

## Louisianians pick through debris

NEW ORLEANS — As Louisianians made their way back to hurricane-razed coastal neighborhoods Thursday, officials expressed relief that destruction wasn't worse and appealed for medical help at still-crowded shelters.

"We've been spared a major, major disaster," Gov. Edwin Edwards said during a helicopter tour.

Storm Andrew was blamed for one final affront: A pipeline at an offshore natural gas rig apparently damaged by the hurricane caught fire. No pollution was reported and the fire was expected to burn itself out, authorities said.

Officials throughout southern Louisiana began compiling damage estimates, but said no numbers would be available at least until Friday. Estimates likely will be measured in millions of dollars, rather than the billions of more densely populated

Florida. "All my things! All my things, my furniture," Linda Henson wept in Bayou Vista, west of Morgan City.

A steady stream of cars returned to the coastal towns where Andrew's eye and 160-mph wind gusts came ashore Wednesday.

The cleanup began with chain saws and portable generators ringing out. A tow truck righted a toppled trailer, and National Guard troops with Humvees and M-16 rifles took up posts. Store owners put up plastic sheets over shattered windows and swept up broken glass with shovels.

Local radio stations were out, and newspapers in Franklin and Morgan City haven't been able to publish since Monday.

Knee-deep water receded quickly, leaving only scattered pools lying about. Stores and restaurants tried to open but most still lacked electricity.

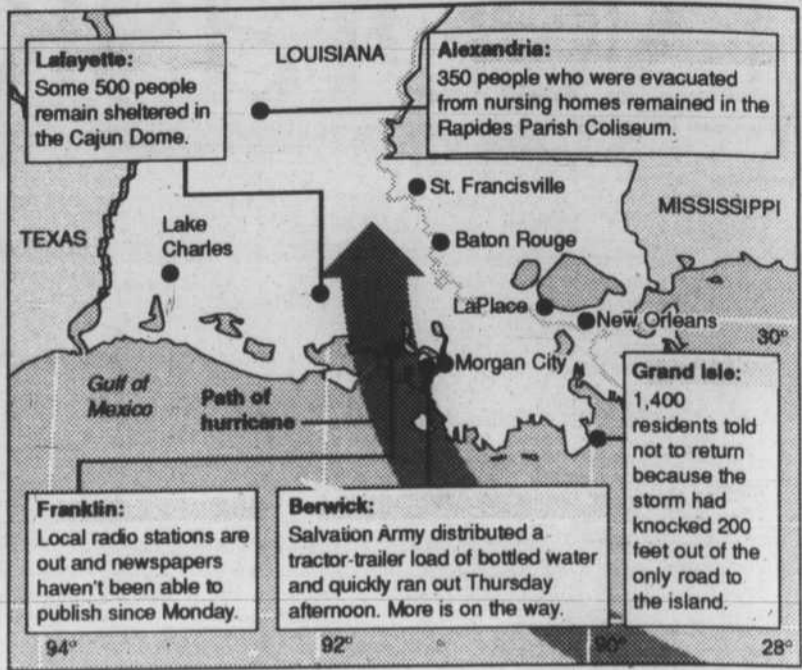
A few resourceful Cajuns cooked on barbecue grills and portable gas stoves, and sipped instant coffee. The Salvation Army had 26 canteen trucks out delivering food and water.

"If we can keep their stomachs full, they'll be a little more contented," said Al Ritson, a Salvation Army official in Morgan City.

The hurricane killed a total of 20 people in the two states and the Bahamas.

Its remnants crossed Mississippi on Thursday with winds of about 35 mph. Jackson recorded 4 inches of rain, the National Weather Service said, and about 29,000 Mississippi homes and businesses lost power. In Livingston, Ala., near the Mississippi line, Mayor Tom Tartt said wind damaged the roofs of several buildings.

The storm was on a track to cross Alabama and move into Georgia by Friday, forecasters said.



## UNL state museum official stayed in gunman's hotel

A University of Nebraska-Lincoln employee was staying Wednesday in the same South Dakota hotel as a gunman who took 19 people hostage.

Hugh Genoways, UNL state museum director, was at the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn in Rapid City, S.D., for a conference on managing and preserving fossils in the Great Plains.

Two other museum employees were in Rapid City but stayed at another hotel.

Genoways said he went to the front of the hotel and saw that a front door had been smashed.

"Then a policeman carrying a shotgun came out and started yelling 'get out of here. Get out of here,'" he said.

The guests were taken to an adjoining convention center. They waited out the five-hour standoff that ended when the gunman released his hostages and shot himself. Police said the gunman was being treated at a hospital.

