



PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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AEDC reaches out to businesses affected by Gustav; tallies damages

(Sorrento, LA, September 9, 2008) In the aftermath of Hurricane Gustav, Ascension Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) staff has been actively contacting companies since last Wednesday to assess power outages and damages to Ascension Parish-based businesses. AEDC staff has called more than fifty Ascension Parish companies and has surveyed and documented power outages and tallied structural damage amounts to local facilities. Information is being gathered and reported to the Louisiana Department of Economic Development and the Baton Rouge Area Chamber which are collectively assessing the storm's economic impact on the area in order to acquire storm-related assistance to businesses in the Gustav-affected parishes.

AEDC is using its Synchronist business retention software to track companies and is using its Geographic Information System (GIS) software to plot damaged facilities in Ascension. Reports of damage from plant officials have tallied in the hundreds of thousands of dollars and some plants reported damage up to \$1 million, not including lost revenue from facilities closed for the past week due to the storm.

Ascension businesses can utilize websites such as <http://emergency.louisiana.gov/> and <http://www.louisianafoward.com/> to access or report information related to Hurricane Gustav. Businesses and homeowners can also call the SBA hotline at 1-800-659-2955 or can apply online at <http://disasterloan.sba.gov> for additional resources. AEDC staff will continue to contact Ascension businesses over the next few days and will forward information to State, Baton Rouge Area Chamber, and utility officials.

For more information on available resources, please contact AEDC staff at 225-675-1750 or visit www.ascensionedc.com.

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