

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY**Office of Cybersecurity, Energy
Security, and Emergency Response

Hurricane Laura | Update #3

REPORT TIME & DATE: 9:00 AM EDT | Thursday, August 27, 2020**REPORT DISTRIBUTION:** Public

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As of 8:00 AM EDT, Hurricane Laura was 20 miles north of Fort Polk, Louisiana, moving northwest at 15 MPH, with maximum sustained winds of 100 MPH, after hitting the Texas-Louisiana coast as a 150 MPH Category 4 hurricane early this morning. On the forecast track, Laura will move northward across western and northern Louisiana through this afternoon. The center of Laura is forecast to move over Arkansas tonight, the mid-Mississippi Valley on Friday, and the mid-Atlantic on Saturday. The DOE Energy Response Center is activated to coordinate with interagency, state, and industry partners.

Electricity Sector Summary

- As of 7:30 AM EDT, there were approximately 484,000 customer outages reported across the states of Louisiana and Texas, including approximately 386,000 customer outages in Louisiana.
- As Laura passes, utilities will begin damage assessments and restoration efforts as conditions permit.
- Utilities in the impacted area pre-staged crews, equipment, and materials, and mutual assistance networks have been activated to support restoration efforts as needed.

Oil & Natural Gas Sector Summary

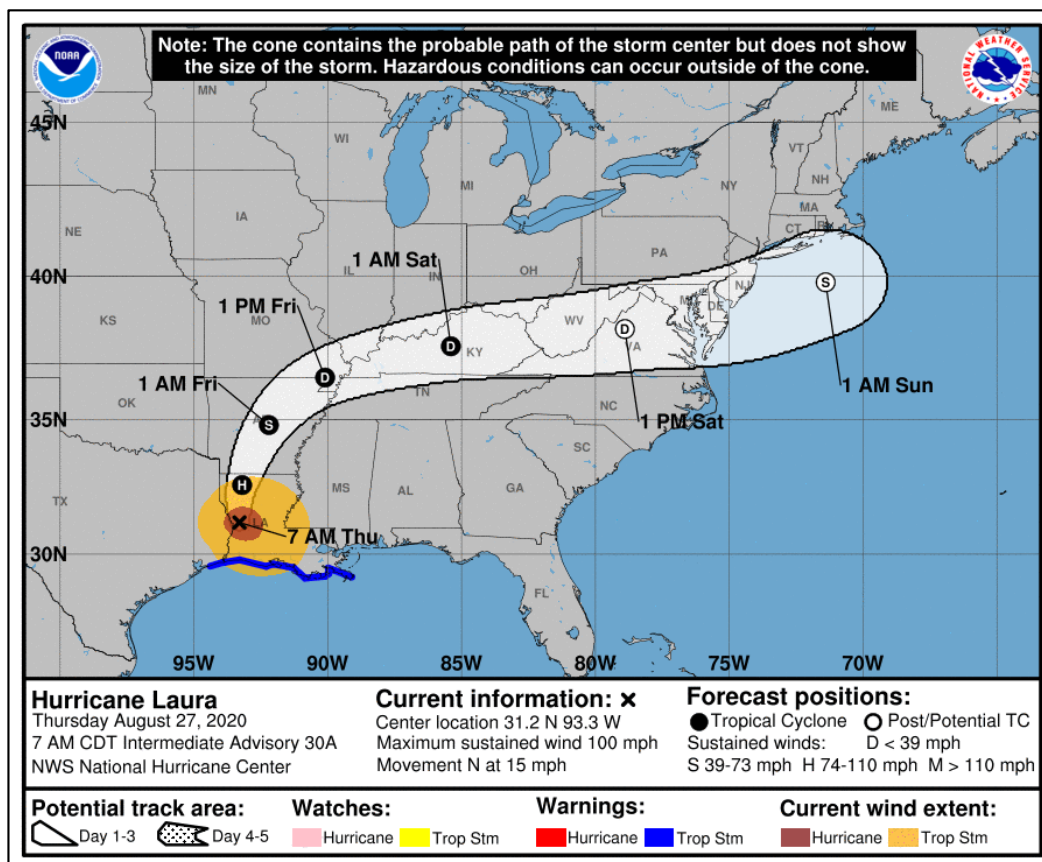
- The ports of Lake Charles, Beaumont, Port Arthur, Houston, Galveston, Freeport, and Texas City remain closed due to Hurricane Laura.
- All refineries in the Beaumont/Port Arthur and Lake Charles regions shut-in operations in advance of the storm. This shut in approximately 2.4 million b/d of U.S. refinery capacity, or approximately 13% of the total U.S. operable refining capacity.
- As of 12:30 PM EDT, August 26, 84% of the oil production and 61% of the natural gas production in the federally administered areas of the U.S. Gulf of Mexico was shut-in, according to estimates by the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE).
- The refinery and offshore platform shut-ins are not anticipated to cause any immediate supply issues. For the week ending on August 21, overall U.S. stocks of gasoline and distillate were 4.7% and 24.7% above the seasonal 5-year average. Jet fuel is slightly below the average, but within the 5-year range. Across the Gulf Coast, stocks of gasoline and distillate were 14% and 43% above the 5-year average respectively. Gulf Coast stocks of crude oil were 23.4% above the 5-year average in the Gulf Coast.

