As we all know, when there is a change in the Governor’s Administration, there is always a chance that many of the current Cabinet Appointees will not continue with the new administration. This is the case for me as your GOHSEP Director.

Governor John Bel Edwards has appointed Mr. James Waskom to serve as the new Director of GOHSEP, effective January 11th at noon.

I will continue to serve in my position until that time and continue coordinating the river flooding event and other ongoing response and recovery activities.

It has been an honor to serve as the GOHSEP Director since December 2011 and I believe we have made tremendous strides in emergency preparedness and response and also in our recovery efforts through multiple disaster declarations. We could not have had the success we all shared without the cooperation and collaboration among us.

I thank you for your friendships!
Kevin

Governor Jindal and Governor-elect Edwards Holds A Unified Command Group meeting on Flooding of the Mississippi & Red Rivers

On Wednesday, December 30th Governor Jindal held a Unified Command Group meeting with state agency leaders and state emergency response officials to discuss response efforts to imminent flooding of the Mississippi River and the Red River. Also present in the meeting was Governor-elect John Bel Edwards in order to ensure that the incoming administration is fully up-to-date in the event future flooding conditions after January 11, 2016.

Due to heavy rainfall amounts over the past 30 days, there is concern regarding rising water levels for the Mississippi and Red Rivers. During the UCG meeting, Governor Jindal discussed preparation efforts with cabinet officials and emergency response personnel and stressed the need for Louisianans to get a game plan for their families as water levels continue to rise. Governor Jindal also issued an emergency declaration due to the imminent threat of flooding and ordered state agencies to mobilize resources and remain on standby for emergency response efforts.

Governor Jindal said, “We continue to monitor the potential for flooding conditions across the state, specifically in communities near the Red River and Mississippi River. Particularly along the Mississippi River, there is the potential in the next several weeks for flooding conditions similar to the floods of 2011, so we are taking this situation very seriously.”

“State emergency response officials are in close communication with local leaders to ensure they have the resources necessary to protect our communities. We urge Louisianans to stay alert regarding local weather and flooding conditions in their area and to have an emergency plan in place.”

Visit GOHSEP’s Getting It Right webpage for information on upcoming classes/schedules!

Randall Hart - PRO 1, PA Tech Services

New Orleans Medical Reserve Corps (NOMRC) was chosen for Outstanding Citizen Corps Partner Program as part of the 2015 FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Awards.

The New Orleans Medical Reserve Corps (NOMRC) was honored for its emergency preparedness outreach and education to vulnerable populations in the city by working with the whole community. NOMRC coordinated with emergency preparedness agencies in the city to plan for the 2014 hurricane season. FEMA highlighted the group’s ability to work with agencies and health care providers that serve at-risk groups, efforts in developing easy-to-understand hurricane preparedness messages and materials targeted to the elderly, mobility-impaired, non-English speakers and other vulnerable populations.