

# Hurricane Help



Since our founding, Wood-Mizer has strived to do the right things for the right reasons. When Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated the Gulf States, there was no question we would do our part to help. What started off as hallway conversations turned into official meetings and resulted in a plan for helping coordinate mills and sawyers for rebuilding efforts.

## Sawing for Others

While we were making names and numbers of sawyers willing to saw for others available on our website and establishing a Hurricane Hotline; Wood-Mizer owner, David Wyatt, was making headlines. As reported in the Mississippi Meridian Star, David, owner and operator of Porter Creek Lumber Manufacturing, was traveling cross-country from Washington to Mississippi to saw damaged trees into usable lumber; donating the finished material to a local church and...Habitat for Humanity for rebuilding.

At the time of publication, David was making his way back home to his family and financial obligations. His cousin, Steve Gilbert, is looking for others who are willing to travel to the area and keep the sawing effort going. If you are interested in helping, please contact Mr. Gilbert to make arrangements at 601.626.7269 or [sm\\_gilbert@hotmail.com](mailto:sm_gilbert@hotmail.com).

## Truckloads of Help

With our phones here at Wood-Mizer ringing with callers wanting to purchase new mills immediately, we took the necessary steps and established a temporary pick-up location in Perkinston, Mississippi and greatly reduced the delivery charge. To further accommodate new customers, sawmill training takes place on-site at the time of pick-up. Since the storm, we have been delivering truckloads of equipment and with each trip we are excited to welcome new members to the Wood-Mizer family.

## Life Lessons

Further help for the hurricane stricken area came in the form of a loaner sawmill. A LT40 Hydraulic sawmill and edger was provided to the Stone County Regional Corrections Facility in Wiggins, Mississippi. Inmates got their first experience with a Wood-Mizer sawmill and a lesson on processing logs as part of the facility's vocational education program. With this program, Wood-Mizer was able to help boost the amount of usable wood products already in short supply.

## Special Delivery

Not in short supply, however, is the continued need for help in Mississippi and Louisiana. Wood-Mizer tool and die technician, Jeff Rikken, recently organized a drive for supplies and drove a loaded tractor trailer to help hurricane victims. Wood-Mizer sponsored the truck and many employees donated much needed supplies. Upon his return, he said, "I could not have prepared myself for the things I saw in Waveland, Mississippi. Driving past what used to be the town's K-Mart and finding tents where people are living will touch your soul like you never thought possible. When the media says that it looks like a war zone, they are making a huge understatement. The helplessness and bewilderment in the people's eyes would stop you in your tracks. Yet they continue on, day by day, looking for the light at the end of the tunnel. They do have a sense of hope and with each truckload of supplies, their spirits are lifted."

There is no doubt the Gulf States will need help in the coming months and even years, and Wood-Mizer will continue to do our part. 

