

# Sinkhole in Isaac Hurricane Watch 15-parish zone: 'Start voluntary evacuation'

BAYOU CORNE SINKHOLE DISASTER | AUGUST 26, 2012 | BY: DEBORAH DUPRE

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Gov. Bobby Jindal [called a state of emergency in Louisiana](http://www.wafb.com/story/19379746/grand-isle-evacuating-tourists-sun-residents-mon) (http://www.wafb.com/story/19379746/grand-isle-evacuating-tourists-sun-residents-mon) Sunday due to Tropical Storm Isaac's path moving west and he [suggests that residents in low-lying parts of coastal parishes in the 15 parishes in the Hurricane Watch zone, including the home parish of the sinkhole and Orleans Parish, to start voluntary evacuation today.](http://www.fox44.com/) (http://www.fox44.com/) as Isaac is expected to turn into a strong Category 2 hurricane at landfall Wednesday.

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"Today, following a meeting of the Unified Command Group, Governor Bobby Jindal held a [press conference](http://www.fox44.com/news/governor-jindal-holds-press-conference-update-ts-isaac) (<http://www.fox44.com/news/governor-jindal-holds-press-conference-update-ts-isaac>) to provide an update on the state's preparations for Tropical Storm Isaac at the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness" reports *Fox News*.

The governor told south Louisiana residents in fifteen parishes, including those in Assumption Parish, home of the giant sinkhole, and Orleans Parish, home of New Orleans, to gather plenty of water, non-perishable food items, prescription medicines and whatever they may need in the event of an evacuation.

Gov. Jindal urged everyone to stay tuned to stations monitoring Isaac.

"We are calling on folks who live in low-lying areas in the fifteen parishes that are in the Hurricane Watch area to go ahead and start a voluntary evacuation.

The Mayor of Grand Isle ordered campers and tourists to evacuate Sunday and residents to evacuate Monday.

While Assumption Parish has already declared a state of emergency due to the giant sinkhole there, now Orleans, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson and St. Charles parishes each have also declared a state of emergency.

St. Charles Parish schools are closed through Wednesday.

Mayor Mitch Landrieu says he expects New Orleans residents to shelter in place but that if New Orleans is evacuated, there will be no shelter.

Gov. Jindal said that by tomorrow, there could be more mandatory evacuations.

The temperature in the waters in the Gulf of Mexico are in the mid-80s, making it more likely the storm will gather more strength when it arrives there.

"There's really nothing really between this storm and Louisiana to stop it," Jindal said.

"So it makes sense to start those plans, those preparations today, to get ahead of traffic, to get ahead of this storm."

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Author, columnist and rights defender Deborah Dupre' holds American and Australian science and education graduate degrees plus thirty years human rights, environmental and peace activism. Ms. Dupré has led Indigenous Pacific Islander and Australian Aborigine research; has consulted for the UN and...