

Press Releases

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OTS 06-002 - Federal Financial Regulators Announce Public Service Campaign to Help Hurricane Victims

Office of Thrift Supervision

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For further information

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Joint Release

**Office of the Comptroller of the Currency
Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
Office of Thrift Supervision
National Credit Union Administration**

Federal Financial Regulators Announce Public Service Campaign to Help Hurricane Victims

WASHINGTON, D.C. (January 13, 2006) - The federal financial regulatory agencies today announced a public service campaign to aid in the financial recovery of victims of last year's hurricanes.

Although four months have passed since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita made landfall, some bank customers have not yet been in contact with their lenders. Communication is an essential step in the road to financial recovery.

The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Office of Thrift Supervision, the National Credit Union Administration and state financial regulators are encouraging banks, thrifts, and credit unions to continue to work with borrowers affected by the hurricanes. Assistance may include waiving fees, lowering interest rates, extending repayment schedules, or deferring principal or interest for an additional period, where appropriate. For these options to be considered, however, it is essential that the borrower contact his or her lender.

The federal financial agencies continue to work to meet the needs of federally insured depository institutions and their customers. Additional guidance is available at the Federal Financial Institution Examination Council's Web site (www.ffiec.gov).

The public service announcements (PSAs) are being distributed to print and radio media outlets with the highest concentrations of people affected by the hurricane. The PSAs are also

available for download and use from the OCC Web site at www.occ.gov/hurricane.htm. If customers need assistance contacting their lender, please call the toll-free FDIC number, 877-275-3342.

Related Financial Hurricane Information Links:

- FFIEC's Web site, www.ffiec.gov/katrina.htm
- Federal Reserve, www.federalreserve.gov/hurricanekatrina.htm
- FDIC, www.fdic.gov/hurricane
- NCUA, www.ncua.gov/Hurricane
- OCC's Web site, www.occ.gov/hurricane.htm
- OTS's Web site, www.ots.treas.gov

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The Office of Thrift Supervision, an office of the Department of the Treasury, regulates and supervises the nation's thrift industry. OTS's mission is to ensure the safety and soundness of, and compliance with consumer protection laws by, thrift institutions, and to support their role as home mortgage lenders and providers of other community credit and financial services. OTS also oversees the activities and operations of thrift holding companies that own or control thrift institutions. Copies of OTS news releases and other documents are available at the OTS web page at www.ots.treas.gov.