Geaux Tigers! Congratulations to the LSU Tigers for bringing home the college football national championship. The Tigers’ undefeated season is an example of what happens with hard work and dedication.

As we wrap up the holidays, we are already embarking upon many of the issues we will face in 2020 like cybersecurity. This issue emerged as one of the biggest threats of 2019. GOHSEP will be working with all of our local, state and federal partners to become more secure and more resilient moving forward. We will be supplying critical education and prevention information to organizations such as the Louisiana Municipal Association, the Louisiana Police Jury Association and the Louisiana Sheriff’s Association among others.

As a reminder, January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month. We have included in this newsletter information on spotting human trafficking problems. The National Human Trafficking Hotline is 1-888-373-7888. As always, if you see something suspicious, say something.

Thank you for what you do,
- James Waskom
Who Is Pete Gaynor

Pete Gaynor has more than 11 years of experience in emergency management. Prior to coming to FEMA, Gaynor served as the Director of Rhode Island’s Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) in 2015. During that time, RIEMA responded to numerous small and large disasters, including one presidentially declared disaster and at least seven pre-existing active federal disasters. Gaynor oversaw response and recovery efforts to blizzards, floods, tropical storms and public health emergencies. He also coordinated evacuations, mass care, special events, and school safety.

Gaynor served as the policy advisor to Governor Gina Raimondo on emergency management matters. He was also the Chair of the State Interoperable Communications Committee, the State Emergency Response Commission, and was Vice Chair of the State Emergency Management Advisory Committee. Additionally, he served as a Commissioner and a member for the Program Review Committee for the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP), which fosters excellence and accountability in emergency management and homeland security programs across the nation.

From March 2008 to December 2014, Gaynor served as the Director of the Providence Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and Office of Homeland Security, where he was the only Certified Emergency Manager assigned as a municipal emergency manager in Rhode Island. He was responsible for ensuring the planning and operations of the agency, coordinating community exercise programs, managing the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and advising the Mayor of the City of Providence on local government emergency operations. During his tenure at RIEMA and PEMA, Gaynor oversaw multiple response and recovery operations and managed numerous federally declared disasters.

Under Pete Gaynor’s leadership, in 2010, PEMA became the first municipality in the United States to receive accreditation from EMAP. In 2017, Rhode Island became the 36th state to be EMAP-accredited, making Gaynor the first emergency management director awarded EMAP accreditation at the local and state levels. In January 2018, under Gaynor’s direction, Rhode Island was the first state designated as StormReady by the National Weather Service.

Gaynor was awarded the International Association of Emergency Managers USA & Global Partners in Preparedness Award for Operation SMART EXIT, a planned full-scale evacuation of several high-rise commercial buildings in Downtown Providence, Rhode Island.

Prior to his experience as an emergency manager, Gaynor served for 26 years as an enlisted Marine and Infantry Officer in the United States Marine Corps. During his tenure in the Marines, he was assigned as the Executive Officer responsible for the security of Presidential Retreat, Camp David; assigned as the Head of Plans, Policy, & Operations at the Headquarters Marine Corps during the September 11, 2001 attacks; and deployed in support of Iraqi Freedom with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force where he coordinated combat operations in the Al-Anbar Province of Iraq for Multi-National and Marine forces.

Gaynor received a bachelor’s degree in history from Rhode Island College and a master’s degree in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. He is also a graduate of the Center for Homeland Defense and Security’s Executive Leaders Program.

For more information visit: www.fema.gov

Pete Gaynor Confirmed As FEMA Administrator

Acting Secretary Wolf Statement on the Confirmation of Pete Gaynor:

January 14, 2020 “Today, the U.S. Senate confirmed Pete Gaynor to be Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). As Acting Administrator of FEMA throughout 2019 and into 2020, Gaynor led the agency’s recovery efforts for many devastating disasters, including the California wildfires, tornado outbreaks, severe storms, flooding in the Midwest, and the Puerto Rico earthquakes. And as Deputy Administrator for the 2018 hurricane season, Pete guided FEMA through some tremendous challenges to provide much needed assistance to disaster survivors across the country. Pete’s experience as both a state and local emergency manager, combined with more than two decades of service in the U.S. Marine Corps, have made him an invaluable leader of the agency. I look forward to continuing to work with him to support the men and women of FEMA as they carry out their incredible work.”

Pete Gaynor
Louisiana Recognized By HSIN

GOLD “BEST OF HSIN” WINNER IN DAILY OPERATIONS/ MISSION INTEGRATION

Article Courtesy of The HSIN Advocate

Louisiana Relies on HSIN for Statewide School Safety Initiative

Schools across the nation are increasingly vigilant about active shooters, bomb threats and other potential emergencies. To provide a secure location to track and share information related to school incidents throughout the state, the Louisiana State Police established a School Safety community on HSIN, which earned a 2019 “Gold” Best of HSIN award in the category of Daily Operations/ Mission Integration.

