

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of New Orleans Monitoring Low Pressure Disturbance, Preparing for Rain

NEW ORLEANS—The City of New Orleans continues to monitor a disturbance over the Southeastern U.S. which will move south toward the Gulf of Mexico later this week and has the potential to develop into a tropical cyclone. While it is too soon to forecast local impacts to the New Orleans area, the City of New Orleans encourages residents to review hurricane plans and prepare for rain, which is likely regardless of tropical development.

"We are closely monitoring this system and are preparing should it pose a threat to New Orleans," said Mayor LaToya Cantrell. "This is a reminder to residents that we are in hurricane season. Whether or not this system impacts us, now is the time to pay attention and review your hurricane plans."

Monitoring low pressure disturbance

A trough of low pressure located over central Georgia is forecast to move southward toward the northeastern Gulf of Mexico, where a broad area of low pressure is expected to form later this week. The National Hurricane Center states that a tropical depression is likely to form by the end of the week. It is too soon to determine specific impacts on the local area, according to the National Weather Service's New Orleans Office. However, regardless of development, rain is expected in New Orleans late this week and into the weekend. Forecast rainfall amounts will be refined as the situation becomes clearer.

City prepares for rain

The New Orleans Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness is monitoring and preparing for potential impacts from this system.

The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans is prepared for potentially heavy rainfall later this week. We are monitoring the system 24/7 and stand ready to make any staffing changes should circumstances require a heightened response. Starting today, we began implementing standard testing procedures for all of our equipment to ensure that we are in the best possible position to respond to incoming weather.

All manned pumping stations will have operators on duty throughout the event. SWBNO crews will constantly monitor all underpass pumping stations. All but two of the city's 120 drainage and constant-duty pumps are available, including all major drainage pumps capable of pumping 1,000 cubic feet of water per second (cfs) or more.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) has and will continue to clean and unclog catch basins, as well as flush drain lines in flood-prone areas. For active construction projects, DPW is working with its contractors to ensure that they are prepared to secure their sites if necessary.

Residents encouraged to prepare for rain and review hurricane plans

The City of New Orleans encourages residents to prepare for the potential of heavy rain later this week. Clear leaves and debris from gutters, downspouts, and in front of catch basins to help rain get to the drain. To reduce risk of street flooding, do not park in front of or on a catch basin, and do not dispose of anything in a catch basin. Call 311 to report catch basins that are not fully functioning. Residents should avoid lifting a catch basin lid or inserting anything into a catch basin.

As always during hurricane season, residents are reminded to review emergency plans, gather emergency supplies, and stay informed. Hurricane preparedness information is available at ready.nola.gov/hurricane. Updates from the City will be provided at ready.nola.gov and on social media @nolaready. Residents can also receive emergency alerts directly from the City by text, email, or phone call. To register for alerts, text your zip code to 888777 or go to ready.nola.gov/alerts.

Residents who might need extra help during an emergency due to medical or mobility needs should sign up for the City's Special Needs Registry. To register, call 3-1-1 or go to specialneeds.nola.gov.

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