

Regional Parish Office of Homeland Security and  
Emergency Preparedness Directors Subcommittee  
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS  
GOVERNOR



EARL EUES  
CHAIRMAN

July 22, 2016

Honorable John Bel Edwards  
Governor of Louisiana  
P.O. Box 94004  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004

Dear Governor Edwards:

In accordance with L.R.S. 29:725.6, and on behalf of the Regional Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (OHSEP) Directors' Subcommittee (Regional Directors' Subcommittee). The Regional Directors' Subcommittee held monthly meetings during this time period of January 1, 2016 through June 30, 2016.

**GOHSEP Updates:**

- The state Unified Command Group met multiple times responding to the following statewide events: Mississippi and Red River flooding, Convent tornado, and statewide river flooding.
- FEMA HQ, in conjunction with the FCC, conducted a nationwide test (22 states) of the Emergency Alert System through the IPAWS portal on February 24, 2016 at 1:20pm.
- GOHSEP has upgraded and deployed WebEOC version 8.0. The physical update took place on February 15, 2016.
- The State Shelter Task Force continues to meet and establish additional shelter space to accommodate the anticipated number of shelters in a large scale hurricane evacuation.
- GOHSEP has met with Texas officials to revisit our State to State sheltering plan. Texas has agreed to shelter up to 10,000 of our Critical Transportation Needs (CTN) population.
- School Emergency Management Table Top Exercises (TTX) were conducted in each of the nine Homeland Security regions during April & May.

- Hurricane Coordination Meetings with Parishes and Regions were conducted prior to the beginning of Hurricane season 2016.
- GOHSEP held the annual LEPA / Parish Directors' Meeting in Lake Charles in May. The usually two separate conferences were combined to be both more efficient with time and funding.

#### **DHS Grant / DHS Relative Risk Score Updates:**

- **Christina Dayries** provided an update regarding Louisiana's draft relative risk score rating received from DHS. Louisiana dropped by one point from 20 to 21 and the New Orleans Urban Area increased by one point from 37 to 36. GOHSEP prepared a response to the above-stated draft score on behalf of Louisiana and the New Orleans Urban Area. DHS issued the final relative risk and did not change Louisiana or the Urban Areas score.
- **Christina Dayries** provided the FY 2016 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) and Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) anticipated award amounts for the State of Louisiana. The federal awards are anticipated in the summer of 2016.

#### **Bureau of EMS, Ambulance Operations Plan Update:**

- **Donnie Woodard** provided an overview of the EMS Plan and EMS Disaster Recovery Coordinator (DRC) position. These positions are currently held by private ambulance or non-government employees. BEMS and GOHSEP are now requiring parishes to request ambulance or EMS type support through WebEOC for each parish's' requirements. Parishes may assign their current EMS DRC to act on their behalf, but the request must still originate from the parish.

#### **Hazard Mitigation Parish Plan Update:**

- **Casey Tingle** provided an update on the status of parish hazard mitigation plans and stated that everyone is on target to meet their deadlines. Once approved by FEMA, the plans are good for five years.

#### **Subcommittee Officer Nominations:**

- Earl Eues was elected Chairman and Lisa Vidrine was elected Co-Chairman.

## **Regional Updates:**

### **Region 1-**

- The region prepared for and successfully conducted Mardi Gras operations.
- There were some Director changes within the Region's parishes.
- The Region hosted a Full Scale exercise on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Region 2 -**

- A region-wide disaster PIO course was conducted this reporting period at the Lamar Dixon Exposition Center.
- The OHSEP Directors of the parishes with the Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) of the River Bend nuclear plant conducted a scheduled meeting to discuss emergency preparations and cooperation with the facility.

### **Region 3 -**

- All river parishes effected by the flooding disaster conducted successful coordination with the respective Levee Districts.
- MOUs for point to point parish sheltering agreements are being renewed.
- The Assumption sinkhole monitoring / participation by state relevant agencies continues. GOHSEP continues to host weekly conference calls.
- St. Charles Parish OHSEP Director has been replaced.

### **Region 4 –**

- Emergency Management briefing regarding statutes and process for elected officials was conducted for Region 4 officials.
- Regional Pet evacuation / care plans were submitted.

### **Region 5 –**

- There was an Active Shooter training meeting held in March for the Region.
- Regional officials met with DOTD to discuss upcoming work on I-10. DOTD stated that 25% of capacity would be lost for approximately two years.

### **Region 6 –**

- Some newly elected parish officials from the region were given emergency management orientation briefings by GOHSEP.
- LDH conducted a full scale exercise February 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Region 7 –**

- A tabletop exercise was conducted at Camp Minden on 13 January to prepare for an upcoming full scale exercise centered around an active shooter scenario.
- The Sabine River caused flooding in Desoto Parish. No homes or businesses were damaged but road access was affected for some time.

**Region 8 –**

- Emergency management orientation as well as training for newly elected regional officials was conducted on 10 February.

**Region 9 –**

- Robbie Miller was introduced to the regional officials as the new Tangipahoa Parish President.
- Randy Smith was introduced as the new St. Tammany Parish Sheriff.
- An MGT 319 class was conducted at the American Red Cross Center in Madisonville on 27 & 28 January.
- An MGT 324 School Emergency Response class was conducted in Tangipahoa Parish February 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- An LDH / OPH Risk Communication course was conducted on 18 february for the region.
- A Disaster Management course was conducted in Covington on 23 February.

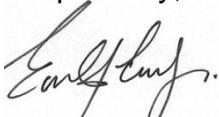
**Annual Statewide Exercise:**

The annual statewide exercise was conducted over a 5 day period in April and involved various state agencies in several state locations. This exercise also included FEMA and DOD involvement during Vigilant Guard 2016.

This event allows agencies with key disaster responsibilities to exercise their capabilities as well as refine their interagency coordination skills.

We appreciate your continued support of our efforts.

Respectfully,



Earl J. Eues, Jr. REM  
Chairman, Regional Directors' Subcommittee