GOHSEP continues to be in an extremely busy stretch. In addition to big strides in recovery, we have an ongoing river flood emergency across the state and several recent rounds of severe weather. Flooding remains our state’s number one threat. The threat associated with the high river levels are expected to be a factor for the next few months. Meanwhile, this is the time of year we ramp up preparedness training with our local, state and federal partners. We have numerous events planned including the ROC drill, the statewide exercise and various local meetings.

I recently traveled to Washington for the Governors Homeland Security Advisors Council meetings. I am proud to talk about our accomplishments in Louisiana and the support we provide others across the country as they face disasters and recovery. We are also making our mark at home. Hazard Mitigation Grants Management Section Chief Tenesha Wilson was recently promoted to major in the Louisiana National Guard and she was recognized for her tremendous work with CASA. Senior Problem Resolution Officer Dianna Bennett received her Louisiana Civil Service Training Certification.

As we watch news about the terrorist attacks in New Zealand, I want to touch on one final topic. It is important to maintain situation awareness in our day to day lives. Know your surroundings. Check any building or facility you enter for exits. Pay attention to what people near you are doing. We help promote situational awareness with law enforcement with our See Something, Send Something App. It is a way for anyone to report suspicious activity to authorities. That type of reporting is often the key to preventing large or small criminal activity. As the state homeland security agency, include this information with those you work with because we all play a role in keeping our state safe.

Thanks for all you do for our citizens.

- James Waskom
Governor’s Homeland Security Advisors Council Winter Meeting

Washington, D.C.- GOHSEP Director Jim Waskom recently attended the Governor’s Homeland Security Advisors Council 2019 Winter Meeting in Washington, D.C.

The National Governor’s Homeland Security Advisors Council acts as a forum that brings together the governors principal homeland security advisors from each state, commonwealth, and territory:

1) Provides a unified voice for states to inform and shape national homeland security policy.

2) Keep governors abreast about the current threat environment and the impacts of Federal homeland security legislation, regulations, and policies on states.

3) Inform the work of the NGA Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) by sharing ideas and best practices, identifying emerging issues, and reviewing and analyzing the impacts of Federal homeland security activities on the states.

GOHSEP Director Jim Waskom discusses the Urban Areas Security Initiative grant process with US Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen during the recent Governors Homeland Security Advisors Council Winter Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Iberville Parish - Safety Town

Hundreds of kindergarten students in Iberville learn about safety each year during the Safety Town program sponsored by I-CAER and the Iberville Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness. It is a fun way for these children to learn about emergency preparedness, chemical, fire, gun, weather, bicycle and vehicle safety. During this program, students drive their “big wheels” around the streets of the miniature Safety Town, which is complete with city buildings, railroad crossings, stop signs, and traffic lights. They are issued traffic tickets for any violations and awarded a Safety Town driver’s license once they demonstrate good safety practices. During Safety Town, the students also receive lessons on what to do when the siren sounds for bad weather or a chemical spill. Safety Town turtle mascot “Wally Wise Guy” demonstrates sheltering in place and other safety lessons, such as how to correctly report an emergency by calling “911” on the telephone, fire safety principles like “stop, drop and roll,” and general personal safety, such as not playing with guns and not talking to strangers.

I-CAER and Iberville Parish Council sponsors this program, and the member companies provide approximately 50 volunteers to assist children throughout each day-long program. The program continues for 10 days, with various groups of kindergarteners attending each day.

For more information go to: www.ibervilleparish.com/Departments/Emergency-Preparedness

2019 Louisiana Emergency Management Conference

May 13-16, 2019
L’auberge in Lake Charles, Louisiana

Register on-line at www.laemc.org
Toll free (877) 405-5372 • Telephone (225) 408-4757 • Fax (225) 408-4422 • email info@laemc.org

Early Bird Registration Rate Before March 29th
Registration Rate After March 29th
Devastating effects took a significant toll on East Baton Rouge Parish as a result of the August 2016 Floods (Flood statistic or rain totals received in EBR). However, East Baton Rouge Parish is not defined by its losses, but rather by its strength and determination to recover quickly and efficiently. These posed hardship have offered an opportunity for our Parish to strengthen emergency management efforts involving preparedness, prevention, mitigation, response and recovery to build back stronger as a community.

