



**American
Red Cross**

Mississippi Gulf Coast
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News Release
NEWS RELEASE

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AMERICAN RED CROSS GEARS UP FOR ARRIVAL OF TROPICAL STORM IDA

BILOXI (November 9, 2009) – The American Red Cross is preparing for the arrival of Tropical Storm Ida. The EOCs of Harrison and Jackson Counties have requested that the following shelters be opened to house residents of areas that are susceptible to wind and flooding:

- West Harrison Community Center, 4470 Espy Ave, Long Beach MS; **opens 4pm(*May Change)**
- Woolmarket Community Center, 16320 Old Woolmarket Rd, Biloxi MS; **opens 4pm(*May Change)**
- Gautier Convention Center, 2012 Library Lane, Gautier MS; **opens 1pm**

These shelters are open to all (men, women and children). Pets, alcohol and weapons will not be allowed. Guests are reminded to bring a 3-day supply of essential provision with them, including food, water and medication. These shelters will remain open until weather conditions improve or until further notice.

A fourth shelter may also be opened in Hancock County. We will follow up with confirmation on this as soon as possible.

The American Red Cross encourages Gulf Coast residents to:

- Stay informed by listening to local TV and radio stations and checking local news websites.
- Assemble a disaster supply kit including food, water, flashlight, essential medication, and copies of important documents.

For updates on shelters, contact the MS Gulf Coast Chapter at 228-896-4511 and the Southeast MS Chapter at 762-2455.

All American Red Cross disaster assistance is free, made possible by voluntary donations of time and money from the American people. You can help the victims of thousands of disasters across the country each year by making a financial gift to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund, which enables the Red Cross to provide shelter, food, counseling and other assistance to victims of disaster. Call 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767) or 1-800-257-7575 (Spanish). Contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund may be sent to your local American Red Cross chapter or to the American Red Cross, P. O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013. Internet users can make a secure online contribution by visiting www.redcross.org.

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