

## Payroll information

### Pay adjustments

Because of Hurricane Katrina, pay period 17 (August 21—September 3) was paid to New Orleans VA and VA Gulf Coast employees through an emergency procedure. Employees were paid base pay only based on their normal hours without regard to premium pay or overtime. No leave deductions were made for leave taken during week one, prior to August 28. These adjustments will be made as soon as possible but before the end of the calendar year and added to an upcoming pay period.

### Saving allotments

Saving allotments were not taken out of pay period 17's paychecks for New Orleans VA and VA Gulf Coast employees; however, these allotments will resume with pay period 18 (pay date—September 27).

### Timekeeping

New Orleans VA employees will use paper timecards while detailed at other facilities. A timekeeper at your temporary facility has been assigned to you and will be in contact.

### Earning and Leave statements

Earning and Leave statements will be delivered to New Orleans employees as usual but may be delayed a few days. In the meantime, you can view your pay slip online through Employee Express, [www.employeeexpress.gov](http://www.employeeexpress.gov)

### Parking

Parking deductions for New Orleans employees has been stopped effective pay period 18 (pay date—September 27)

### Contact information

New Orleans employees should contact the payroll office at the facility where they are detailed for assistance with pay or leave questions. Employees may also call—

Juanita Newton (601) 362-4471 extension 5907

Bill Lasko (601) 364-1488

Ron Smith (601) 362-4471 extension 5432

For banking questions, such as information about bank accounts, lost financial records, ATM cards, direct deposits and how to contact a bank branch, call the FDIC 24-hour hotline at 1-877-275-3342.

## Employee Assistance Program

Employees who have been affected by Hurricane Katrina and want counseling, are urged to contact the Employee Assistance Program Coordinator at a VA facility.

## 98 percent of VA Gulf Coast employees accounted for

### 1590 total employees

(Biloxi—1092, Gulfport—427, Mobile—71)

### 1554 (98%) employees have been contacted

- **170 (11%) have lost their homes**
- **267 (17%) have major damage to their homes**
- **807 (52%) have minor damage to their homes**
- **174 (11%) have no damage to their homes**
- **139 (9%) do not know the status of their homes**

## FEMA Disaster Recover Centers

FEMA has established several Disaster Recovery Centers in Mississippi and Louisiana. Disaster victims are urged to register for assistance first by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). The TTY number is 1-800-462-7585 for those who are speech- or hearing-impaired.

### In Mississippi

**3164 Bienville Blvd**  
(Next to American Thrift Store)  
Ocean Springs  
8 a.m. to 6 p.m

**Pascagoula High School**  
1716 Tucker Ave  
Pascagoula  
8 a.m. to 6 p.m

**Pelican Landing  
Convention Center**  
6217 Hwy 613  
Moss Point  
8 a.m. to 6 p.m

**K-Mart Parking Lot**  
US 90  
Waveland  
8 a.m. to 6 p.m

### In Louisiana

**Old Summergrove Baptist Church**  
2820 Summer Grove Drive  
Shreveport, La. 71118  
9 a. m. to 7 p. m.

**Lafayette Parish**  
111 Liberty Ave.  
Lafayette, La. 70508  
9 a. m. to 7 p. m.

### Louisiana..cont'd

**Old Office Max Bldg.**  
2255 Macarthur  
Alexandria, La. 71301  
9 a. m. to 7 p. m.

**Baton Rouge**  
101 France Street  
Baton Rouge, La. 70802  
9 a. m. to 7 p. m.

**Plaquemines Primary School**  
539 Edward Hebert Blvd.  
Belle Chasse, La. 70037  
Due to Curfew:  
7 a. m. to 5 p. m.

**Old Wal-Mart Store**  
1100 Homer Rd.  
Minden, La. 71055  
9 a. m. to 7 p. m.

**Iberville Parish Library**  
24605 J. Gerald Barrett Blvd.  
Plaquemine, La. 70764  
9 a. m. to 7 p. m.

**Civic Center  
Convention Hall**  
401 Lea Joyner Memorial Expway  
Monroe, La. 71210  
9 a. m. to 7 p. m.

## VAHNOLA Credit Union update

Members of VAHNOLA Credit Union should be able to make withdrawal requests by Monday, September 19, according to Yolanda Jackson, President of the Board of Directors. Jackson says employees are working around the clock to get the credit union back in operation.

The credit union has deferred loan payments for 90 days (September, October, November). At the end of the 90 days, an assessment will be made to determine the next course of action.

Jackson also says an emergency assistance program is in the works. Details on that program plus a phone number to contact the credit union will be published in the newsletter at a later date.

## Number of mobile clinics grows

More mobile clinics have been established in South Mississippi and Louisiana to provide medical treatment to veterans displaced by the hurricane.

The mobile clinics are open Monday—Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday, from 8 a.m. to Noon.

### McComb, MS

Mississippi National Guard Armory  
319 West Avenue North  
McComb, MS 39648

### Hammond, LA

1135 S. Morrison Avenue  
Hammond, La 704033

### LaPlace, LA

Wal-Mart parking lot during day only  
1616 W. Airline Hwy  
LaPlace, LA  
Walmart pharmacy hours  
Monday-Friday: 9:00 am - 9:00 pm  
Saturday: 9:00 am - 7:00 pm

### Slidell, LA

Sam Club parking lot during day only  
39142 Natchez Drive  
Slidell, LA 70461  
Walmart pharmacy Hours  
Monday-Friday: 8:00 am - 9:00 pm  
Saturday: 9:00 am - 7:00 pm

### Gulfport, MS

Sam's Club Parking Lot  
15065 Cresote Road  
Gulfport, MS 39505

For more information about the mobile clinics, veterans can call 1-800-949-1009 ext. 6004. Veterans currently enrolled in a standing VA clinic that is operational should continue to seek treatment at that clinic.

## VA Gulf Coast and New Orleans VA employees list

For a list of VA Gulf Coast and New Orleans VA employees, who have been accounted for, check the VISN 16 website at [www.visn16.med.va.gov](http://www.visn16.med.va.gov). If you come in contact with or know other people who are not on this list, please have them contact VISN 16 at 1-888-766-2474.

## National Day of Prayer today

President Bush declared today, Friday, September 16, 2005 as a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for the Victims of Hurricane Katrina.

## Helpful contact information

**Red Cross** [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

**1-866-Get Info**

**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**

**[www.firstgov.gov](http://www.firstgov.gov)**

**[www.hurricanekatrinasmembers.com](http://www.hurricanekatrinasmembers.com)**

**[www.opm.gov/katrina/](http://www.opm.gov/katrina/)**

**FDIC 1-877-275-3342**

**Social Security information**

**[www.socialsecurity.gov/emergency](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/emergency)**

**United States Postal Service [www.usps.gov](http://www.usps.gov)**

**VA employees 1-888-766-2474**

**Veterans 1-800-507-4571**

**Veterans benefits and eligibility questions**

**1-877-222-VETS**

**VISN 16 [www.visn16.med.va.gov](http://www.visn16.med.va.gov)**

**VA Katrina Website [www.va.gov/katrina](http://www.va.gov/katrina)**

**Thrift Savings Plan [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.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