

2019 ROC Drill



Casey Tingle, discussing the State's actions as a hurricane approaches our coast.



GOHSEP's Michael Hamilton, talks logistical support during a potential storm.

Baton Rouge - GOHSEP worked with our state and Federal partners at the 2019 ROC drill on March 20th. The Rehearsal of Concept (ROC) drill is a large, tabletop exercise that examines the coordination of resources between all agencies before the start of hurricane season. This is yet another tool for GOHSEP and our partners that provides a synchronized response to a scenario in which a hurricane threatens the state. The exercise also allows the participating agencies to look for any potential shortfalls as we gear up for the upcoming season.

From The Director



It continues to be a busy year for those of us in emergency management. The days leading up to Easter included the latest round of severe weather. It was one of several lines of storms impacting the state during the past month as cold fronts push across the region. While there have been pockets of problems, we have been fortunate. The same storms dealt our neighboring states widespread issues. We will remain vigilant heading into hurricane season with meetings planned with our state and local partners, while continuing to make extraordinary strides with recovery from past events.

GOHSEP Deputy Director Casey Tingle is taking part in a very important discussion at the National Hurricane Conference in New Orleans. The National Hurricane Conference serves as a national forum for federal, state and local officials to exchange ideas and recommend new policies to improve Emergency Management. Casey will be part of a panel discussion highlighting our unique work with the Louisiana Watershed Initiative. The two historic rain events in 2016 impacted more than 100,000 homes and caused more than \$10 billion dollars in damage.

These events prompted Louisiana to find a new approach to floodplain management, project and development, and community planning across all levels of government. In late 2017, the state embarked on Phase I of what later became the Louisiana Watershed Initiative to explore how to move from planning, policy, and project implementation based on jurisdictional boundaries to a watershed-based approach. The Council on Watershed Management is a coalition of five state agencies and is embarking on an unprecedented level of coordination to address data needs, including statewide modeling, fund source leveraging and streamlining, capacity and capability building, standards and policy evaluation and development, planning and coordination, and engagement needs. By leveraging subject matter experts, as well as state, federal, national, local, regional, private, nonprofit stakeholder feedback, the state is maximizing implementation of technical, policy, and funding best practices.

Also this month, I will be part of the National Association of Attorneys General Presidential Initiative Summit on Emergency and Crisis Management in Lafayette. The Presidential Initiative Summit will bring together attorneys general and their government and private sector partners to exchange best practices, ideas, insights and experiences in coping with emergencies and disasters, both natural and man-made. Issues to be addressed include maintaining communications during a disaster, active shooter preparation and response, infrastructure issues and best practices to ensure an attorney general office is prepared. The panel I will be part of will examine various natural disasters and discuss several approaches to responding to and restoring those communities at the heart of those events.

As always, thank you for what you do for the people of Louisiana.

- James Waskom



2019 Louisiana Emergency Management Conference

May 13-16, 2019

L'auberge in Lake Charles, Louisiana

Register on-line at www.laemc.org

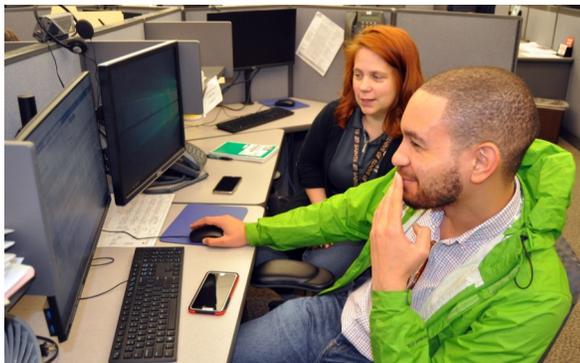
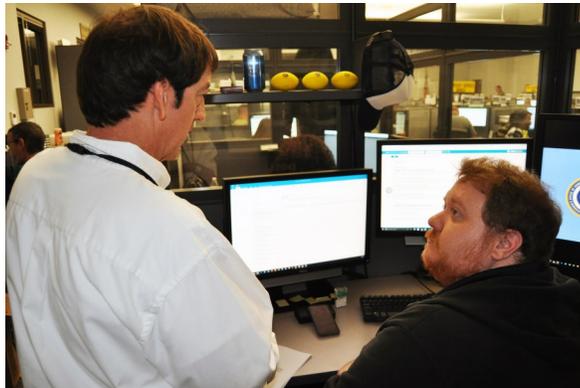
Toll free (877) 405-5372 • Telephone (225) 408-4757 • Fax (225) 408-4422 • email info@laemc.org

On-Line Registration available until May 1st
After May 1st Attendees will be required to register at the conference

2019 State Exercise

Baton Rouge - GOHSEP and the Louisiana National Guard helped coordinate another successful state Disaster Response Exercise (DRX) which took place April 3rd- 6th. The exercise allows state agencies to test actions such as search and rescue operations, evacuation procedures, restoring civil order after a disaster, commodities distribution, re-establishing communication and publically examine combined capabilities to synchronize emergency response functions. Combined, more than one thousand employees from several agencies and members of the Louisiana National Guard will took part in the exercise.

