

STATE OF TEXAS, STATE OPERATIONS CENTER (SOC)

SUBJECT: Hurricane Gustav

SITUATION REPORT # 1

DATE AND TIME COVERED: Tuesday, August 26, 2008 4:00 p.m.

1. CURRENT SITUATION:

The State of Texas has begun making preparations to prepare for and respond to the potential impacts of a major hurricane strike somewhere on the Texas Gulf Coast.

Tropical Storm Gustav formed at 1:00 p.m. yesterday and quickly became a hurricane at 2:20 a.m. this morning, 26 August 2008 with sustained winds near 80 miles per hour (MPH).

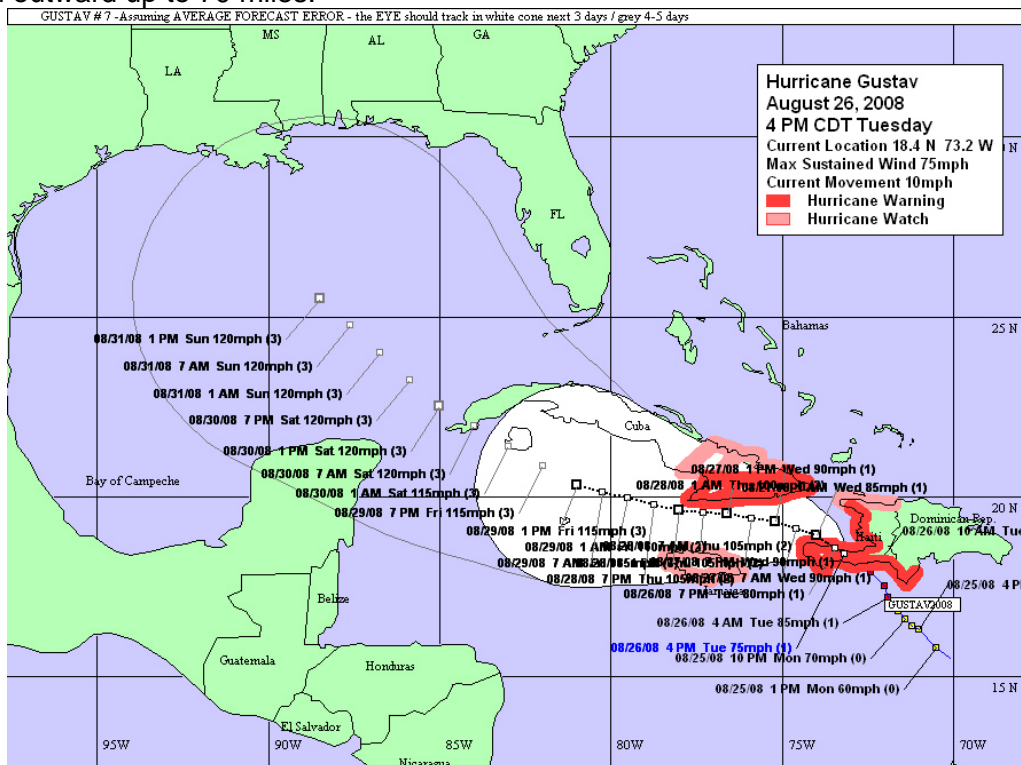
Gustav is a Category One hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson Scale with maximum sustained winds near 75 MPH, with higher gusts and a central pressure of 981 MB.

At 1:00 p.m. the center of Hurricane Gustav was located near latitude 18.2 North, longitude 72.8 West or about 40 miles south of Port au Prince Haiti and about 190 miles southeast of Guantanamo Cuba.

Gustav is moving toward the northwest near 10 mph. A turn toward the west-northwest with a decrease in forward speed is expected later today and a general west-northwestward motion is expected Wednesday. Gustav made landfall on the southwest peninsula of Haiti this afternoon and should be near or just south of eastern Cuba on Wednesday.

Some weakening is likely as Gustav moves over Haiti; however re-strengthening is forecast as the center approaches eastern Cuba on Wednesday. Hurricane Gustav is forecast to enter the Gulf of Mexico as a major hurricane by this weekend.

At this time, hurricane force winds extend outward up to 25 miles from the center and tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 70 miles.



The State of Texas is planning and making preparations for a potential Category 4 Hurricane along the Texas Coastline.

In preparation for possible impacts from Hurricane Gustav, the State Operations Center (SOC) began readiness conference calls on Tuesday, 26 August 2008 with Federal, State, private industry partners, volunteer organizations, and local jurisdictions. Twice daily conference calls will begin at 10:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., on 27 August 2008. The following preparedness actions are being undertaken:

Texas Forest Service: Preparing for possible deployment of the Lonestar Task Force and identification of all available Incident Management Team personnel to support incident management teams.

Texas Procurement and Support Services (TPASS) (Comptroller of Public Accounts): Review of emergency contracts for commercial bus support for potential evacuation and required fuel support.

Texas Military Forces: Identification and review of aircraft and personnel to support potential evacuation, shelter team management, and search and rescue requirements.

Texas Engineering & Extension Service/Texas Task Force One: Conducting inventory of all state-wide Search and Rescue (SAR) capability and determining availability for maximum deployment of all State SAR assets.

Texas Department of State Health Services: Identification of potential ambulance requirements to support potential special needs evacuation from home health care or private health care facilities.

State Fuel Coordination Team: Review of fuel availability and additional fuel need requirements along the Texas Coast and evacuation routes.

Public Works Response Teams (PWRT): Identifying the maximum available personnel to staff and support PWRT's requirements.

State Shelter and Mass Care: Coordination with volunteer organizations and identification of sheltering and mass care resource support and coordination of special needs shelter requirements.

Alamo Area Regional Command: Identification of staff support to operate the State Logistics Staging Site in preparation to receiving pre-positioned state response resources.

2. AREAS AFFECTED BY EVENT: Texas Gulf Coast

3. RESPONDING AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS AND RESOURCES COMMITTED:

State agencies, private sector partners, Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster and local jurisdictions are identifying and inventorying all necessary assets to prepare for and respond to the potential for a major hurricane strike on the Texas gulf Coast.

4. COMMENTS:

The Governor's Division of Emergency Management is monitoring the situation and will issue additional reports as necessary. The SOC is at Level I (Emergency Conditions) to support Border Security Operations. The SOC will conduct the next conference call on August 27, 2008 at 10:30 a.m.

The four levels of SOC activation are:

- Level I (Emergency Conditions)
- Level II (Escalated Response Conditions)
- Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions)
- Level IV (Normal Conditions)

This Situation Report can be found on the DEM Homepage at www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem

Jack Colley
Chief, Emergency Management Division