

## Impact of Hurricane Katrina

The devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina were felt throughout the Southeast. As a result, the Division of Licensing has received numerous inquiries from security agencies licensed here in Florida interested in providing security services in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi, where there is currently a need for armed and unarmed security officers in this time of emergency.

We have also received inquiries from security agencies in these neighboring southern states about the legality of providing security services here in the State of Florida.

**The following information is provided in response to these inquiries.** Please be aware that our communication with authorities in Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi is on-going; new information will follow as we receive it. Updates will be posted on this web site, and e-mails will be sent to security agencies that have registered on-line as part of the "Licensing Information and Alert System."

### ALABAMA AND MISSISSIPPI

- Alabama and Mississippi have no licensing requirements for either individuals or agencies providing security services. Therefore, a security agency licensed in Florida may provide security services in these states. However, we recommend that agency managers contact local law enforcement agencies prior to beginning work to inform them when and where you will be providing the services.
- Because Alabama and Mississippi have no licensing requirements pertaining to the provision of security services, the Executive Order signed by Florida Governor Jeb Bush (see below) **CANNOT BE APPLIED**. Individuals from these states who wish to provide security services here in the State of Florida must first submit an application and obtain the training required under section 493.6303, Florida Statute, before commencing employment as a security officer in this state.

### LOUISIANA

- **EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**, the Louisiana State Board of Private Security Examiners will no longer approve temporary work assignments for security officers licensed outside the State of Louisiana. Questions about eligibility requirements for individuals and agencies to perform security work in Louisiana should be submitted to Jane Ryland at the State Board of Private Security Examiners. She can be reached at 888-446-9436.
- Pursuant to Executive Order 05-176, signed by Governor Jeb Bush on August 24, 2005, a security officer who holds a valid license in Louisiana may work for a Florida-licensed Class "B" Security Agency without first submitting an application to the Division of Licensing. This variance is effective for up to 30 days after the order expires, October 23, 2005 -- unless Governor Bush extends the Order. Prior to the Louisiana-based security officer commencing work in Florida, the hiring Class "B" Security Agency must fax a letter on agency letterhead to Art Varnadore, Chief, Regulation & Enforcement, at 850-245-5505, which includes the following information about the officer:
  1. Name of Security Officer
  2. Social Security Number
  3. Status of Licensure or Registration
  4. Date of Licensure or Registration
  5. Expiration Date of Licensure or Registration

If additional information is needed, please call Lisa Trimble at 850-245-5500.