Upon taking office in 2017, Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome announced her recovery initiative and vision for the Parish. East Baton Rouge Parish is developing a comprehensive All-Hazards Recovery Plan in accordance with The National Disaster Recovery Framework which provides context to restore, redevelop, and revitalize our Parish. In order to effectively develop The East Baton Rouge Parish All-Hazards Recovery Plan, subcommittees have been established among the different Recovery Support Functions (RSF) where members from various agencies have offered crucial information to construct the dynamics of the plan.

Development and the implementation of this plan require a whole community approach and include partnerships with the Center for Planning Excellence, State of Louisiana Office of Community Development, and FEMA. Along with support from local, state, and federal partners, East Baton Rouge Parish has turned to the public for guidance through a series of public meetings. During which, residents were given the opportunity to offer suggestions and discuss their experiences with recent disasters, and the most memorable 2016 floods.

The East Baton Rouge Parish All-Hazards Recovery Plan is being developed to specifically fulfill needs during the recovery process and define the resiliency of our community. By becoming more resilient, our community is not just prepared to survive another major event, but are poised to adapt and thrive in ever-changing conditions. The plan will be presented to the East Baton Rouge Parish Metropolitan Council in early 2019.
Tornado Safety

National Weather Service - It is important to have a plan of action in the event a tornado threatens your family, and to rehearse that plan frequently. Such a plan should include what you and your family should do when at home, work, school, or outdoors. The time spent planning now could determine whether or not you survive a tornado.

Plan Ahead
First, know the county in which you live. Severe weather warnings are issued for counties, or for portions of counties. By keeping a highway roadmap nearby, you can follow storm movements, and better determine if you are threatened.

Have a NOAA Weather Radio handy at all times. Make sure your model has a tone-alarm feature, which will activate the radio when warnings or watches are issued for your area. If you are planning to be outdoors for an extended period of time, keep up with the latest weather information from your local National Weather Service office.

If you see a tornado, or hear that the National Weather Service has issued a Tornado Warning for your location...

Know Where to Go
In a home or a building, move to a pre-designated shelter, preferably the basement or the lowest floor of your home. Don't worry about opening your windows first - that would be a mistake, just get to the basement, and get under a sturdy piece of furniture or workbench. Grab blankets to cover yourself with, which will protect you from flying debris.

If an underground shelter (basement) is not available, move to an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor, and crouch down close to the floor. Again, grab extra blankets to protect yourself from flying debris. Stay away from windows - as they can shatter due to flying debris and the force of the wind.

If you are in a mobile home: Immediately move to a substantial shelter.

If you are caught outdoors and cannot get to a safe building. As a last resort, you should:
- Immediately get into a vehicle, buckle your seat belt and try to drive to the closest sturdy shelter.
- If your vehicle is hit by flying debris while you are driving, pull over and park.
- Stay in the car with the seat belt on. Put your head down below the windows; cover your head with your hands and a blanket, coat or other cushion if possible.
- If you can safely get noticeably lower than the level of the roadway, leave your car and lie in that area, covering your head with your hands. Your choice of whether to stay in your car should be driven by your specific circumstances. Your best choice remains getting to a secure building with a basement or saferoom.
- If you find yourself outside or in a car with a tornado approaching and you are unable to get to a safe shelter, you remain at risk whether you stay in your car or seek shelter in a depression or ditch, both of which are last resort options that provide little protection. The safest place to be is in an underground shelter, basement or safe room.
Tenesha Wilson Named CASA Volunteer Of The Month

Baton Rouge - Congrats to Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Tenesha Wilson on being named Volunteer of The Month for March!

GOHSEP’s Tenesha Wilson works as the Section Chief of Hazard Mitigation Grants Management.

Thank you, Tenesha for your hard work and dedication to provide a voice for children in foster care who need one.

The CASA advocates are community volunteers who advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children living in foster care.

Learn how you can help a child by becoming a CASA volunteer:

Attending a 45-minute orientation session is the first step to becoming a CASA volunteer. Sessions are held weekly..

To become a CASA volunteer, you must:

- Be at least 21 years of age.
- Attend a 45-minute orientation session.
- Complete a 32-hour training course.
- Make a one-year commitment to a child.