Gov. John Bel Edwards lead an exercise Unified Command Group (UCG) briefing and news conference at GOHSEP Friday morning. Other activity took place in Plaquemines Parish, including boat rescue and lily pad operations. Search and rescue operations were staged in Natchitoches Parish. The exercise wrapped up Saturday with activity including integrated air search and rescue operations in Ouachita Parish.



Parish Profile - St. Mary Parish

Saying that St. Mary Parish had a busy March is an understatement.

On March 18th, key parish officials participated in the 2019 Spring Flood Outlook. While the parish has been actively monitoring the water levels of the Atchafalaya River since late last year, the briefing gave the first long term projection of what the parish could be facing as far as flooding this spring and into early summer.

On March 22nd, the Port of Morgan City hosted SkyWarn Training, which was conducted by Roger Erickson from the Lake Charles office of the National Weather Service (NWS). SkyWarn is a program of the United States National Weather Service that trains local emergency managers, public safety officials and volunteers to aid in reporting severe weather real time as it passes through communities. This information aids NWS offices in issuing and verifying severe weather watches and warnings along with improving the forecasting and warning processes used by NWS.

On March 27th, the parish attended the Governor's Briefing on the permanent control structure approved for Bayou Chene. To help control flood waters, a temporary control measure in the form of a barge set up across the bayou has been used three times; 1973, 2011 and 2016. The permanent structure will be quicker to deploy and will save time, money and resources compared to emplacing the temporary barge struc-



St. Mary SkyWarn Training, 25 March 2019.



St. Mary Spring Flood Outlook Webinar, 18 March 2019.

ture. The permanent control structure will become a reality thanks to money allocated from the State Coastal Protection and Restoration Agency (CPRA). This structure will not only benefit St. Mary Parish but will also benefit other parishes along the southern end of the Atchafalaya Basin. The briefing was attended by local, parish and state elected officials along with Levee District and state agency representatives as well as parish Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP) personnel.

Founded:	1811	
Named For:	Saint Mary	
Largest City:	Morgan City	
Total Area:	1,119 square miles	
Population (2015):	52,810	



OHSEP Director
 David A. Naquin
 (337) 828-4100 - Ext 135
dnaquin@stmaryparishla.gov
stmaryohsep.org

The Latest GOHSEP Get A Game Plan Podcast is Available



A new episode of The GOHSEP Get A Game Plan Podcast is now available!

Title: Different Types of Disasters, Same Types of Preparation

GOHSEP recently helped the state of Alaska with some of their ongoing recovery work after a major earthquake impacted the state in late December 2018. On this episode, we look at how

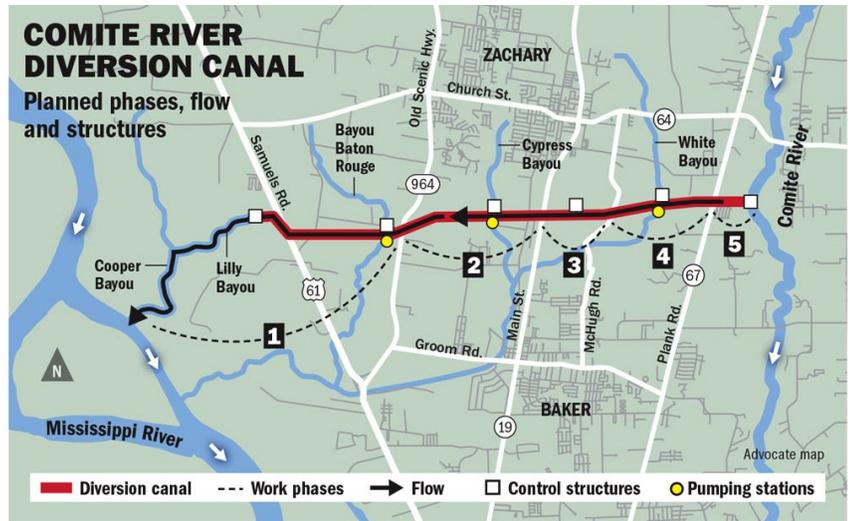
some issues related to emergency management are the same. One example is teaching people the importance of establishing a communications plan.

We will also examine some of the unique challenges the 49th state faces when dealing with this type event. Subscribe to the podcast now from Spotify or many other podcast stores.

Find a link at GetAGamePlan.org or at your favorite podcast store.

