January 22, 2013

Honorable Bobby Jindal
Governor of Louisiana
P.O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004

Dear Governor Jindal:

In accordance with L.R.S. 29:739, I am pleased to submit this report on the activities of the Intrastate Mutual Aid Subcommittee (IMAS). The IMAS is comprised of stakeholders identified in the legislation that created the Intrastate Mutual Aid Compact (IMAC); IMAC establishes a system of mutual aid between parishes for the prevention of, response to, and recovery from, emergencies that exceed a parish’s resources. The report covers the time period January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012.

During the first quarter of 2012, the IMAS awaited public comments and notification of the Senate and House Homeland Security Committees intentions to hold hearings on the proposed Intrastate Mutual Aid Compact administrative rules & procedures. These rules and procedures had been developed by the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) in coordination with the IMAS. They were approved by the Legislative Fiscal Office and submitted to the State Register for publication in late 2011. There were no comments or opposition to the rules as proposed and they were published on April 20, 2012.

In order to facilitate the intrastate mutual aid process, GOHSEP created an IMAC Board within the WebEOC software. The IMAC Board allows each parish to expeditiously access needed assistance or respond to request for assistance during an event. This tool was developed in accordance with the rules as published in the State Register, and serves not only as the conduit for requesting or responding assets, but also as a guidance and documentation resource to insure needs are met in a timely & efficient manner and that request are properly documented as an incident moves into the recovery phase.

The IMAC subcommittee gathered on August 16, 2012 and members were briefed by Kristie Loupe and Lee John of GOHSEP on the newly revised IMAC board. A full demonstration was provided and a simulated IMAC request was filed on the IMAC system. Notifications were sent out to all parish Office of Homeland Security and
Emergency Preparedness (OHSEP) directors statewide. The drill was successful and demonstrated how the process would work if a true request for support was initiated.

The IMAC request board was utilized successfully several times in the latter half of 2012. During the response to Hurricane Isaac, the IMAC board was instrumental in filling multiple requests. One example is that Plaquemines Parish was able to use the IMAC process to request pump operators from Orleans Parish. The request was created and sent to Orleans Parish whereas an agreement was established between parishes and the operators were sent to assist Plaquemines. Other instances included movement of firefighters and fire fighting assets from the central and southwest portion of the state into hurricane ravaged areas.

GOHSEP will continue to refine the process and request board within WebEOC to ensure continued success. GOHSEP will also provide additional training to the parishes on the effectiveness and use of the IMAC board and process.

While training with the parish OHSEP directors and staff is ongoing, the IMAS has identified a need to train the various response disciplines such as fire, law enforcement, and public works. During 2013 the subcommittee in conjunction with GOHSEP is creating a training program to present at different association conferences to ensure that statewide leadership is aware of the use and benefits of the IMAC process and the value of their preparation and participation in the program.

Subsequent meetings for the IMAC Subcommittee will be scheduled during the coming year. The focus of the IMAS for the coming year will be continued training and education on the program and its processes, the inclusion of and utilization of the IMAC in upcoming exercises, and compatibility assessment of existing statewide mutual aid plans with the publish IMAC rules.

The IMAC has the potential to greatly enhance the ability of the parishes and the state to manage events that are beyond the capability of a local government’s assets by creating a cache of capable resources. The great benefit of this program is the ability to respond the closest appropriate resource in a timely manner to those in need.

We appreciate your continued support of our efforts.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Chief Richard Boudreaux