

The GOHSEP FOCUS

Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness

Oct. 2015 • Volume 1 • Issue 10

Directors Message



We have passed another milestone marking the **10th anniversary of Hurricane**

Rita. GOHSEP

participated in several events across southwest Louisiana that highlighted the recovery efforts in **Calcasieu, Cameron and Vermilion** Parishes. That work continues today and many of you are helping meet that challenge.

Louisiana has again benefitted from a slow hurricane season. Scenes from states like South Carolina are a reminder of how devastating storms can be. After offering our assistance to the emergency management director in South Carolina to assist them in getting through the flooding disaster, several of **our Team** deployed to the area. Our employees have the knowledge and experience to get the job done and are always ready to assist with any resources needed.

GOHSEP, St. John Parish & NOAA Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Lake Pontchartrain Storm Surge & Weather Sensors



GOHSEP and St. John the Baptist Parish officials, along with officials from the National Weather Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, gathered on Wednesday, September 23, 2015 to dedicate a technological first for the parish – the ability to detect with better accuracy water levels and storm surge height from pending storms.

High-tech sensors have been installed in the western portion of Lake Pontchartrain that officials say will improve storm surge modeling and enhance public safety advisories for residents in St. John the Baptist Parish.

The 2012 storm drove four to six feet of water from Lake Pontchartrain and the Lake Maurepas swamp into St. John the Baptist Parish. The unprecedented surge, overwhelmed LaPlace and parts of Reserve requiring mass evacuation of thousands of residents, many of whom were trapped inside their homes and had to be rescued.

These high-tech water level sensors will continuously monitor water levels in the lake, including those produced by storm surge. A meteorological sensor system, installed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service (NOAA, NWS), measures temperature, humidity, wind, rain, and pressure at Frenier Landing. Both sensors are designed to withstand winds of approximately 110 miles per hour.



October 15th

Quarterly Reports due to GOHSEP for the following grants:

- HMGP
- EMFG

October 24th

- Election Day

October is **National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.**

- For more information on how you can stay well, visit the American Cancer Society website at cancer.org/breast or call 1-800-227-2345.



GOHSEP, St. John the Baptist Parish & NOAA officials cut the ribbon for the new system.





- Oct. 2nd - Stephanie Martinez & Mindy Roy
- Oct. 3rd - Lakeivea Drummer
- Oct. 4th - Emily Judice & Pamela Roussel
- Oct. 6th - Charles Yankowsky
- Oct. 7th - Alvin Cook & Alexis Williams
- Oct. 8th - Tabatha Burks & Nathan Gary
- Oct. 9th - Douglas Nagle & Joseph Spano
- Oct. 10th - David Youngblood
- Oct. 11th - Mary Alvarez
- Oct. 12th - Emily Granier, Woodi Jones & Autumn Smith
- Oct. 15th - Andrea Hebert
- Oct. 16th - Laverna McNamee
- Oct. 17th - Maurice Sonnier
- Oct. 18th - Rose Banye
- Oct. 19th - Lisa Jones & Willie Washington

The GOHSEP Technical Team would like to challenge all other areas of Disaster Recovery to **Fill 'er up Friday**.

As every one of you enter the JFO, you should notice red barrels near the front door. These barrels are there to collect much needed items to send to the **Greater Baton Rouge Food bank**. One thing you may not have noticed is they have been rather low the past few weeks. Section Chief Johnny Gonzales along with the Technical Section, would like to challenge all GOHSEP Disaster Recovery employees to **bring one canned good on Fridays** so that we try to fill up these containers every week.

One canned good is all we ask but feel free to bring as much as you would like. With the holidays coming up shortly, this will provide some **much needed items to the Food Bank** in order to provide during this busy time.



GOHSEP is sending two emergency management personnel to South Carolina in response to the devastating floods impacting the state. **Joseph Costello and Courtney Hunt** will work with South Carolina personnel conducting damage assessments.



Pictured above is GOHSEP employees Courtney Hunt & Joe Costello

Two GOHSEP recovery specialists; **William Bryant and Cenceria Dalcourt** are currently assisting Colorado after river flooding there earlier this year. GOHSEP has approved an extension request from Colorado allowing those employees to continue their support work.

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

getting it right! 

Welcome to our team!

Promotion:

Erin Gravois - Team Lead, PA Close-Out

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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