	Ortiz, Edward	Glaption, Jean	Evans, Marvin
Washington, Donna	Daniel-Ward, Shirley	Badeaux, Diane	Stirgus, Fleta Cooper	Armour, Karen
				Allen, Pat

Information for Employees

Employees affected by the hurricane who are off work will receive excused absences during that time period. Employees who are working now and who worked last week will receive time-off awards.

If employees of New Orleans VA or VA Gulf Coast go to work at another facility other than their current place of employment, will be authorized travel and per diem for the time they work at the different location. All assignments will be coordinated through the VISN. For more information, employees can call 1-888-766-2474 from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. CDT.

Paychecks

New Orleans VA employees and VA Gulf Coast employees who were not able to access funds from their past check, will be able to have a convenience check issued at any local VA by going to Fiscal, payroll in that facility.

Information will be provided Tuesday on procedures to follow for those requesting advanced payment of their salary checks.

Veteran Canteen Service supports victims

Veterans Canteen Service's staff members are working to help displaced VA staff and patients wherever possible.

At canteen cash registers ALL across the country, VCS has set up collection points for cash and checks. ALL money collected will be distributed to VA employees who have suffered significant losses during the hurricane and its aftermath. This is similar to the process we used last year after hurricanes in the Southeast United States.

Contributions are tax deductible. Checks should be made out to "LVAAA – VA Employees' Disaster Relief Fund." Receipts can be provided for donations of \$250 or greater.

All money collected will be forwarded to VA Central Office for distribution. The LVA Alumni Association and the VA Employees' Association will participate in the distribution process.

The VCS already has an employee payroll deduction program. This program offers every VA employee a \$1000 line of credit at 0% interest with automatic repayment from future paychecks. It can be used in both retail and food and there is no minimum purchase.

For VA employees evacuated to other VA Medical Centers VCS will:

- Increase the upper limit for their VCS Payroll Deduction accounts from \$1000 to \$2000. If needed for basic living expenses, VCS can increase the amount even further.
- If employees do not have an electronic payroll deduction account, VCS will open an account at their current location.
- If these evacuated employees have special needs for items not in our stores (e.g., diapers, baby food, etc.), then VCS will purchase these items at discount stores and allow customer to use payroll deduction for payment.
- Today VCS will also send out 1500 free phone cards to medical centers receiving evacuated staff and patients. Each of these cards allows 30 minutes of free long distance calling.
- VCS has 600 polo shirts and caps for VSC VA staff members who will be working in the disaster areas. These are blue shirts imprinted with "US Department of Veterans Affairs" in large letters on the back of the shirt. As employees are deployed to the disaster areas, VSC will provide these shirts and caps.
- At medical centers receiving evacuated staff and patients, the canteens will open extended hours if needed. VCS members from across the country have volunteered their services to help with these extended hours.

Helpful numbers for hurricane victims

Red Cross 1-866-Get Info

Red Cross 1-800-Help Now (Donations)

Red Cross family linking service 1-877-Loved-1S

FEMA: 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) TTY: 1-800-462-7585

Veterans benefits and eligibility questions

1-877-222-VETS

VISN Web site www.visn16.med.va.gov

About *After the Storm*

The *After the Storm* newsletter is a publication produced by the South Central VA Health Care Network in an effort to supply updated information to those affected by Hurricane Katrina as we continue to recover from this devastating storm.

This newsletter will be published on a recurring basis. For more information about the publication or to provide story ideas or information, call April Smith, writer/editor, VISN 16, at 601-364-7902.

South Central VA Health Care Network
1600 E. Woodrow Wilson Drive
Third Floor, Suite A
Jackson, MS 39216
Phone: 601-364-7900
Fax: 601-364-7996

Network Director—Robert Lynch, M.D.
Deputy Network Director—Rica Lewis-Payton, MSHA, CHE
Public Affairs Officer—Mario Rossilli
Editor—April Smith