



Department of Justice

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Middle District of Louisiana

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ANOTHER CHARGED IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, WITH FEDERAL FRAUD VIOLATIONS

BATON ROUGE, LA – A bill of information was filed Monday against a Louisiana resident, charging him with fraud related to a hurricane disaster relief program, United States Attorney David R. Dugas announced today.

DAVID W. BERGERON, age 50, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was charged on Monday, December 11, in a bill of information with making a false claim for Hurricane Katrina disaster assistance benefits. The charges resulted from an investigation conducted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General. If convicted, BERGERON faces a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both.

Monday's filing brings the total number of individuals who have been charged in the Middle District of Louisiana with violations related to hurricane disaster relief funds to eighty-two.

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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