“HSIN provides a secure environment for the dissemination of school-related bulletins, events and laws, and is designed for use by school administrators as well as law enforcement,” said Whytley Jones, Investigative Specialist, Louisiana State Analytical and Fusion Exchange (LASAFE). “All information shared within the Louisiana School Safety community is approved for dissemination and sharing in accordance with the appropriate laws and regulations for the local, state or school component.”

Types of information that may be accessed by members of the HSIN community include Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs), Be On the Lookout (BOLO) reports, Requests for Information (RFIs), threat reporting and analysis, school blueprints and assessments, emergency operations plans and safety bulletins. HSIN site administrators restrict the sharing of select unclassified and Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) with non-law enforcement partners. CUI consists of Unclassified For Official Use Only (U//FOUO), Sensitive But Unclassified (SBU) and Law Enforcement Sensitive (LES) information.

HSIN Connect is used for real-time information sharing related to school safety threats, reporting and live briefings. One HSIN Connect room is used to share CUI information with authorized law enforcement partners, and a separate HSIN Connect room is used to share U//FOUO information with authorized school representatives and law enforcement partners. Personnel from LASAFE serve as hosts and content managers for the HSIN Connect rooms while the rooms are active.

Access to the Louisiana School Safety community site is managed by LASAFE staff, and membership is granted to approved local and state law enforcement, homeland security, emergency management and school partners who have responsibilities related to school safety in Louisiana. The community website has a landing page with links to separate pages for restricted CUI content.

“The Louisiana School Safety community on HSIN promotes the sharing of significant school-related information among emergency responders and educational entities,” said Shannon Sims, Investigative Specialist Supervisor, LASAFE. “HSIN also provides personnel with a secure location to document follow-up actions and other activities, all with the goal to enhance collaboration among partners and prevent school violence.” To learn how HSIN can support a School Safety community in your area, contact HSIN@hq.dhs.gov.

For related information visit: www.dhs.gov/homeland-security-information-network-hsin www.lsp.org

What is HSIN

The Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) is the Department of Homeland Security’s official system for trusted sharing of Sensitive But Unclassified information between federal, state, local, territorial, tribal, international and private sector partners. Mission operators use HSIN to access Homeland Security data, send requests securely between agencies, manage operations, coordinate planned event safety and security, respond to incidents, and share the information they need to fulfill their missions and help keep their communities safe.

The HSIN Platform Provides

- Event and Incident Management
- Operations Support
- Web Conferencing (HSIN Connect)
- Geospatial Services
- Comprehensive Training
- Learning Management System (HSIN Learn)
- Alerts and Notifications
- Secure Messaging (HSINbox)
- Instant Messaging (HSIN Chat)
Bayou Area Readiness & Recovery Group Meeting

GOHSEP’s Catesha Williams-Smith and Genea Lathers recently participated in a planning meeting with the Bayou Area Readiness & Recovery group in Terrebonne. This event focused on exploration and planning between various community partners in Region 3 with the goal to utilize and build additional community capacity and to better meet the needs of citizens from preparedness thru to the recovery phase. Local people best solve local problems, and know their community. With partnerships and stakeholders from all sectors, planning is an investment and allows for resiliency to be more effectively implemented.

For more information, contact Rubby Douglas at rubby.douglas2@la.gov.

Search & Rescue Volunteer Training

Volunteers and donated resources are invaluable in the support of local communities during disasters and emergencies. GOHSEP continues to build partnerships and explore opportunities to increase partnerships, especially with volunteer groups and organizations that are vital for strengthening lifelines. Recently, GOHSEP personnel attended the Volunteer Training with Pinnacle Search and Rescue meeting. The group is incorporating technology to help their volunteers maximize resource deployment and track equipment and goods.

For more information you may contact Rubby Douglas at rubby.douglas2@la.gov.

New OHSEP Director Named For St. Tammany Parish

St. Tammany Parish recently named Clarence Powe as Director of the Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. Clarence’s previous position was that of OHSEP Deputy Director for St. Tammany Parish.

Clarence Powe

(985) 898-2359
cpowe@stpgov.org
stpgov.org/departments/hsep
January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month

The Department of Homeland Security wants to make sure the public is educated on human trafficking during the month of January, which is Human Trafficking Awareness Month.

“Working in collaboration with law enforcement, government and non-governmental and private organization, the Blue Campaign strives to protect the basic right of freedom, and to bring those who exploit human lives to justice.”

