

CAMPUS E-MAIL REGARDING HURRICANE KATRINA EVACUEES

Distributed Sept. 6, 2005, 10:29 a.m.

To: SDSU Students, Faculty and Staff
From: President Stephen L. Weber
Subject: San Diego State Offers Shelter to Hurricane Evacuees

San Diego State University has offered, in cooperation with the local chapter of the American Red Cross, to establish a shelter on the SDSU campus at Peterson Gym should the need arise to house evacuees from Hurricane Katrina. The shelter at Peterson Gym could temporarily house as many as 600 people.

It is uncertain if or when our shelter might be needed. If it is, the first evacuees might arrive as early as the next 24 to 48 hours. While American Red Cross officials hope the shelter will be needed only for several weeks, SDSU has agreed to make the building available for as long as 60 days.

The American Red Cross has told the university we will have 24 hours notice of any evacuees coming to San Diego. Upon notice from the Red Cross, Peterson Gym activities will be temporarily relocated to the Aztec Recreation Center. This includes classes in Exercise and Nutritional Sciences, SDSU's intercollegiate athletic teams which use the gym for competition and practice, and recreational sports activities. Other than temporary disruptions to student recreational activities in the ARC, the campus will be in full operation while the shelter is in place. For updated information, visit the SDSU Web site at: www.sdsu.edu.

The shelter will be operated by the San Diego/Imperial Counties Chapter of the American Red Cross, which will provide all staff and resources for the hurricane survivors. The American Red Cross will contract with Aztec Shops and possibly outside vendors to provide food and other services to evacuees.

The shelter at SDSU is one of many being established by the American Red Cross across the country to handle the immense and immediate needs of the hundreds of thousands of people who have been displaced by the disaster. We are glad San Diego State can assist those who have endured such a tremendous loss.

I anticipate that many of you will want to know how you can help:

- The San Diego Chapter of the American Red Cross tells us the most immediate need is for monetary contributions. The best way to make a contribution is through the local organization's Web site: www.sdarc.org, the American Red

Cross' national site at www.redcross.org, or by phone at 1-800-HELP-NOW. Those wishing to can indicate their affiliation with SDSU when making an online contribution.

- Those wishing to volunteer are encouraged to contact San Diego County's new services hotline by dialing 2-1-1. Horizon Christian Fellowship (HCF) will accept donations of food, toiletries, clothing, and toys for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. HCF is located at 5331 Mt. Alifan Drive in Clairemont.
- SDSU has also established a liaison with the American Red Cross – should SDSU's faculty, staff and students wish to make special offers of assistance to the evacuees. Please contact Ron Oshima at: roshima@mail.sdsu.edu.

Please do not bring cash or other donations to the shelter in Peterson Gym. Also, no volunteers will be accepted without appropriate training by the American Red Cross.

In addition to establishing the shelter, San Diego State is enrolling dozens of undergraduate and graduate students from Gulf Coast colleges and universities shut down by Hurricane Katrina. Also, SDSU's Athletics department and its supporters raised \$15,300 at the SDSU-UCLA football game Sept. 3 to aid the nationwide relief effort.

I want to thank all of you who have helped or are helping in this important humanitarian effort – especially those in Exercise and Nutritional Sciences, Athletics and Associated Students who have been so accommodating. I ask that we all welcome the hurricane evacuees and treat them as guests on our campus with respect and understanding for the hardships they have endured. We will keep you updated as more information becomes available.

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