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## **Arapahoe County Coroner in Louisiana to assist Hurricane Katrina effort**

*Dr. Michael Dobersen part of national team to help identify hurricane victims*

Arapahoe County Coroner Dr. Michael Dobersen is in St. Gabriel, Louisiana to assist in the disaster recovery efforts from Hurricane Katrina.

Dobersen will be in St. Gabriel, which is 70 miles north of New Orleans, through next week working in the temporary morgue set up by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to help identify bodies recovered from Hurricane Katrina.

He was called to assist in the recovery effort as a member of the Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team, or DMORT - a nationwide multidisciplinary mutual aid network of coroners, pathologists and other medical professionals who are available to assist communities in disasters.

Dobersen said he is one of about 150 people from around the country working at the morgue to help identify about 20-30 victims each day.

This is not Dobersen's first national disaster. After Sept. 11, 2001, Dobersen spent two weeks in New York City identifying World Trade Center victims; and prior to that tragedy, the shootings at Columbine High School.

First elected Arapahoe County Coroner in 1993, Dobersen is highly regarded in his field. He has consulted on nationally high profile cases, such as the Jon Benet Ramsey murder and the 1994 Black Widow case. He is president of the Colorado Coroner Association.

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