CASA volunteers are ordinary people, many with full-time jobs of their own. They work with one or two children at a time averaging 10-15 hours per month. No special experience is required. CASA provides thorough training and CASA volunteers work under the direct supervision of CASA staff. Once assigned to a case, CASA volunteers act as a watchdog for the child and become a stable presence in the child’s life. The personal attention ensures that the case keeps moving toward a safe, permanent home for the child.

Go to www.casabr.org/volunteer for more information about volunteering.

To contact Tenesha: tenesha.wilson@la.gov

Captain Tenesha Wilson Promoted To Major

Baton Rouge - GOHSEP’s Tenesha Wilson was promoted to the rank of Major effective January 9, 2019. Tenesha has proudly served 20 years in the Louisiana Army National Guard. Her current assignment is Logistics Officer and Property Book Officer for the 61st Troop Command. Her promotion ceremony was held at the Armed Forces Reserve Center on Saturday, March 9, 2019 in Baton Rouge and was witnessed by family members, friends, her leadership team, peers, and many members of her GOHSEP family. Tenesha was pinned by her Commander, COL Dirk Erickson, and son, Kameran Senegal.

In her civilian capacity, Tenesha works for GOHSEP as the Section Chief of Hazard Mitigation Grants Management.

To contact Tenesha: tenesha.wilson@la.gov
### March Birthdays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paul Boyle</td>
<td>03/02</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Davis</td>
<td>03/04</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amy Maglone</td>
<td>03/05</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ellen Ibert</td>
<td>03/11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cody Landry</td>
<td>03/13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dinah Riggs</td>
<td>03/24</td>
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For questions or comments about the birthdays, contact: Tiffany Johnson - tiffany.l.johnson@la.gov

### Upcoming Events

**March 18-19, 2019**
- Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Program Training (HSEEP) - Baton Rouge, Louisiana

**March 19, 2019**
- MGT-324 C Campus Emergencies Prevention, Response & Recovery - Grambling, Louisiana
- G-0775 Emergency Operations Center Management & Operations - Lafayette, Louisiana
- ICS-300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents for Operational First Responders - Lake Charles, Louisiana

**March 20-21, 2019**
- L0105- Public Information & Warning - Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- PER-211 Medical Management of CBRNE Events - Shreveport, Louisiana

**April 10, 2019**
- HAZTRAN19 Hazardous Materials Tabletop Exercise/Training - Bossier City, Louisiana

**April 23, 2019**
- AWR-362 Flooding Hazards: Science & Preparedness - Lake Charles, Louisiana
- HAZTRAN19 Hazardous Materials Tabletop Exercise/Training - West Monroe, Louisiana

**April 24, 2019**
- Region 3: Annual Hurricane & Tropical Weather Coordination Meeting - Thibodaux, Louisiana
- Community Exercise-River & Bayou Parishes Mutual Aid & Assistance Task Force - Morgan City, Louisiana

**May 2, 2019**
- HAZTRAN19 Hazardous Materials Tabletop Exercise/Training - Zachary, Louisiana

**May 6-7, 2019**
- MGT-439 Pediatric Disaster Response & Emergency Preparedness - New Orleans, Louisiana

**May 9, 2019**
- HAZTRAN19 Hazardous Materials Tabletop Exercise/Training - New Orleans, Louisiana

**May 9, 2019**
- ICS-400 Advanced Incident Command System - Lake Charles, Louisiana

**May 9-10, 2019**
- MGT-439 Pediatric Disaster Response & Emergency Preparedness - Baton Rouge, Louisiana

**May 13, 2019**
- DHS Active Shooter Preparedness Workshop - Lake Charles, Louisiana

**May 13, 2019**
- AWR-313 Homemade Explosives: Awareness, Recognition & Response - Lake Charles, Louisiana

**May 22, 2019**
- AWR-326 Tornado Awareness Course - Lake Charles, Louisiana - Lake Charles, Louisiana

### Transfers

**Ashley Givens**
Homeland Security Grants Specialist (Regions 5 and 6)
Grants and Administration

### New Agency Hires

**Paul Boyle**
Recovery Grants Analyst, Recovery Grants Administration

**Kaitlin Cox**
Recovery Grants Analyst, Recovery Grants Administration

### Upcoming State Holidays

**Good Friday** - April 19, 2019