



# POSTAL NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 23, 2005

Contact: Media Relations  
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News Release No. 05-078  
www.usps.com

## **U.S. Postal Service prepared for Hurricane Rita**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Neither rain...nor floods or hurricanes will stay the U.S. Postal Service from connecting people to their mail. Following the same steps it took to minimize mail disruption during Hurricane Katrina, the Postal Service is moving to protect its employees and the mail in the path of Hurricane Rita.

Mail destined for Houston and other areas in the expected path of Rita's landfall is being held at its place of origin in order to protect as many mail pieces as possible. Postal operations in any area covered by a mandatory evacuation order have been suspended. This includes delivery, collection, Post Office box and retail services, and mail processing. Mail currently in facilities in Rita's path, along with postal vehicles and equipment, are being moved to higher ground in anticipation of flooding.

Local postal officials are working with state and federal authorities to track weather and transportation issues to determine if other service adjustments are necessary. Those seeking the latest information on service updates can find it at:

<http://www.usps.com/communications/news/serviceupdates.htm>. After the storm passes, the Postal Service is ready to return to normal operations as quickly and safely as possible.

Postal employees affected by a mandatory evacuation order are being asked to monitor the USPS National Emergency Notification Hotline (1-888-363-7462) to determine work reporting status and to learn if any special instructions have been issued.

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Since 1775, the Postal Service and its predecessor, the Post Office Department, has connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail. It is an independent federal agency that visits 142 million homes and businesses every day, six days a week and is the only service provider delivering to every address in the nation. The Postal Service receives no taxpayer dollars for routine operations, but derives its operating revenues solely from the sale of postage, products and services. With annual revenues of more than \$69 billion, it is the world's leading provider of mailing and delivery services, offering some of the most affordable postage rates in the world. The Postal Service delivers more than 46 percent of the world's mail volume—some 206 billion letters, advertisements, periodicals and packages a year—and serves seven and a half million customers each day at its 37,000 retail locations nationwide. Its website, usps.com, attracts more than 21 million visitors each month.