The 2015 hurricane season is winding down, but we have seen a preview of conditions for the winter months. Louisiana has been impacted by two recent rounds of flooding and wind damage in recent weeks. According to weather experts, the El Nino effect could mean a wetter, colder winter. I know we are up to the challenge for any event we may face.

GOHSEP has also helped with the relocation of the Louisiana Business Emergency Operations Center (LA BEOC) to UL Lafayette. The LA BEOC helps prepare Louisiana businesses prior to disasters. It also acts as a conduit through which businesses receive and provide situational awareness as well as goods and services in partnership with government, nonprofit associations and other participants in the recovery process. Thank you to all that helped make the relocation process a success.

On Tuesday, October 27th GOHSEP hosted an educational seminar for a select group of eight senior security and safety officials from the Government of Mexico (GOM) and Petroleos Mexicanos (PEMEX).

The concept of this endeavor is to provide these officials a focused forum to meet with the appropriate officials from state agencies as well as petroleum industry experts to discuss security, safety and response capabilities to a crisis. The GOM and PEMEX are currently planning for major operational expansion of leases in Mexico and the Gulf of Mexico and are seeking information and guidance to the challenges of their current operational standards.

Photos below are of a controlled training scenario that was conducted by GOHSEP, LSP, the Canadian National Railroad and more than 25 local, state and federal authorities on Thursday October 29th in Ponchatoula.

- LA SEMP Regional Round Table Workshops:
  - 11/9 - Lafayette
  - 11/12 - West Monroe
  - 11/16 - Shreveport
  - 11/17 - Luling
  - 11/18 - Hammond
  - 11/19 - Alexandria
- 2015 Procurement Seminar - Pennington Biomedical Research Center: 11/10 & 11/17
- LA BEOC Workshop: 11/12
Nov. 2nd - Amanda Zuniga & Irna Burks
Nov. 3rd - Katie Guessfeld
Nov. 5th - Felice Means & Michael Hamilton
Nov. 6th - Keisha Payton, Tyrone Jones & William Oiler
Nov. 8th - Candace Lawrence & Jane Ingram
Nov. 9th - Evelyn Moreland & Matthew Pan-grazio
Nov. 10th - Lauren Brumfield
Nov. 12th - Claudia Rodrigue
Nov. 13th - Christina Dayries
Nov. 14th - Casey Tingle, William Matthew & Randall Hart
Nov. 15th - Tenesha Wilson

As a reminder, annual enrollment for the 2016 plan year began on Thursday, October 1, 2015 and will run through Sunday, November 15, 2015. This is the opportunity for all employees to evaluate their current health and supplemental benefit coverage and make any necessary changes. All changes made during the open enrollment period will take effect for the plan year beginning January 1, 2016. Please remember that any changes to insurance coverage not made during open enrollment must be made within 30 days of an IRS qualifying event.

1. New paperwork for members wishing to remain in their current OGB health plan with the same covered dependents for the 2016 plan year is not required. If no changes are submitted, current coverage will carry over into the 2016 plan year.

2. All members enrolled in the Health Savings Account Plan (HSA) and/or the Flexible Spending Account (FSA) MUST update their contributions for 2016 by completing the attached HSA Payroll Deduction form and submitting to Human Resources.

3. Changes to health insurance coverage can be made by completing the attached GB-01 form and submitting to Human Resources or by accessing the OGB member self-service portal at http://annualenrollment.groupbenefits.org.

4. Changes to any supplemental insurance plan must be made directly with that insurance provider. Contact information for the approved supplement insurance vendors can be found through the Office of State Uniform Payroll (OSUP): http://www.doa.la.gov/Pages/osup/Emp_SW_Vend_Products.aspx

Due to requirements set forth in the Affordable Care Act (ACA), any eligible employee who is not enrolled in health insurance through their active employment with the State MUST either enroll in coverage as a part of open enrollment or complete a waiver of coverage for that plan year. Attached are the waivers issued by OSUP for both the 2015 and 2016 plan years. All waivers MUST be submitted no later than Friday, November 13, 2015.

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Request For Articles
If you would like to include your information/article in future issues of The GOHSEP Focus, please contact:
Allison Hadley or Mike Steele
(225) 718-1815 or (225) 925-3966
allison.hadley@la.gov or mike.steele@la.gov

Tickets for the annual GOHSEP/FEMA Holiday Luncheon are now available. The luncheon will be held on December 8, 2015 at the FEMA/GOHSEP Joint Field Office, located at 1500 Main Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, from 11:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The deadline is November 30, 2015.