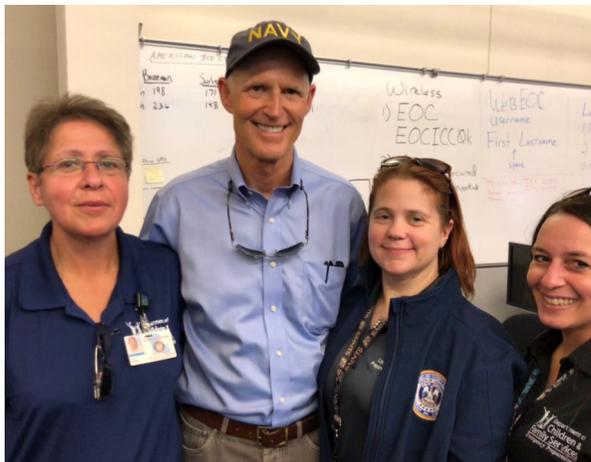


Louisiana Deploys To Assist Our State Partners



GOHSEP's Amy Dawson with Florida Governor Rick Scott.

Louisiana has been fortunate up to this point in regards to major emergencies. That's not the case for many other states and territories in 2018. Louisiana's reputation in helping others through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) system continues to shine.

For 2018, the work started early. Our teams continued to support areas like **Puerto Rico** and the **Virgin Islands** following Hurricane Maria and **Texas** as part of its recovery from Hurricane Harvey. **Hawaii** faced multiple threats from a volcano, flooding and tropical threats. GOHSEP's EMAC team helped Hawaii deal with those events. This hurricane season,



Joe Costello In Florida after Hurricane Michael.



Victoria Carpenter at the Hawaiian EOC.

GOHSEP and other state agencies assisted **North and South Carolina** with Hurricane Florence and we continue to help **Florida** with its massive recovery from Hurricane Michael.

As we wrap up the 2018 Atlantic Hurricane Season, thank you to all of you who filled these missions and supported others while deployed.

From The Director



We are excited about re-starting the **GOHSEP newsletter**, highlighting some of the hard work and outstanding achievements of our staff, and state and local partners. If you have ideas for future newsletter articles, please contact us.

Good news out of Washington as Congress approved the **Disaster Recovery Reform Act** which will remove the "duplication of benefits" problem for thousands of homeowners and help our parishes move forward on other important projects. GOHSEP and Governor Edwards's staff, along with our state and local Congressional delegation, played a key role in pushing for those changes and working the legislation through the Congressional process.

As Louisiana continues becoming more resilient, our GOHSEP team has also stepped up to get the Louisiana **Watershed Initiative** rolling, as key flood prevention projects across the state become a reality. Visit the Louisiana Watershed Initiative website for more information: www.watershed.la.gov.

As the threat of tropical systems ends for 2018, we must continue to prepare for other weather impacts during the fall and winter months. Be sure to visit GetAGamePlan.org for preparedness tips.

Thank you for all that you do for our citizens. I hope you have a blessed holiday season with your family and friends.

- James Waskom

State Recovery Planning and Coordination Course

24 officials from various Louisiana agencies attended an Emergency Management Institute (EMI) class the week of October 13th in Baton Rouge. State Recovery Planning and Coordination, a four-day course, discussed the benefits of planning for recovery before a disaster occurs, described the crucial partners who need to be involved in this planning, and outlined the steps to accomplish the work. The Planning Manager of GOHSEP worked with EMI and FEMA Recovery officials to adapt the course materials to meet the needs of the state partners. By the end of the week, the group was able to analyze their



existing disaster recovery outline and add information to move it forward towards completion. Louisiana's Office of Community Development, Department of Children and Family Services, Louisiana Housing Authority, and Department of Transportation and Development were just some of the agencies represented. Participants appreciated the way instructors tailored the content to meet the state's needs as well as the diverse experiences of the instructors. One official noted that Louisiana has had to recover from numerous disasters, so this is not a new concept, but that incorporating lessons learned with what they had done would be crucial for the future.

Small Business Summit



GOHSEP's Danny McLaughlin and Christina Dayries.

GOHSEP was honored to take part in the 2018 Small Business Summit in Shreveport. The event was led by Louisiana Economic Development to help small business members with an opportunity to connect with State of Louisiana procurement officials and many other procurement managers who directly purchase goods and services. Over 400 business and 21 state agencies were represented at the summit.