LAURA

As of 8:00 AM EDT, Hurricane Laura was 20 miles north of Fort Polk, Louisiana, moving north at 15 MPH, with maximum sustained winds of 100 MPH. Hurricane-force winds extend outward up to 60 miles from the center and tropical storm-force winds extend outward up to 175 miles. On the forecast track, Laura will move northward across western and northern Louisiana through this afternoon. The center of Laura is forecast to move over Arkansas tonight, the mid-Mississippi Valley on Friday, and the mid-Atlantic on Saturday.

Through Friday, Laura is expected to produce rainfall totals of 6 to 12 inches, with isolated maximum amounts of 18 inches across portions of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas. Through Saturday, Laura is expected to produce rainfall totals of 1 to 3 inches, with isolated maximum amounts of 5 inches across the mid-Mississippi Valley and portions of the Lower Ohio and Tennessee Valleys, the central Appalachians, and the mid-Atlantic.

The hurricane warning for High Island, Texas to Intracoastal City, Louisiana has been replaced with a tropical storm warning. A tropical storm warning is in effect from High Island, Texas to the mouth of the Mississippi River. A storm surge warning is in effect from High Island, Texas to the mouth of the Mississippi River. Storm surges of 10-20 feet are possible for portions of the Louisiana coast.



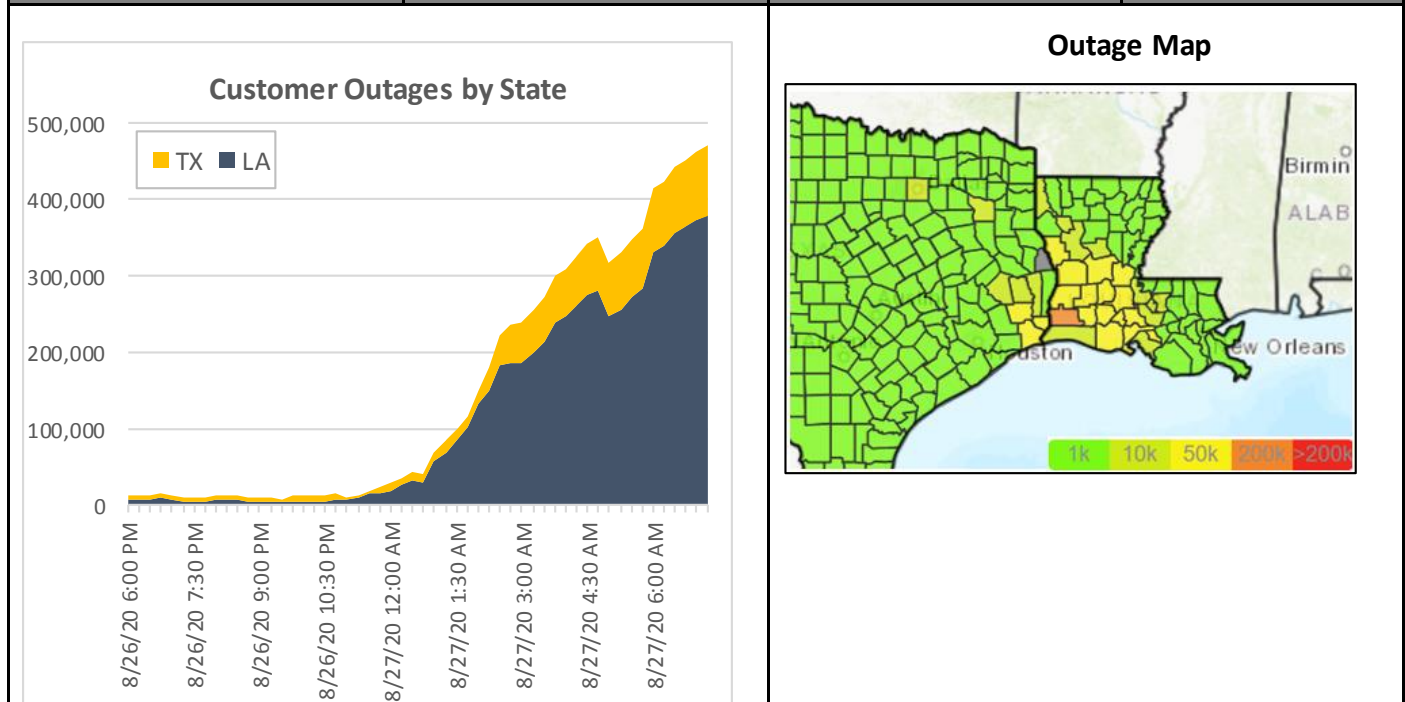
ELECTRICITY SECTOR

POWER OUTAGES

- As of 7:30 AM EDT, there are a total of 483,571 outages in Louisiana and Texas as a result of Hurricane Laura.
- Utilities are ready to begin restoration efforts once Hurricane Laura has passed and conditions permit. Utilities pre-positioning crews, materials, and equipment in advance of the storm.
- Mutual assistance crews from at least 26 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada have been mobilized to support restoration efforts.
- Utilities typically follow an overall plan to restore service to customers. After power is restored to essential services and facilities critical to public health and safety, crews focus on repairing lines that will return service to the largest number of customers in the least amount of time. Power is restored systematically to neighborhoods, industries, and businesses and then to individual homes and small groups of customers.
- Restoration efforts and damage assessments will be limited until the storm has passed and weather conditions permit. Crews are unable to operate in heavily flooded areas and when wind speeds are greater than 30 MPH.

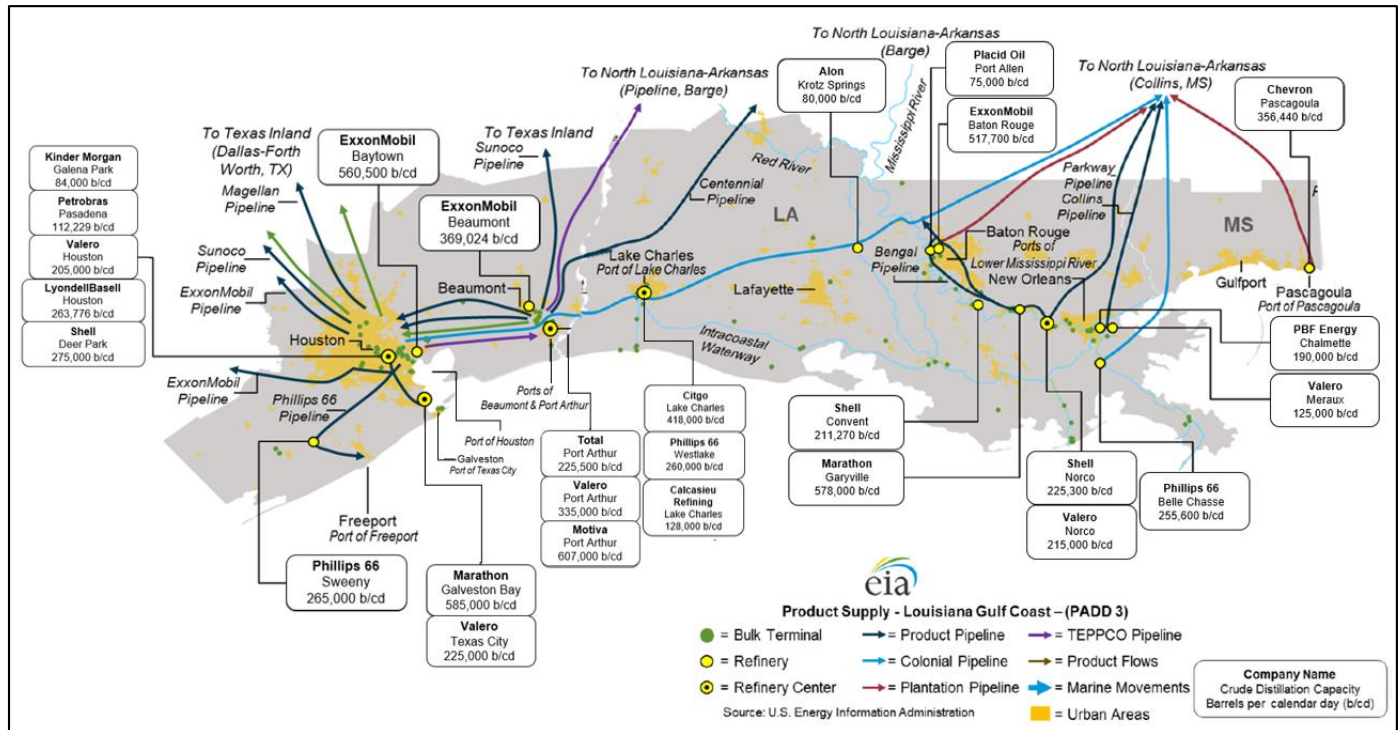
Hurricane Laura Customer Power Outages
as of 7:30 AM EDT 08/27/2020