Comite River Diversion Project Groundbreaking

Zachary - GOHSEP representatives were on hand April 17, 2019 as Governor John Bel Edwards, members of our Congressional delegation, the US Army Corps of Engineers and other state and local leaders held a ceremonial groundbreaking for the Comite River Diversion Project just off U.S. 61 near Barnett Road in Zachary. The 12 mile, \$353 million dollar project will assist with flood mitigation efforts in this region by diverting water from the Comite River to the Mississippi River. Construction is estimated to be completed by the summer of 2021.



North To Alaska

GOHSEP continues to coordinate support for our partners in other states by filling critical Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) missions. GOHSEP Communications Director Mike Steele recently deployed to Alaska to help with ongoing recovery efforts after a massive earthquake impacted much of the state in late November. He developed messaging to help the public understand the importance of filing a disaster assistance application. That messaging included explaining why resources like Disaster Recovery Centers should be utilized to help applicants navigate the sometimes complicated recovery process.



Mike Steele working at the Alaska Emergency Operations Center.



The Alaska State Emergency Operations Center.

Flood Safety - Turn Around, Don't Drown

Each year, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other thunderstorm related hazard. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that over half of all flood-related drownings occur when a vehicle is driven into hazardous flood water. The next highest percentage of flood-related deaths is due to walking into or near flood waters. People underestimate the force and power of water. Many of the deaths occur in cars swept downstream. Many of these drownings are preventable. Never drive around the barriers blocking a flooded road. The road may have collapsed under that water. A mere 6 inches of fast-moving flood water can knock over an adult. It takes just 12 inches of rushing water to carry away most cars and just 2 feet of rushing water can carry away SUVs and trucks.

During A Flood

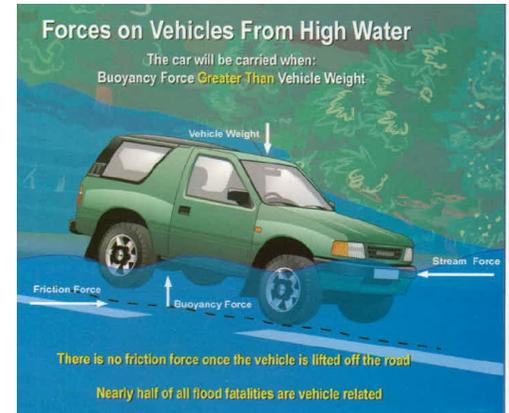
During a flood, water levels and the rate the water is flowing can quickly change. Remain aware and monitor local radio and television outlets. Avoid flood waters at all costs and evacuate immediately when water starts to rise. Don't wait until it's too late!

- **Stay Informed:** Listen to radio and television, check the Internet and social media for information and updates.
- **Get to Higher Ground:** If you live in a flood prone area or are camping in a low lying area, get to higher ground immediately.
- **Obey Evacuation Orders:** If told to evacuate, do so immediately. Lock your home when you leave. If you have time, disconnect utilities and appliances.
- **Practice Electrical Safety:** Don't go into any room, if water covers the electrical outlets or if cords are submerged. If you see sparks or hear buzzing, crackling, snapping or popping noises--get out! Stay out of water that may have electricity in it!
- **Avoid Flood Waters:** Don't walk through flood waters. It only takes 6 inches of moving water to knock you off your feet. If you are trapped by moving water, move to the highest possible point and call 911 if possible. **DO NOT** drive into flooded roadways or around a barricade; Water may be deeper than it appears and can hide hazards such as sharp objects, washed out road surfaces, electrical wires, chemicals, etc. .

After A Flood

When waters recede, the damage left behind can be devastating and present many dangers. Images of flood destruction depict destroyed homes and buildings, damaged possessions, and decimated roadways. However, what you can't see can be just as dangerous. Floodwaters often become contaminated with sewage or chemicals. Gas leaks and live power lines can be deadly, but are not obvious at first glance.

- **Stay Informed:** Stay tuned to your local news for updated information on road conditions. Ensure water is safe to drink, cook or clean with after a flood. Authorities may ask you to boil water for a while after a flood. Utility companies often have apps to update you on getting service back. Carbon monoxide poisoning is one of the leading causes of death after storms when areas are dealing with power outages. Never use a portable generator inside your home or garage. Review generator safety.
- **Avoid Flood Waters:** Standing water hides many dangers including toxins and chemicals. There may be sharp objects under the water or the road could have collapsed. If it is likely your home will flood, don't wait for evacuation order, get out! Talk to friends and family about emergency visits. If you have pets, take them with you or get them somewhere safe.
- **Avoid Disaster Areas:** Do not visit disaster areas. Your presence may hamper rescue and other emergency operations.
- **Heed Road Closed and Cautionary Signs:** Road closure and other cautionary signs are put in place for your safety. Pay attention to them!
- **Wait for the All Clear:** Do not enter a flood damaged home or building until you're given the All Clear by authorities. If you enter a flood damaged building, be extremely careful. Water can cause floods to collapse, ceiling to fall, etc. Make sure the electrical system has been turned off. Have the power company or a qualified electrician fix wires. Contact your insurance agent to discuss property damage. If you have a generator, follow proper safety procedures.
- **Contact Your Family and Loved Ones:** Let your family and close friends know that you're okay so they can help spread the word. Register with or search the American Red Cross's Safe and Well listing.



