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HSOC SPOT REP

SPOT REP #:	#013
Date/Time (EDT):	08/29/05 @ 2230
Reference:	New Orleans Helicopter Overflight
Source of Information:	FEMA Teleconference – observations from Marty Bahamonte, FEMA Public Affairs. Participants included Patrick Rhode, Mike Lowder, Bill Locke, Mike Pawlowski and Mary Anne Lyle
Type of Incident:	Hurricane Katrina

Update	
Summary:	Marty Bahamonte of FEMA Public Affairs made two aerial over flights of the New Orleans area the afternoon of Monday, August 29, 2005. As additional information becomes available it will be reported. He concluded the two immediate major problems would be: 1. Access to the city because roads are flooded to the north and east. 2. Housing His observations include the following: • The I-10 Twin Span bridges to the east of the City to Slidell are compromised in both directions for a stretch of five to seven miles. On the east side bridge sections are gone; on the west side bridge sections are buckled and askew. • There is no way to enter New Orleans from the east. Highway 11 appears generally in tact but is under water where it enters the City and will require some repair but appears to be a quick fix. • The western I10/I610 junction connecting Jefferson and Orleans Parrish is under water. • Entrance from the north is not possible because as roads get into the city, they are under water. • I10 to the west appears to have several underwater sections. • The Airline Highway by the airport is above water. • There is a quarter-mile breech in the levee near the 17th Street Canal about 200 yards from Lake Pontchartrain allowing water to flow into the City. • The levee in Metarie is in tact. • Only one of the main pumps is reported to still be working but cannot keep up with the demand and its longevity is doubtful. • In the neighborhoods there are many small fires where natural gas lines have broken. • Flooding is greatest in the north and east in New Orleans, Metairie

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Page 1 of 2

	and north towards Slidell – an estimated 2/3 to 75% of the city is under water. • The flights did not go all the way north to Slidell so conditions there are not reported. • Some homes were seen with water to the first floor and others completely underwater. • Hundreds of people were observed on the balconies and roofs of a major apartment complex in the city. The location has been provided to City officials. • Downtown there is less flooding. Most buildings have windows blown out but otherwise appear structurally sound. • West and South of the City appear dry. • Lake Front Airport by Lake Pontchartrain is under water. • There is an oil tanker grounded in the Industrial Canal – two tugs were observed working with the ship. • The Coast Guard reported two other tankers aground but they were not observed. • The Coast Guard is flying rescue missions for people stuck on roofs. They reported seeing about 150 people but also said that as they lifted people out, they saw others breaking through the roofs of adjacent homes. • The Coast Guard will use night vision devices and continue rescue missions into the night. • Search and Rescue will need boats, in some locations high wheeled trucks may be usable. FEMA USR Teams are coordinating boat use with Louisiana Fish and Game officials. • The City reports about 300 people have been rescued by boat so far. These rescue operations will continue through the night. • Boat traffic is not restricted and movement of supplies by boat and barge is feasible. • The Inter Harbor Canal is not visible. • A few bodies were seen floating in the water and Coast Guard pilots also reported seeing bodies but there are no details on locations or numbers.
Significance:	
Actions/Follow-Up:	N/A
Miscellaneous:	
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