

THE GSI GROUP



GSI Storage Tanks Weather the Storm.

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Without Major Damage - 9/22/04

FGDI Export Terminal in Mobile, AL Escapes Hurricane Without Major Damage

By Arvin Donley, Grain Journal

Mobile, AL--As Hurricane Ivan spun violently toward the gulf coast last week, FGDI, LLC officials waited anxiously to see if their grain export facility in Mobile, AL would survive the storm. Fortunately, the facility withstood reported wind gusts of up to 130 MPH and only minor damage was reported, according to FGDI Operations Manager Roger Buzard. "We dodged a bullet," Buzard said. "If Ivan had been a few miles to the west, there would have been substantial damage. We're finding little things here or there. One of the loaders sustained a little bit of damage, but we haven't found anything major to this point." He said constructional engineers are still examining the facility to make sure there are no structural problems. He noted that FGDI recently had four steel GSI tanks installed that will add 2.6 million bushels of storage capacity. The expansion project should be completed by early October, Buzard said. "Everybody was on pins and needles," he said. "We hadn't even finished the expansion. It would have been like buying a new car and wrecking it before you got it home." Buzard said the GSI tanks are designed to withstand wind gust up to 135 MPH, which was close to the highest wind speed recorded in Mobile during the hurricane. The facility has been shut down since last Wednesday, with operations targeted to resume by the end of the week.



FGDI is a Bowling Green, OH-based division of FC Stone Group, which specializes in commodity risk management.



Eight gauge steel sidewall has been the only option available in years past, and still the only gauge offered by most storage bin manufacturers. GSI commercial storage bins however feature 5-gauge galvanized steel sidewall panels which are 25% thicker and provide up to 37.5% increase in overall strength. This heavier gauge steel sidewall, which was used in the tanks installed at the FGDI facility in Mobile, Alabama, was definitely a contributing factor to these tanks withstanding the wind speeds recorded.