## Patrolled Iraqi skies quiet

WASHINGTON — U.S. warplanes swooped into southern Iraq Thursday to enforce a coalition ban on all flights by Iraqi aircraft.

Saddam Hussein's government denounced the no-flight zone and threatened retaliation "in due time." The Pentagon said no Iraqi planes had challenged the prohibition of flights below the 32nd parallel.

Pentagon spokesman Bob Hall, speaking at a news conference almost two hours after the 10:15 a.m. EDT ban went into effect, said, "As of this moment, or as of about five minutes ago, there had been no activity to prevent the monitoring regime that we've undertaken."

He said F-18s based on the aircraft carrier Independence and F-15 fighters were patrolling the skies of southern Iraq, and that the military was adding to its AWAC and RC-135 reconnaissance plane force in the Persian Gulf theater. British and French planes are moving into the region to participate, Hall said.

President Bush announced the ban on Wednesday, saying one purpose

was to prevent any attacks on coalition surveillance planes monitoring Iraqi military activities in the marshlands of southern Iraq. Bush accused Saddam of attacking the Shiite people of southern Iraq, a violation of U.N. Resolution 688 that requires Iraq to cease all suppression of its citizens.

Shiite Muslims were crushed when they rose up against Saddam following the Gulf War defeat, but have kept up guerrilla operations based in the vast marshes of the south. The Iraqi military has recently stepped up its attacks on the region.

More than 20 American aircraft based on the Independence patrolled southern Iraq, some flying escorts for British Tornados helping monitor the special zone.

Pilots returning from the flights said none fired any of their air-to-ground missiles and they were not locked onto by Iraqi radar, although they flew over roads, rivers, airports and known surface-to-air missile sites.

Pentagon sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they fully expected Saddam's forces to test U.S.

and allied resolve with possible "cat and mouse" ploys, perhaps by flying aircraft just over or quite near the border of the no-fly zone.

Hall said that so far the Iraqis were avoiding confrontation. He said that Iraq had moved all its fixed-wing aircraft and most or all of its helicopters above the 32nd parallel.

He said that of 40 flights on Thursday, all were above the line, and that on Wednesday, only two of 95 flights, both by helicopters, crossed the line.

"I don't think anybody expects anything to happen" immediately, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said Thursday. "The evidence at this point is Saddam is not looking for a confrontation. It appears that he's keeping his aircraft above the 32nd parallel."

An official statement on Baghdad radio said Iraq would resist and would not let "the enemy choose the timing and the method appropriate to them to achieve their evil purposes."

One concern is that Saddam might bar further U.N. weapon inspections and end U.N. relief operations in Iraq.

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Student & Spouse	\$1,399.00	\$732.00	\$371.00	\$893.00	\$371.00	
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## Somalia food flights ready

MOMBASA, Kenya — After two weeks of preparation and negotiation, the United States is ready to begin emergency food flights Friday to Somalia, where chaos and danger reign in a land ravaged by drought and civil war.

Marine Brig. Gen. Frank Libutti, in charge of the U.S. military operation, said Thursday that the first of six C-130 Hercules transport planes would take off before dawn for Belet Huen, 670 miles northeast of this Kenyan port.

Since Libutti's team began flying a week ago, its eight C-130s and four C-141 Starlifters have delivered about 925 tons of food to Somali refugees and drought-stricken Kenyans in northern Kenya.

But the focus of the aid operation ordered by President Bush is the delivery of food to Somalia, where 1.5 million people out of a population of 6.5 million are said to be in immediate danger of starvation.

The direct flights were delayed by negotiations to arrange security both for the American military personnel and for the food itself. Widespread combat between competing clan warlords has left Somalia in anarchy, and roving bandits have stolen humanitarian aid sent into the country.

"Our mission, simply stated, is to deliver food to the needy," Libutti said. "I'm absolutely confident we've done our homework. My decision is we're going to go. We can take food to Somalia and feel good about it."

The food being flown in by U.S. planes is to be distributed by the International Red Cross. One of its demands, sticking large Red Cross decals on the U.S. aircraft, was satisfied Thursday.

Both Libutti and Andrew Natsios, Bush's special coordinator for the Somalia effort, called the Swiss-based organization the "real heroes" of Somali relief.

"They specialize in conflict situations," Natsios said. "There is no conflict situation in the world more chaotic and more dangerous than Somalia."

The aid plan for Somalia, which forms the Horn of Africa, is designed to increase pressure on the warlords to stop fighting, Natsios said. For now, most of the emergency food will go to the country's two southern zones, where the warlords are least in control, Natsios said.

"We will tell the clan leaders that their people will get more if they stop fighting," he said.

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