



The Birmingham News/Tamika Moore

crowded and understaffed, could get worse for inmates and their families if they are shaved from all county departments.

Overcrowded jail staff face new cuts

Officials fear liability issues over 'horrible' conditions

By Carol Robinson
crobinson@bhamnews.com

Inmates at the Jefferson County jail sleep three or four to a cell.

They are allowed one clean uniform a week, which doesn't stay clean long. They are given fresh bed linens less often than that. They rinse out their underwear in the cell block toilets.

Overcrowding, underfunding and understaffing,

jail officials say, is as bad as it has ever been.

One day last week there were 19 deputies guarding 1,200 inmates. Of those inmates, 216 were sleeping on the floor.

"The conditions right now I thought I'd never see," said Jefferson County Sheriff's Lt. Debbie Guy, who has worked in the county jail for 28 years.

See JAIL, Page 6A

Hoover to share costs for I-65 widening project

Road to Inverness Center Drive from two to three lanes. The heavily traveled

FEMA funds suspended to mend Irene aftermath

Bham News
8/29/11

Individual storm aid still planned

By Ed O'Keefe
The Washington Post

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is temporarily suspending some payments to rebuild roads, schools and other structures destroyed during spring tornadoes in Joplin, Mo., and Southern states and other recent natural disasters to pay for damage caused by Hurricane Irene.

With initial damage assessments from the storm potentially in the tens of billions of dollars, the Obama administration will need to request supplemental funding from Congress, possibly provoking another fight over federal spending as a new congressional "supercom-

mittee" prepares to identify trillions of dollars in government spending cuts.

FEMA said Sunday it will still pay people eligible for individual storm assistance and some states recouping emergency response costs from previous disasters, but it will restrict payments for older, longer-term public rebuilding and mitigation projects to ensure the solvency of the federal disaster relief fund.

The decision affects projects tied to spring tornadoes and other disasters dating back several years and "prioritizes the immediate, urgent needs of survivors and states when preparing for or responding to a disaster," said FEMA spokeswoman Rachel Racusen.

The federal government similarly suspended some disaster payments as

See FEMA, Page 3A



AP

Downtown New Brunswick, N.J., can be seen near the overflowing Raritan River as heavy rains left by Hurricane Irene cause inland flooding. See more on Irene, Page 3A.

New finance

FEMA

From Page 1A

recently as last year and in 2006, she said.

Over the weekend, President Barack Obama declared a major federal disaster in Puerto Rico, a move that makes money available to island residents affected by Irene's destruction. Similar declarations are expected for other states in the coming days.

Federal officials Sunday would not estimate how much Irene's damage could cost, but New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, a Republican, speaking Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press," said damage estimates "are going to be in the billions of dollars . . . if not the tens of billions of dollars."

Christie and other governors credited Obama for quickly issuing emergency declarations for their states in advance of the storm to provide money for their response efforts and to allow FEMA officials to assist state and local leaders in initial damage assessments.

But the moves will further sap the federal disaster fund, which over the weekend had about \$900 million, according to FEMA, less than the \$1 billion officials prefer to keep on hand.

Last week, after a Virginia earthquake that rattled much of the East Coast, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., said that any new money for FEMA disaster assistance would need to be offset by spending cuts.

On Saturday, House Appropriations Committee Chairman Harold Rogers, R-Ky., called on the Senate to quickly pass the House GOP's version of the annual Homeland Security spending measure, which includes \$1 billion in additional money for the disaster fund this year and \$2.65 billion for fiscal 2012.

In anticipation of a shortfall, FEMA began providing congressional appropriators with weekly updates on funding levels in May.



A road is flooded Sunday in Hatteras Island, N.C., after Hurricane Irene swept through the area Saturday.

Irene doesn't follow worst-case scenario

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Stripped of hurricane rank, Tropical Storm Irene spent the last of its fury Sunday, leaving treacherous flooding and millions without power. New Yorkers were unfazed and relieved that it was nothing like the nightmare authorities feared.

Slowly, the East Coast surveyed the damage, up to \$7 billion by one private estimate. For many the danger had not passed: Rivers and creeks turned into raging torrents tumbling with limbs and parts of buildings in northern New England and upstate New York.

"This is not over," President Barack Obama said from the Rose Garden.

Flooding was widespread in Vermont, where parts of Brattleboro, Bennington and several other communities, were submerged. One woman was swept away and feared drowned in the Deerfield River.

Meanwhile, the nation's most populous region looked to a new week and the arduous process of getting back to normal.

INSIDE

► After Irene, New Yorkers hardly miss a beat/ 4B

At least 21 people died in the storm, most of them when trees crashed through roofs or onto cars.

By evening, with its giant figure-six shape brushing over New England and drifting east, the storm's winds were down to 50 mph. It was expected to drop below tropical storm strength and drift into Canada later Sunday or early today.

"Just another storm," said Scott Beller, who was at a Lowe's hardware store in the Long Island hamlet of Centereach, looking for a generator because his power was out.

Later in the day, the extent of the damage became clearer. Flood waters were rising across New Jersey, closing side streets and major highways including the New Jersey Turnpike and Interstate 295. In Essex County, authorities used a 5-ton truck to ferry people away from their homes as the Passaic River neared its

expected crest Sunday night.

Twenty homes on Long Island Sound in Connecticut were destroyed by churning surf. The torrential rain chased hundreds of people in upstate New York from their homes and washed out 137 miles of the state's main highway.

In the South, authorities still were not sure how much damage had been done. North Carolina Gov. Beverly Perdue said some parts of her state were unreachable. TV footage showed downed trees, toppled utility poles and mangled awnings.

One of two nuclear reactors at Calvert Cliffs, Md., automatically went offline because of high winds. Constellation Energy Nuclear Group said the plant was safe.

The 19 deaths attributed to the storm included six in North Carolina, four in Virginia, four in Pennsylvania, two in New York, two in rough surf in Florida and one each in Connecticut, Maryland and New Jersey.

BRIEFS

Bomber killed 29 in mosque

BAGHDAD — A bomber blew his way inside Baghdad's Sunni mosque Sunday night, killing 29 people during prayers, a strike on a place similar to the one that brought Iraq to the end of its civil war five years ago. Iraqi security officials said parliament lawmaker al-Fahdawi was among the dead.

Slaying suspect kills himself

PHILADELPHIA — A suspect in the shooting of four people in Philadelphia and Virginia died of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound a daylong manhunt which he fired on injured officers, said. The body of John Egland, 37, Lee, Va., was found after 3:30 p.m. Sunday in the Bucks County of Warwick. Pennsylvania police spokesman Lynch.

Palestinian wounds 7

JERUSALEM — A Palestinian attacker wounded seven Israelis in an Aviv nightclub Sunday, hitting a police officer with a stolen knife and stabbing others. The attacker, a Palestinian in Nablus, was shot by police.

Calls for rebellion

BEIRUT — A call for rebellion within opposition forces in Libya and NATO intervention after nearly a week of overwhelming demonstration failed to dislodge Bashar al-Assad, arguing against a regime shift, but so far have concluded with protests also.