



Department of Justice

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Middle District of Louisiana

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TWO MORE SENTENCED IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, ON DISASTER RELIEF FRAUD CHARGES

BATON ROUGE, LA – Two more Louisiana residents were sentenced in federal court by U.S. District Court Judge Frank J. Polozola on fraud charges related to a hurricane disaster relief program, United States Attorney David R. Dugas announced today.

DERRICK W. DEAMER, age 35, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, pled guilty on August 24, 2006, to Count One of an indictment charging him with making a false claim for Hurricane Katrina disaster assistance benefits. DEAMER was sentenced today to four (4) months imprisonment, three (3) years of supervised release and \$4,358 in restitution. The Federal Bureau of Investigation conducted the investigation of this matter.

MICHAEL D. REED, age 57, of Loranger, Louisiana, pled guilty on February 12, 2007, to a bill of information charging him with access device fraud in connection with his obtaining disaster unemployment benefits for alleged losses resulting from Hurricane Katrina. REED was sentenced today to two (2) months home detention, three (3) years of probation and \$3,234 in restitution. The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Inspector General conducted the investigation of this matter.

The number of individuals who have been charged in the Middle District of Louisiana with violations related to hurricane disaster relief funds stands at one hundred sixteen.

In September 2005, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, designed to deter, investigate and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes such as charity fraud, identity theft, procurement fraud and insurance fraud. The Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force – chaired by Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the Criminal Division – includes the FBI, the U.S. Inspectors General community, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Executive Office for United States Attorneys and others.

For further information, contact David R. Dugas, U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana, or Lyman Thornton, First Assistant U.S. Attorney, at (225) 389-0443. Anyone suspecting criminal activity involving disaster assistance programs can make an anonymous report by calling the toll-free Hurricane Relief Fraud Hotline, 1-866-720-5721, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, until further notice. Information can also be emailed to the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force at HKFTF@leo.gov or sent by surface mail, with as many details as possible, to Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4909.

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