Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have forever changed the focus of emergency management in Louisiana and the nation.

As we approach the 10 year anniversary dates for these hurricanes, our focus is on the State’s resilience and recovery.

I would like to personally thank each and every one of our GOHSEP team members that have played a role in the response and recovery efforts following the most catastrophic events this country has ever experienced.

Due to your commitment to be the center of excellence, Louisiana has become the Nation’s largest living laboratory for emergency management.

Our recovery story is far from over.

Keep up the great work!

STATUS OF THE RECOVERY

Federal recovery investments: more than $19.5 BILLION in Public Assistance (PA), Hazard Mitigation (HM) and Individual Assistance (IA).

Recovery of public infrastructure is almost 80% complete.

More than 24,000 Public Assistance (PA) and Hazard Mitigation (HM) projects have been rebuilt, repaired, mitigated or are in progress as of 2015.

Nearly $1.4 BILLION for mitigation projects to build stronger, safer, more resilient communities through sustained actions that reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property.

Nearly $5.8 BILLION in Individual Assistance.

- $4.2 BILLION in Housing Assistance.
- $1.6 BILLION in Other Needs Assistance (ONA)

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) appropriated $13.4 BILLION in Community Development Block Grant funds for recovery.

Over 95,800 Small Business Administration (SBA) applicants were approved for disaster loans that total over $6.9 BILLION.

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) paid over 215,000 claims for a total of $16.2 BILLION dollars. Completion of the FEMA/USCG mission to clean up hazardous waterway debris covered 20 Parishes, 259 waterways, 3 miles offshore, 1,700 vessels, and 569,000 CY of debris.

Mark Your Calendar

August 18-19th
Disaster Management for Water & Wastewater Utilities (MGT-343)

August 19th
CPRA Meeting, Baton Rouge, LA
Aug. 3rd - Clarence Johnson
Aug. 8th - Lynda Merrill, George “Steward” Jones & Anitra Edwards
Aug. 9th - Stanley Aaron, Christen Chiasson, Ashley Wilson Griffin & Shera Nixon
Aug. 10th - Teresa Basco

Aug. 11th - Florence Williams
Aug. 12th - Latasha Williams, Kaitlyn Carrier & Nghiep Nguyen
Aug. 13th - Stacy Posey
Aug. 14th - Joe Harris & Arleatha Scarbrough
Aug. 15th - Takisha Ross
Aug. 16th - Clayton Smith & Sean Wyatt
Aug. 18th - John Lee
Aug. 24th - Frazier Simmons
Aug. 25th - Mark DeBosier
Aug. 26th - Michael Verrett & Unmesh Kirtikar
Aug. 29th - Daniel McLaughlin
Seventeen new Disaster Recovery Specialists (DRSs) recently joined the Public Assistance (PA) Grants Management Section. These new DRSs, as well as a few additional members of the Section, attended an extensive New Hire On-Boarding Training Program to learn the ins and outs of the PA Program and the procedures of the Section. The training program was quite vast and provided a great deal of information in a short time-frame. On July 8, 2015, a Graduation Ceremony was held to celebrate their completion of the training program. Congratulations to all of our DRS graduates!

NEMA offers webinars on a variety of topics related to the EMAC mutual aid system. The objective is to involve multiple disciplines in the mutual aid discussion, and to develop new and innovative mutual aid capabilities, as well as, a better understanding by all parties on how to properly utilize the existing EMAC mutual aid system. Webinars are archived, and can be viewed anytime from the EMAC webpage. Visit the EMAC webinar archives.

Victoria Carpenter, GOHSEP’s EMAC Coordinator serves as the Executive Task Force Chair for the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) Executive Task Force (ETF). The ETF develops and implements policies and procedures of EMAC and they relay information and issues from the local/regional level to the national level at the request of the EMAC Committee.

On July 10, 2015, Ms. Carpenter hosted a national webinar: “Enhancing the Effectiveness of Public Health Mutual Aid through EMAC Mission Ready Packages”. The webinar provided an overview of EMAC and highlighted some of the 13 EMAC Articles of Agreement which provide protections to deploying personnel. She was joined by Gerrit Bakker, Senior Director, Public Health Preparedness at the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials who talked about the development of Mission Ready Package templates for Medical and Public Health resources. The development of Mission Ready Packages is one of the first steps in preparing for an EMAC deployment.
Visit GOHSEP’s *Katrina/Rita 10 Years Later* web-page for more information and to view a calendar of upcoming events.

**Request For Articles**

If you would like to include your information/article in future issues of *The GOHSEP Focus*, please contact:

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