



Department of Justice

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MISSISSIPPI MAN SENTENCED AFTER PLEADING GUILTY TO KATRINA FRAUD

Gulfport, Miss. – Charles Necaise of Saucier, Miss. was sentenced today after pleading guilty to stealing FEMA disaster assistance funds, U.S. Attorney Dunn Lampton announced. Necaise defrauded the federal government of \$4,358.00 by claiming damage at an address in Saucier at which he did not live at the time of Hurricane Katrina.

U.S. District Judge Walter J. Gex, III sentenced Necaise to 12 months of home confinement with 3 years of probation. While on probation, he was ordered to perform 40 hours of community service. He was also ordered to pay restitution to the federal government in the amount of \$4,358.00.

In September, 2005, former Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the national 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 Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division Matthew Friedrich, includes members from the FBI, Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General, the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Labor Office of Inspector General, the Postal Inspector's Office and the Executive Office of United States Attorneys, among others.

Pursuant to the Justice Department initiative, a local Katrina Fraud Task Force, consisting of over 20 Federal and State law enforcement agencies, was formed in the Southern District of Mississippi to pursue and prosecute individuals who engage in fraud associated with the hurricanes.

If anyone has information concerning possible fraud being committed during the post-Katrina recovery effort, please call either the DHS-OIG Fraud Hotline at 1-866-720-5721 or the FBI Fraud Hotline at 1-800-225-5324.

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