Gov. Jindal Says State Prepared for Tropical Storm Lee, Urges Residents in South Louisiana to Prepare for Flooding  

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Baton Rouge (September 2, 2011) - Governor Bobby Jindal held a press conference to update the public on the state's efforts to monitor and prepare for Tropical Storm Lee, following a Unified Command Group meeting with state officials at the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

Governor Jindal said, "This storm system is currently parked in the Gulf, meaning we expect it to drop a significant amount of rain totaling 10 to 15 inches in some areas and up to 20 inches in isolated areas. The system is expected to affect South and Southeast Louisiana with the most rainfall, however many areas that are susceptible to backwater flooding are also expected to be impacted by the high rainfall."

"The National Weather Service told us that the center of this storm system is very broad, unlike the narrow center you see in a hurricane formation. This is what they call a 'hybrid' system with rain and some bands of tropical storm force winds with squalls spinning out of the center. Rainfall is expected in Louisiana through Tuesday night, including some tropical storm force winds and the potential for tornadoes. Tides could be 2 to 5 feet higher than normal."

"It is important for people to stay updated throughout the holiday weekend. Pay attention to the weather in your area and also the flash flood warnings from local officials. This storm is a good reminder to everyone that this time of year is still a very busy time for hurricanes and tropical storms. We are reminded that 47 percent of storms develop in the month of September during hurricane season."

"All our people should prepare now to ensure you have an evacuation plan in place, plenty of water, non-perishable food items, hygiene supplies, sufficient clothing, and any prescription medications you or your family may need in the event of a storm. This storm is not expected to be a major hurricane, but this point in the season is always crucial. Let’s do everything we can now to ensure we are as prepared as possible."