

## **TEDA issuing re-entry passes**

During Hurricane Gustav, Terrebonne Economic Development Authority's staff worked to assist returning businesses with their individual needs -- including re-entry into the parish while it was still under mandatory evacuation for those companies that could help restore critical infrastructure.

As a result of that effort, TEDA has been tasked by local officials to craft a plan that brings back businesses critical to enabling essential services being restored and restarting the local economy. In the event that Terrebonne Parish is under a mandatory evacuation again, this will enable the parish to be ready to receive all residents.

TEDA has created a tiered system and worked with local and state law enforcement officials to garner their support of the plan. The tiered system is needed because under such conditions, the parish will likely be lacking in vital services (such as sewer, electricity and water service) and roadways are likely to be dangerous to travel due to downed power lines. Staggering business' re-entry into such conditions allows officials to do so in a safe manner, maintaining security for property owners and those admitted to the parish.

Tier 1 passes will be issued to those working to re-establish critical services for the community. This will allow a limited number of key personnel from those organizations to assess their facilities and determine what will be needed to resume initial operations. Tier 1 access will be granted to contractors who can restore water and sewer service, electrical and plumbing service, and install generators; critical businesses such as gas stations, pharmacies, convenience and grocery stores, ice houses and agricultural producers; oilfield service companies such as those supporting saturation diving crews, crew change companies and fabrication shops that repair economic infrastructure; and critical medical personnel. These individuals will be issued badges which must be worn at all times and presented to authorities upon demand with official photo identification.

Employees of these organizations will be considered for Tier II entry with business-letter passes. If justifiable, some may receive Tier 1 entry passes. These passes, on TEDA letterhead, must be accompanied by official photo identification.

Re-entry into the parish will be limited during these times. Assuming the parish is safe for passage, those bearing TEDA badges and passes will be allowed to re-enter Terrebonne Parish via Highway 24 and Highway 311. Both these arteries will allow access to all parts of the parish, but allow law enforcement to control access as required by existing conditions.

Businesses must understand and accept all responsibility and liability for their employees during this time of restricted services. This includes all accommodations including housing, food and other basic essentials.

To obtain the badges, visit TEDA's web site at [www.tpeda.org](http://www.tpeda.org) for the re-entry

application and liability release form. Call 873-6890 to schedule an appointment to process those applications for badges and to obtain employee passes; key personnel should bring:

- \* photo identification; and

- \* a business card from the company/organization that includes name, business title and contact information.

To obtain employee passes, companies must provide a personnel list on company letterhead with a company official's original signature stating the need for access and form of identification the employee will provide at the checkpoints. Only business managers, owners/operators, human resource managers and other authorized personnel may request employee passes. All participants must sign liability release forms -- employees included.

With only a month left to hurricane season, applications are being accepted for badges and passes. For the remainder of the 2008 hurricane season, TEDA is providing these passes at no charge to companies in the parish; a minimal fee is anticipated to be charged for future hurricane seasons. This plan may be adjusted to accommodate issues as they arise.