



# ATTORNEY GENERAL

P.O. Box 94005 • Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
225-326-6705 • [www.ag.state.la.us](http://www.ag.state.la.us)

Tammi Arender Herring, Director of Communications  
225-326-6703 (office) • 225-588-4639 (cell) • [arendert@ag.state.la.us](mailto:arendert@ag.state.la.us)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## PRESS RELEASE

### ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE PLAYS A HUGE ROLE DURING HURRICANES GUSTAV AND IKE

BATON ROUGE, La.-- — Attorney General James D. “Buddy” Caldwell and his entire staff worked tirelessly before, during and after Hurricanes Gustav and Ike.

While the Department of Justice building in Baton Rouge lost power for almost a full week, essential personnel kept working to help during the time of emergency.

From investigating price gouging complaints, to assisting in the Governor’s office at the Office of Emergency Preparedness, and the evacuation of several thousand inmates, the AG’s staff worked many 16 hour days during the time period of August 27 – September 15.

The role of the Attorney General’s office during a time of emergency is to provide available personnel and resources in support of the Emergency Support Functions Plan, as both a primary agency and a support agency. We also provide legal advice to local and state officials in regards to emergency management.

Below is a list of just some of the responsibilities carried out during this time:

Investigators and support staff manned the office phone lines taking consumer calls during and after the Hurricane Gustav and Ike. As of September 15<sup>th</sup>, approximately 1000 calls have come to this office via the hotline. Almost every call has been returned.

12 Investigators participated in the evacuation of 3,000 inmates from Orleans, Jefferson, and St. Bernard Parish Prisons.

24 Investigators assigned to Assumption Parish for seven (7) days for patrols, check points, and community assistance.

7 Investigators assigned to Pointe Coupee Parish for four (4) days for patrols, check points, and community assistance. Our office was also involved in the arrest of a murder suspect at a check point in Pointe Coupee.

8 Investigators assigned to work with the Department of Natural Resources to assist in the inventory of generators that were located in 22 parishes.

5 Investigators assigned to the food stamp distribution center in St. Francisville for an indefinite period of time.

10 Investigators assigned to patrol with the EBR Parish Sheriff's Office for four (4) days.

After Hurricane Ike hit, our office deployed 20 Investigators to assist Terrebonne parish with patrols, check points and community assistance.

Photos attached:

Prisoner escort from south La. parishes to Angola during Hurricane Gustav

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