

Press Release



Covering the Cost

For Immediate Release – July 16, 2009

FEMA recently confirmed it will fully reimburse the parish for money spent on emergency work for Hurricane Ike. Federal funds have been authorized to cover 100 percent of total eligible costs for debris removal and emergency protective measures, such as flood fighting and plugging levee breaches.

“FEMA told us from the start that all the emergency work would be covered, we’re glad to finally get it in writing,” said Parish President Billy Nungesser. “We had the verbal approval early on, and now we have it in writing that this is 100% reimbursable. Had we waited for it in writing before we started the levee repairs, we would be facing the peak of hurricane season this year with damaged levees, which we couldn’t let happen.”

Hurricane Ike made landfall near Galveston, Texas, but it caused significant damage to Plaquemines Parish and other parts of Southern Louisiana. A major disaster was declared for the state of Louisiana on September 13, 2008. To date, the parish has spent \$15.9 million on debris removal and levee repairs for Hurricane Ike. So far, FEMA has approved the reimbursement for \$6.7 million. Plaquemines Parish has applied for reimbursement on the remaining monies. That process can take up to a year.