

IDMR Louisiana Branch Schools Update Post Hurricane Ida and Tropical Storm Nicholas

Date: September 20, 2021 (Monday)

New Orleans West Bank

- The City of New Orleans and the surrounding area sustained significant damage resulting from Hurricane Ida.
- Both Dr. Sheryl Sonia and Dr. Sam McIver report that to date there have been no reports of injuries to any Branch School members.
- Many fled the City at the time of being notified about the impending storm at the time and some are just now returning.
- Note that the storm measured at a Category 4 and according to the Saffir-Simpson scale this means that the wind speed of Hurricane Ida measured between 130-156 mph.
- Power is slowly being restored to the City.
- Phone communication is spotty because several of the cell towers have been damaged due to wind.
- Food and gas shortages still exist because distribution routes and services have been disrupted.
- It is still continuing to rain causing more street flooding in various parts of the City.
- The Dean and the President are still attempting to contact members to assess their status.
- Overall, although members have sustained damage, they are managing to cope in the aftermath of the Hurricane.
- There are two families in St. Bernard Parish who have lost their homes. Further updates about their statuses is forthcoming.

- No one to date has requested assistance. However, more will be known once updated statuses concerning Branch School members have been obtained
- Prior to the Hurricane, the Class closed due to COVID-19. During this period mold grew in the building from various sources within the building including a leak in the roof. During the Hurricane, a window in the second floor blew out. The building remains uninhabitable.
- The Branch School has tried to negotiate the cost of repairs with the landlord to the roof and other affected areas of the building, but to no avail.
- If a suitable location can be found, there will be a general meeting of the membership to discuss the various issues concerning the Class Building and Class operations. It must be remembered that the City sustained very significant damage and the feasibility of finding a location may be somewhat difficult at this time.
- Further more detailed updates will be provided and submitted accordingly.

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Date: Sunday September 19, 2021

Hammond Branch

- The City of Hammond, LA and all of Tangipahoa Parish have been adversely and significantly impacted by Hurricane Ida.
- As of 9/19/21 power has been restored in Hammond.
- To date none of the Class members in Hammond have reported any injuries.
- To date none of the Class members have sustained any major property damage nor have been displaced. Some have lost shingles from their roofs or downed trees and branches. One member had water enter his home but not to the point where it became necessary to evacuate. (Note that according to local news reports, Hurricane Ida was the most powerful storm in history to ever hit Tangipahoa Parish even being more powerful than Hurricanes Betsy and Katrina. The damage sustained in the aftermath of the storm exceeds all previous hurricanes. Yet the Class members are safe and sound. And again as noted, Branch School members' properties and the Hammond Class Building sustained only minor damage, if any.)
- Mold developed in the building prior to Hurricane Ida due to the extensive Class Closure resulting from COVID-19. The effort was already underway to perform the requisite mold remediation and detailed and thorough sanitary clean-up over the past month. However the process was interrupted by Hurricane Ida. The process will resume as soon as it is safely and financially feasible. As such the Dean, Dr. Kleo Denham, does not anticipate that this will be a problem. She and the Hammond Branch School Officers are in communication and will meet via Zoom to discuss and develop a go-forward plan to present to the members, and then move forward accordingly. Note that feasibility is based upon the resumption of obtaining proper resources and class donations in order to complete the process. As stated, Dr. Denham is confident that this will not be problematic at this point.

- The streets in Hammond are being cleared and navigation in traffic is getting back to normal. Food and gas are more accessible and available.
- Although most of the streets are now clear, debris removal will be a slow.
- Dr. Denham will provide further updates accordingly.