The mission of the campaign is to strengthen partnerships and to educate the public on recognizing and reporting suspected human trafficking.

What Is Human Trafficking

Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Every year, millions of men, women, and children are trafficked worldwide – including right here in the United States. It can happen in any community and victims can be any age, race, gender, or nationality. Traffickers might use violence, manipulation, or false promises of well-paying jobs or romantic relationships to lure victims into trafficking situations.

Language barriers, fear of their traffickers, and/or fear of law enforcement frequently keep victims from seeking help, making human trafficking a hidden crime.

Traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to lure their victims and force them into labor or commercial sexual exploitation. They look for people who are susceptible for a variety of reasons, including psychological or emotional vulnerability, economic hardship, lack of a social safety net, natural disasters, or political instability. The trauma caused by the traffickers can be so great that many may not identify themselves as victims or ask for help, even in highly public settings.

www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/awareness-training
Another episode of The GOHSEP Get A Game Plan Podcast is now available!

Carnival season is here!

On the next episode of The GOHSEP Get A Game Plan Podcast, we will take a look at some of the great emergency resources available to people traveling to New Orleans for Mardi Gras. Episode 27 will be available for download February 10th.

For questions or comments, please contact Mike Steele at mike.steele@la.gov.

Find a link at GetAGamePlan.org or download and subscribe to the podcast from Spotify or any other major podcast store, or many other podcast stores.

Flu Fight

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Louisiana Department of Health recommend a yearly flu shot for everyone over six months of age who does not have a complicating condition, such as a prior allergic reaction to the flu shot.

A flu shot is especially crucial for people who may be at higher risk for serious complications. This includes babies and young children, pregnant women, people with chronic health conditions and people 65 years and older.

The flu shot is safe for pregnant and breastfeeding women, who can pass on antibodies to their babies that will help protect them. The shot starts to offer partial protection immediately, but takes about two weeks to offer full protection.

Visit ldh.la.gov/fighttheflu for more information.

GOHSEP Collaboration

GOHSEP Collaborates With Disaster Case Management And Volunteer Organizations Workgroup

Disaster Case Management is an essential catalyst to assist citizens recover after the storm has passed. This sounds easy but it is not. Recovery has a time table all to its own and is actually the most difficult and complex part of the Emergency Management cycle. In fact, recovery often is oppressed in disaster events where federal assistance is not an option. Individual financial preparedness, true risk reduction planning, pre-identifying vulnerabilities, and integrated community collaboration with volunteers and nonprofits and other resources are keys to resiliency. GOHSEP recognizes all these factors are critical to strengthen our capacity to recover more efficiently at both the State and local levels. This collaborative workgroup demands careful attention and priority to build solution-focused plans and preparations, to insure our state is ready to address the needs after an event.

For more program information, contact Rubby Douglas at rubby.douglas2@la.gov.

New OHSEP Director Named For St. James Parish

St. James Parish recently named Eric Deroche as Director of the Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness. Eric is a former OHSEP Director for the Parish and returned to the job in January.

Eric Deroche
(225) 562-2310
eric.deroche@stjamesla.com
www.stjamesla.com/166/Emergency-Preparedness
2019 Coronavirus

The 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a virus (more specifically, a coronavirus) identified as the cause of an outbreak of respiratory illness first detected in Wuhan, China. Early on, many of the patients in the outbreak in Wuhan, China reportedly had some link to a large seafood and animal market, suggesting animal-to-person spread. However, a growing number of patients reportedly have not had exposure to animal markets, indicating person-to-person spread is occurring. At this time, it’s unclear how easily or sustainably this virus is spreading between people.

Transmission

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are common in many different species of animals, including camels, cattle, cats, and bats. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can infect people and then spread between people such as with MERS and SARS. When person-to-person spread has occurred with MERS and SARS, it is thought to have happened mainly via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to how influenza and other respiratory pathogens spread. Spread of SARS and MERS between people has generally occurred between close contacts.

It’s important to note that how easily a virus spreads person-to-person can vary. Some viruses are highly contagious (like measles), while other viruses are less so. It’s important to know this in order to better understand the risk associated with this virus. While CDC considers this a very serious public health threat, based on current information, the immediate health risk from 2019-nCoV to the general American public is considered low at this time.

Prevention

There is currently no vaccine to prevent 2019-nCoV infection. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to this virus. However, as a reminder, CDC always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

These are everyday habits that can help prevent the spread of several viruses.

Treatment

There is no specific antiviral treatment recommended for 2019-nCoV infection. People infected with 2019-nCoV should receive supportive care to help relieve symptoms. For severe cases, treatment should include care to support vital organ functions.