State	Current Outages	% of State Without Power	Peak Outages
Louisiana	386,430	18%	386,430
Texas	97,141	<1%	97,141
Total	483,571	-	-



OIL AND NATURAL GAS SECTOR

Just over half of total U.S. refining capacity is located in the Gulf Coast (PADD 3) region. Gulf Coast refinery production is critical for supplying fuels to markets in the high-demand East Coast (PADD 1) region. Products move out of the Gulf Coast region on the Colonial and Plantation pipeline systems to Southeast and Central Atlantic markets, and via tanker and barge to Florida. The Gulf Coast refineries export approximately 20% of production to foreign countries. This provides a significant “export buffer,” allowing refiners to shift fuel production away from exports to make up for shortages in domestic markets. The map below highlights the petroleum supply chain in the Louisiana and Texas Gulf Coast regions.



PORTS

- **Louisiana Offshore Oil Port (LOOP)** has suspended operations at its marine terminal as of August 23, per standard procedure. LOOP is the U.S. port capable of receiving very large crude carriers (VLCCs). LOOP's Clovelly Hub deliveries remain normal.
- The U.S. Coast Guard has set the following conditions for ports and waterways as a result of Hurricane Laura. Listed in the table are select ports that receive petroleum products.

Status of Gulf Coast Ports as of 8:00 AM EDT 08/27/2020			
Port	Inbound Petroleum * (b/d)	Status	Date Stamp
Louisiana			
Baton Rouge, LA	83,000	Open with restrictions. Port Condition Yankee.	8/25
Gramercy, LA	110,000	Open with restrictions. Port Condition Yankee.	8/25
New Orleans, LA	201,000	Open with restrictions. Port Condition Yankee.	8/25
Morgan City, LA	208,000	Closed. Port Condition Zulu.	8/26
Lake Charles, LA	394,000	Closed. Port Condition Zulu.	8/26
Texas			
Port Arthur, TX	358,000	Closed. Port Condition Zulu.	8/26
Beaumont, TX	365,000	Closed. Port Condition Zulu.	8/26
Freeport, TX	94,000	Closed. Port Condition Zulu.	8/26
Galveston, TX	33,000	Closed. Port Condition Zulu.	8/26
Houston, TX	894,000	Closed. Port Condition Zulu.	8/26
Texas City, TX	113,000	Closed. Port Condition Zulu.	8/26
Brownsville, TX	53,000	Open with restrictions. Port Condition Yankee.	8/25
Corpus Christi, TX	266,000	Open with restrictions. Port Condition Yankee.	8/25

*Crude oil and product foreign imports and domestic movements in 2018.

Source: Receipt data from EIA Company Level Imports, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Waterborne Commerce Statistics Center

PETROLEUM REFINERIES AND TERMINALS

- Refineries and petroleum terminals in the affected region implemented hurricane preparedness plans in advance of the storm.

