



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2009
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ANOTHER SENTENCED IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, ON DISASTER RELIEF FRAUD CHARGE

BATON ROUGE, LA – United States Attorney David R. Dugas announced that another Louisiana resident was sentenced today on a fraud charge related to a hurricane disaster relief program.

ROSEMARY FREDERICK, age 42, of Baton Rouge, was sentenced by Chief U.S. District Court Judge Ralph E. Tyson to five years of probation, fifty hours of community service, and \$14,749.51 in restitution. FREDERICK pled guilty on September 29, 2008, to making a false claim with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Hurricane Katrina disaster assistance benefits. According to the factual basis in the plea agreement, FREDERICK filed an application for Hurricane Katrina disaster assistance benefits on or about September 14, 2005, falsely claiming that her primary residence at the time of the storm was in New Orleans, Louisiana. In fact, FREDERICK was living in Everett, Washington, at the time. The fraudulent application caused the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to disburse funds to FREDERICK for disaster assistance totaling approximately \$14,358. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General conducted the investigation of this matter. This matter was originally charged by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Washington.

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 seventy-five.

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 the Assistant Attorney General of the U.S. Department of Justice's 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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