Disaster Prevention & Preparedness Panel

GOHSEP Director James Waskom recently took part in a disaster prevention and preparedness panel hosted by the Manship School of Journalism at LSU. Other panelists included Kathy Keating, Dr. Margaret Reams, Congressman Garret Graves and Russel Honore. Director Waskom highlighted the importance of long-term planning to deal with the changing conditions here in Louisiana. Others talked about the major investment return when money is spent on preparedness projects versus response to an emergency

GOHSEP's Podcast Recognized

We hope all of you have had the chance to download and listen to GOHSEP's Get A Game Plan Podcast over the past year. We have good news concerning this unique communications resource. The Southern Public Relations Federation is recognizing the GOHSEP podcast with a 2018 Award of Merit. Recent episodes have highlighted an Israeli emergency management delegation's visit to New Orleans and the new focus on cybersecurity in Louisiana. If you have topics we can possibly use for future episodes, e-mail Mike Steele at mike.steele@la.gov. Please tell others to subscribe to this new communications tool we are providing. You can download the podcast from your favorite podcast store or find a link at GetAGamePlan.org.



Mike Steele accepting the award in New Orleans.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Stephanie Martinez (Public Assistance Closeout)	10/02	Maurice Sonnier (Hazard Mitigation Closeout)	10/17
Danielle Aymond (Legal)	10/03	Rose Banye (Public Assistance Closeout)	10/18
Hector Villarreal (Regional Support)	10/03	Lisa Jones (Public Assistance Grants)	10/19
LaKeivea Warren (Public Assistance SALs)	10/03	Willie Washington (Public Assistance Grants)	10/19
Emily Judice (Homeland Security Grants)	10/04	Charles Lang (Recovery Grants)	10/23
Pam Roussel (Regional Support)	10/04	Keith Dennis (Public Assistance Closeout)	10/23
Leah Jarrell (Public Assistance Grants)	10/05	Cherie Walber (Hazard Mitigation Grants)	10/25
Charles Yankowsky (State Management Cost)	10/06	Kevin Breaux (Homeland Security & Interoperability)	10/26
Alvin Cook (Facility Management)	10/07	Clayton Haley (Recovery Grants)	10/27
Nathan Gary (Public Assistance SALs)	10/08	Genea Catron (Preparedness)	10/28
Doug Nagle (Public Assistance Grants)	10/09	Trameka Coleman-Jones (Public Assistance Grants)	10/29
Joseph Spano (Hazard Mitigation SALs)	10/09	Norman Pineda (Preparedness)	10/30
David Youngblood (Facility Management)	10/10	Donna White-Barnes (Sub- Recipient Monitoring)	10/31
Autumn Smith (Hazard Mitigation Grants)	10/12		

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

TRAINING	November 5-7	ICS-300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents for Operational First Responders - Gray, Louisiana
	November 7-9	ICS-400 Advanced Incident Command System - Gray, Louisiana
	November 15-16	AWR-122 Law Enforcement Prevention & Deterrence of Terrorist Acts - Luling, Louisiana
	November 13,15 & 17	ICS-300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents for Operational First Responders - Raceland, Louisiana
	November 13-15	PER-213 Wide Area Search - Baton Rouge, Louisiana
	November 14-15	ICS-300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents for Operational First Responders - LaPlace, Louisiana
OTHER	November 7	Louisiana Watershed Initiative Listening Session - Lake Charles, Louisiana

PROMOTIONS

Jill Ruth - Group Lead, Public Assistance Grants

NEW OHSEP DIRECTORS

Helen Jasin, East Carroll
Toni Melton, St. Helena

NEW HIRES

Clayton Haley
Recovery Grants Analyst, Recovery Grants Administration
Deanna Burton
Close-Out Specialist, Public Assistance Close-Out

NOVEMBER STATE HOLIDAYS

General Election Day	November 6	<i>(Not inclusive of other State Holidays that may be declared by the Governor)</i>
Veterans Day	November 12	
Thanksgiving	November 22	
Acadian Day	November 23	

Linda Tortorich Retires

Linda Tortorich has 11 years of service with GOHSEP and has served multiple divisions within the Agency as a Senior Administrative Assistant.

On October the 19th, Public Assistance held a ceremony at the LRO to celebrate and recognize her service to the agency and the State of Louisiana..

Best of Luck Linda



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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