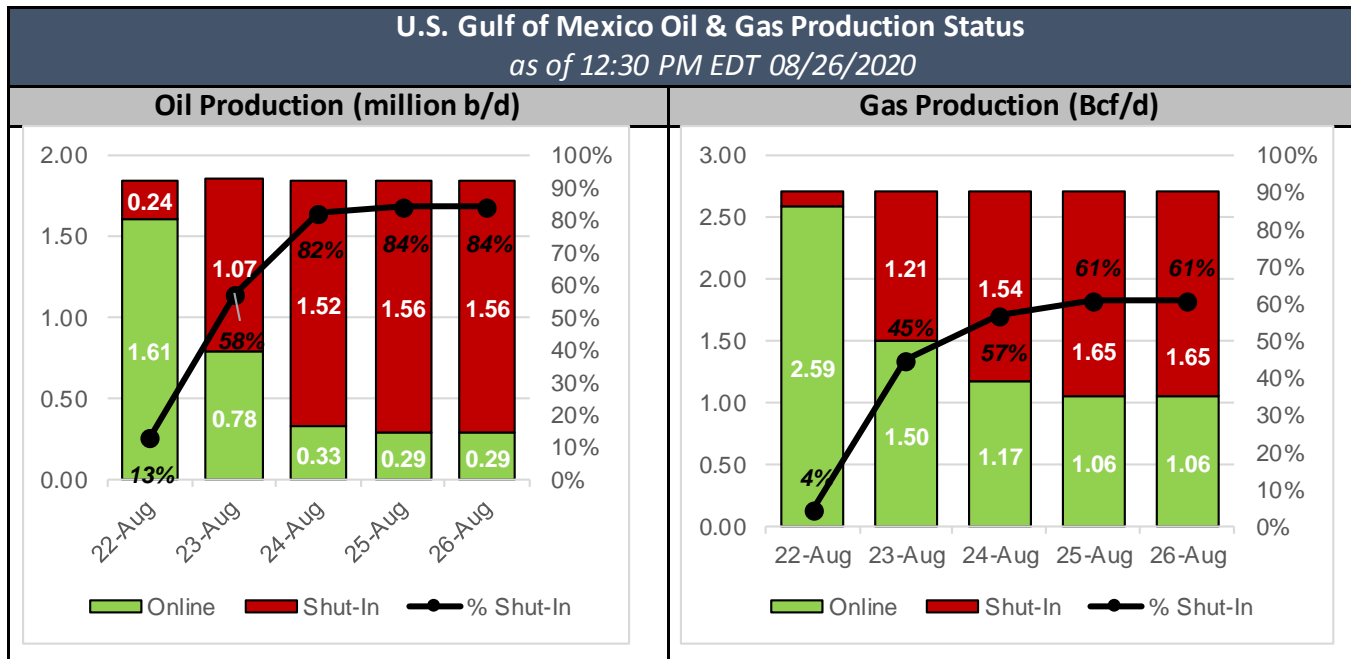
NATURAL GAS PIPELINES & TERMINALS

- Several Natural gas pipeline operators and terminals in the affected region implemented hurricane preparedness plans in advance of Hurricane Laura.



OFFSHORE PRODUCTION

- As of 12:30 PM EDT, August 26, 1.56 million barrels per day (b/d) (84.3%) of the oil production and 1.65 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) (60.94%) of the natural gas production in the federally administered areas of the U.S. Gulf of Mexico are shut-in, according to estimates by the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE).
- In addition, BSEE reports that 299 out of 643 manned platforms have been evacuated; 11 out of 12 non-dynamically positioned rigs have been evacuated; and all 16 dynamically positioned rigs have moved out of the storm's path as a precaution.

