



**College of Medicine**

Department of Pathology, Immunology and Laboratory Medicine  
Florida Emergency Mortuary Operations Response System

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September 29, 2005

TO: Robert A. Smith, Ph.D.  
Director Emergency Operations  
Florida Department of Health

FROM: Kelly H. Lonesk, MBA  
FEMORS Administrative Chief

SUBJECT: After Action Report – Hurricane Rita, September 19-21, 2005, Mission # 93

**Executive Summary**

This was the seventh alert of FEMORS since its inception in June 2002. FEMORS was able to determine its response capability within a few hours, provide pre-storm advice to medical examiners in the path of Rita and stand down its members when significant fatalities did not materialize.

- FEMORS was placed on alert at 1:30 pm Monday, September 19, 2005.
- FEMORS developed a Ready List of 66 team members who would be able to respond (assuming they were not impacted by Rita's path).
- FEMORS provided pre-storm contact information to the medical examiner district in Rita's path on Monday September 19, 2005, suggesting pre-storm contact with the local EOC and methods to request assistance if the need arose.
- Rita passed the Florida Keys by 11:00 pm on Tuesday, September 20, 2005.
- FEMORS was not activated and advised to stand down for Rita on Wednesday September 21, 2005 at 3:00 pm.
- Approximately 25 labor hours were expended in this alert.
- Note: FEMORS Commander Larry Bedore was in Gulfport, MS deployed by FEMA as Planning Chief for the DMORT East (Mississippi) temporary morgue operations center.

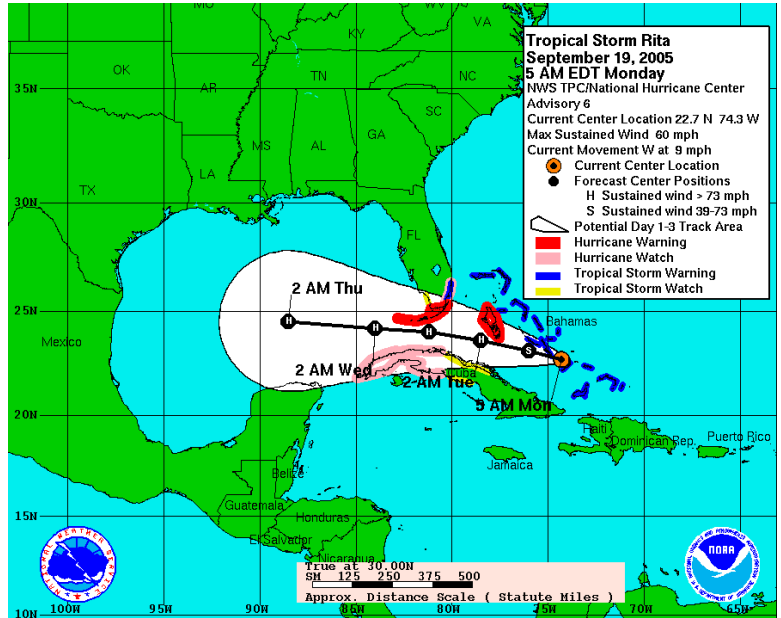
**Lessons Learned**

- Pre-storm medical examiner contact should be done within one business day, well in advance of the storm. FEMORS Commander and/or Program Director should obtain all necessary contact information.

**Event Time Line**

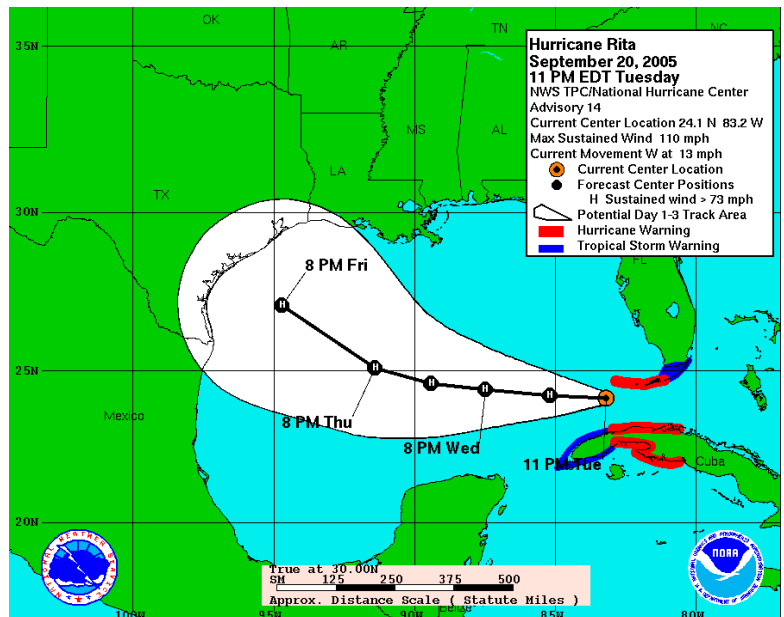
**September 19, 2005, Monday**

- 9:00 am Program Director Dr. Bruce Goldberger contacted targeted medical examiner district (District 16 Dr. Hunter) via cell phone.
- 1:30 pm Program Director Goldberger contacted Mike MacDonald at SEOC, ESF8 desk. FEMORS was placed on alert for Hurricane Rita. Mission # 93 assigned.
- 2:00 pm All FEMORS members alerted and requested to reply if able to respond by Administrative Chief Kelly Lonesk.
- 2:00 pm Go Team message sent by Admin Chief Lonesk with note that a smaller team 8-10 would respond when called to assess and report back on needs.
- 11:59 pm Replies from 45 members ready to respond.



**September 20, 2005, Tuesday**

- 9:00 am Program Director Goldberger contacted targeted medical examiner district (District 16 Dr. Hunter) via cell phone.
- 11:00 pm Rita had passed the Florida Keys.
- 11:59 pm Replies from 62 members ready to respond.



**September 21, 2005, Wednesday**

- 9:00 am Program Director Goldberger contacted targeted medical examiner district (District 16 Dr. Hunter) via cell phone.
- 12:00 pm Program Director Goldberger contacted ESF8 inquiring about FEMORS stand down.
- 3:00 pm Mike MacDonald contacted Program Director Goldberger and advised FEMORS to stand down.
- 4:00 pm Admin Chief Lonesk sent email to all FEMORS members regarding stand down for Rita. A total of 66 members were on stand-by.