People who think they may have been exposed to 2019-nCoV should contact your healthcare provider immediately.
Louisiana Emergency Manager Certification

The Louisiana Emergency Manager (LEM) certification is an indicator of experience, hard work, continuing education, and dedication in the field of emergency management. The program functions as an indicator of how dedicated an individual is to his or her profession. Obtaining certification as an LEM proves that an emergency manager is familiar with and can accomplish the goals and objectives of a comprehensive emergency management program in the State of Louisiana. The Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Association (LEPA) developed, sponsors, and administers this certification program. An applicant does not have to be a member of the LEPA organization in order to become LEM certified; however, the benefits of LEPA membership are critical. LEPA members are dedicated to promoting the goals of saving lives and protecting property through the application of a comprehensive emergency management program at all levels of government and within the industrial sectors. Having access to LEPA members as peers and mentors is invaluable. Once awarded the title LEM, the LEM designation is authorized by LEPA to be used behind your name on all correspondence.

LEPA offers the following three credentials:

- **The LEM Professional**: LEM Pro certification is a modification of the International Association of Emergency Managers' Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) program. It differs from the CEM by adding Louisiana-specific requirements and does not require a college degree. The LEPA Certification Committee recognizes that many emergency managers never had the opportunity to attend college, yet possess the knowledge, skills and abilities to effectively manage an emergency management program. The LEM Pro certification addresses this. Additionally, this certification requires two years of verified emergency management experience.

- **The LEM Basic**: Newcomers to emergency management can benefit from an entry level certification. The Louisiana Emergency Manager Basic (LEM-B) credential was designed by LEPA in an effort to create an entry level emergency management course for EM personnel with less than two years of experience in the field, or as refresher course for experienced emergency managers that may have recently work outside of this discipline. The curriculum is designed to train emergency management (ESF-5) personnel on the fundamentals of EM while focusing on Louisiana specific tasks required in coordinating federal, state and local governments during declared states of emergency. This course as well as all classes and exams can be accomplished online. Please refer to the LEM Basic application packet for more details on this credential.

- **The LEM Technical**: A technical credential is also offered. The Louisiana Emergency Manager Technical (LEM-T) credential was designed by LEPA in an effort to create a statewide cadre of emergency management professionals. These professionals, armed with the skill sets required to bring an emergency situation under operational control, could then be called upon by emergency managers throughout the state for technical advice or voluntary deployment. LEPA recognizes and awards the LEM-T credential to personnel proving mastery in the occupational fields illustrated within the National Response Framework. Please refer to the LEM-T application for more information.

For additional information, please visit [lepa.org](http://lepa.org)
FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Shawanye Preston (Public Assistance Closeout) 02/01  
Melvin Smith (Public Assistance Management) 02/02  
Earl Ancar II (Public Assistance Grants) 02/02  
Karen Matthews (Recovery Grants) 02/04  
Lynne Browning (Public Assistance Management) 02/04  
Chaston Dixon (Hazard Mitigation Closeout) 02/05  
Chad Laborde (Public Assistance Grants) 02/07  
James Richard (Public Assistance Tech Services) 02/07  
Robin Kennard (Public Assistance Oversight) 02/07  
Theresa Sherburne (Recovery Grants Administration) 02/08  
Michael Steele (Executive) 02/10  
Miranda Levey-Young (Public Assistance SALs) 02/11  
Gentle Johnson (Facility Management) 02/13  
Joseph Costello (Public Assistance SALs) 02/13  

Trevis Thompson (Homeland Security) 02/13  
Carla Richard (Legal) 02/16  
Marcella Horne (Public Assistance SALs) 02/17  
Jason Lachney (Homeland Security and Interoperability) 02/18  
Lindsey Nizzo (State Management Cost) 02/18  
John Evans (Recovery Grants Administration) 02/22  
Hannah Codjoe (Public Assistance Grants) 02/24  
Jae Huh (Hazard Mitigation Tech Services) 02/24  
Jeffrey Giering (Hazard Mitigation Tech Services) 02/24  
Nancy Gray (Public Assistance Grants) 02/26  
Veronica Sizer (Legal) 02/27  
Bradley Schoen (Hazard Mitigation Grants) 02/28  
Leanne Guidry (Hazard Mitigation SALs) 02/28  
Diane Ayers (Recovery Grants Administration) 02/28  

RETIRED

Darryl Delatte  
Regional Coordination

PROMOTIONS

Promotion Melton Gaspard  
Operation Section Chief (Operations)

Jessica Steinberg  
Homeland Security Grants Specialist (Grants and Administration)

STATE HOLIDAYS

Mardi Gras Day - February 25, 2020  
Good Friday - April 10, 2020

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  

Steven Burr  
(225) 925-7423  
steve.burr@la.gov  

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