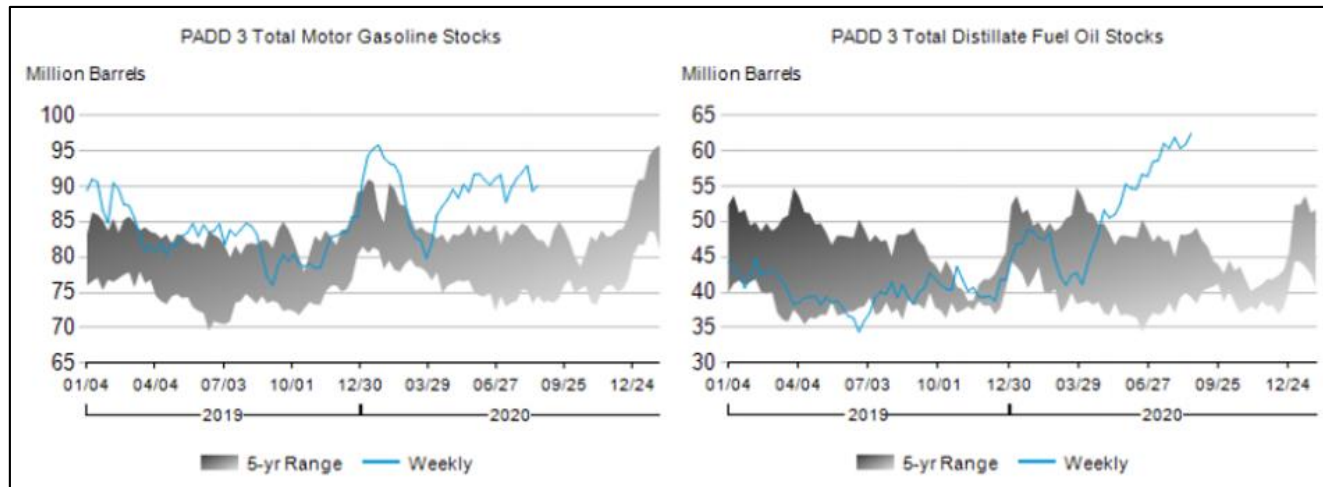


Source: [BSEE](#)



FUEL STOCKS

- For the week ending on August 21, 2020, the Gulf Coast (PADD 3) had 90.0 million barrels of total gasoline stocks, according to the Energy Information Administration (EIA). This is 14% higher than the 5-year average for this time of year. For the week ending on August 21, the Gulf Coast had 62.4 million barrels of total distillate stocks, according to EIA. This is 43% higher than the 5-year average for this time of year.



- Overall U.S. stocks for transportation fuels (gasoline, jet fuel, and diesel) stood at 458.3 million barrels for the week ending August 21, 2020, approximately 10.9% above the 5-year average for the time of year. Gasoline and distillate stocks are 4.7% and 24.7%, above their respective seasonal 5-year averages, while jet fuel stocks are 3% below its respective 5-year average, but within the 5-year range.

GAS STATIONS

- Due to increased demand from evacuees, there is potential for limited temporary localized retail fuel station disruptions. Suppliers are working to keep retail stations supplied.
- The crowd-sourced Gas Buddy gas station outage data does not yet indicate substantial outages in the Hurricane Laura impacted area. Once the storm passes and it is safe to go out, there may be retail stations reported as out of service due to loss of power or lack of fuel.

EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS & WAIVERS

EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS

To provide vital supplies and transportation services to a disaster area in the United States, emergency declarations may be issued by the President, Governors of States, or Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). These declarations trigger the temporary suspension of certain Federal safety regulations, including Hours of Service, for motor carriers and drivers engaged in specific aspects of the emergency relief effort. See [49 CFR 390.23](#) for the actual emergency regulation.

Emergency Declarations and HOS Waivers as of 8:00 AM EDT 08/27/2020				
State/Territory	Details	Effective Dates		Status
		Start	End	
Arkansas	State of Emergency	8/26	Until rescinded	Active
Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas	Hours of Service Waiver	8/24	9/23	Active
Puerto Rico	Presidential Emergency Declaration	8/21	Until rescinded	Active
	State of Emergency	8/21	Until rescinded	Active
Florida	State of Emergency	8/21	Until rescinded	Active
Mississippi	State of Emergency	8/22	Until rescinded	Active
	Presidential Emergency Declaration	8/22	Until rescinded	Active
Louisiana	State of Emergency	8/21	9/20	Active
	Presidential Emergency Declaration	8/22	Until rescinded	Active
Texas	State of Disaster Declaration	8/23	Until rescinded	Active
	Presidential Emergency Declaration	8/23	Until rescinded	Active

Sources: State government, White House, and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration websites.