

Latest News

[Comments](#) 2 | [Recommend](#) 6

Shrimping town hit by Ike faces desperate situation

12:07 PM CDT on Wednesday, September 17, 2008

By JASON WHITELEY / WFAA-TV

Video



Jason Whitely reports
September 16, 2008
MORE: [News 8 video](#)
[View larger](#)
[E-mail Clip](#)
[More Video](#)

SAN LEON - We've seen the destruction for days - Galveston, Bolivar and Houston.

But there may be something you haven't seen.

San Leon is a small community where fishing isn't a pastime but a profession.

There, picking up the pieces means starting from scratch.

San Leon is one of the hardest hit areas.

Bobbette Overman, a San Leon resident, says everything is gone.

"Nothing's salvageable. It's all gone. It's ruined. It's history."

Overman has one of the hardest luck stories.

"It makes me sick. It makes sick to look at it. It makes me sick to smell it. It's a horrible stench."

Six feet of surge swept into her home.

Four days later, it's tough to know where to start cleaning up.

Overman has no insurance and savings of \$132.

"It makes me cry because this is where I was raised. I was going to raise my children here."

Around the corner, in this shrimping town, her sister's home will have to be demolished.

Others remain in roads.

A floating restaurant, washed out of its moorings, into a yard.

And pets, left behind by evacuating owners, now roam looking for food.

Jeff Stenson got one of the first boxes from FEMA Tuesday.

Crackers, chips and a microwaveable meal in a community with no electricity.

"There's a microwave over there. We got everything you need. We've got toilets. We've got sinks. TVs," he said.

He still has a sense of humor.

Red Cross vans also distributed food in San Leon - already heated.

"I need to salvage my home. This is all I have. I don't have nothing else. I can't go anywhere else. My family has owned this property here since the early 1900s," Overman said.

She will rely on family, friends, and hopefully FEMA.

Before we left, the 38-year-old salvaged her mother's Bible from the saturated stench.

About the only other thing worth collecting is memories.

E-mail jwhitely@wfaa.com.