www.getagameplan.org



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
Tornado Frequently Asked Questions: www.spc.noaa.gov/faq/

FIRST RESPONDERS



APPRECIATION DAY

APRIL 30

11AM—2PM

**CAPITOL PARK
WELCOME CENTER**

Enjoy a day at the Capitol honoring first responders, state emergency support workers, volunteers and community organizations who come to the aid of our Louisiana residents during their time of need.

Lunch Served 11:00 AM Capitol Park Welcome Center

Governor John Bel Edwards 12 NOON Capitol Park Welcome Center

Concurrent Resolution 1:00 PM LA State Capitol, House Floor

Presentation of Concurrent Resolution streamed live from House Floor at gov.louisiana.gov

For more information,
please call (225) 342-7015

Capitol Park Welcome Center
702 N River Road, Baton Rouge, LA



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

For questions or comments about the birthdays, contact: Tiffany Johnson - tiffany.l.johnson@la.gov

Brittany Humphries (Public Assistance Grants)	04/02
Pamela Witty (Public Assistance Closeout)	04/02
Courtney Hunt (PART)	04/03
Joe Stewart (Regional Coordination)	04/05
John Taylor (Regional Coordination)	04/05
Emil McClellan (Preparedness)	04/07
Lora Tran (Public Assistance Grants)	04/08
Byron Brooks (Hazard Mitigation SALs)	04/10
Jenny Malvoisin (PART)	04/10
Iris Porter (Public Assistance Grants)	04/11
Angella Sanders (Recovery Grants)	04/14

Erin Gravois (Public Assistance Closeout)	04/15
Regina Adams (Public Assistance Closeout)	04/17
Deborah Levins (Facility Management)	04/19
Jesse Hines (Preparedness)	04/21
Brittany Moss (Public Assistance Closeout)	04/21
Jess Hebert (Recovery Grants)	04/22
Donna Gibson-Jordan (Sub-Recipient Monitoring)	04/24
Thomas Maglone (Public Assistance SALs)	04/25
Troy Barnes (Hazard Mitigation Technical Services)	04/27
Sarah Tutt (Hazard Mitigation Grants)	04/29
Jill Ruth (Public Assistance Grants)	04/29

UPCOMING EVENTS

To sign up or for more information about the training, visit: gohsep.la.gov/resources/training-events-schedule

TRAINING

April 29-May 2, 2019	DHS Industrial Control Systems Cyber Emergency Response Team - Bossier City, Louisiana
April 30, 2019	River & Bayou Parishes Mutual Aid & Assistance Task Force Community Exercise - Morgan City, Louisiana
May 1, 2019	G0775 Emergency Operations Center Management & Operations - Alexandria, Louisiana
May 2, 2019	HAZTRAN19 Hazardous Materials Tabletop Exercise/Training - Zachary, Louisiana
May 5, 2019	Region 4 & Region 5 Joint Hurricane Preparedness Meeting - Crowley, 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 16, 2019	ICS-400 Advanced Incident Command System - Lake Charles, Louisiana
May 22, 2019	AWR-326 Tornado Awareness Course- Lake Charles, Louisiana
June 4-5, 2019	MGT 310 Threat & Hazard ID, Risk Assessment & Stakeholder Preparedness Review - Gretna, Louisiana
June 17-18, 2019	MGT 412 Sport & Special Event Evacuation Training & Exercise - Natchitoches, Louisiana
June 19, 2019	Emergency Repatriation Table Top Exercise - Baton Rouge, Louisiana
June 26-27, 2019	AWR 167 Sport Event Risk Management - Grambling, Louisiana

OTHER

April 30, 2019	First Responders Appreciation Day - Baton Rouge, Louisiana
May 13-16, 2019	Louisiana Emergency Management Conference (LEMC) - Lake Charles, Louisiana
May 22, 2019	GOHSEP Awards Ceremony - Baton Rouge, Louisiana

NEW AGENCY HIRES

Veronica Sizer
Executive Counsel (Legal Services)

Rubby Douglas
Section Chief (Preparedness)

Kecia Gonzalez
Team Lead (PA Closeout)

UPCOMING STATE HOLIDAYS

Memorial Day - May 27, 2019

Request For Articles

If you would like to include an article in future issues of *The GOHSEP Focus*, please contact:
Your designated Agency Representative or Mike Steele
(225) 925-3966
mike.steele@la.gov



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