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State of Louisiana
Governor's Office of Homeland Security
and
Emergency Preparedness

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(Update Due to Expected Weather Conditions)

State Agencies to Conduct State Disaster Exercise April 18th

BATON ROUGE (April 17, 2014) – The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) and Louisiana National Guard (LANG) will coordinate a full scale exercise April 18th to test the disaster response capabilities of several state, local and federal agencies. The exercise response will include helicopter and boat search-and-rescue (SAR) operations, restoring civil order after a disaster, medical support and evacuation, commodities distribution and re-establishing communication. The Louisiana Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated with all agencies participating.

"Hurricane season starts in less than two months," says GOHSEP Director Kevin Davis. "This exercise is a chance to test the coordinated response from GOHSEP, the Louisiana National Guard and our other emergency partners for any tropical system or other natural disaster the state may face. The time to plan for an emergency is before you face a crisis. This event helps GOHSEP examine our ability to lead a coordinated effort for the people of Louisiana. "

"The Louisiana National Guard takes our responsibility to remain prepared for any disaster very seriously," said Maj. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, the adjutant general of the LANG. "GOHSEP's Disaster Response Exercise allows us to maintain a high-level of training and preparedness, as well as partner with our local, state and federal agencies to make sure that together, we all respond to disasters in the most efficient and effective way possible. Our Soldiers and Airmen are the best at what they do, and it shows during exercises such as this."

The exercise will now be staged in two locations: Naval Air Station/Joint Reserve Base-New Orleans in Plaquemines Parish and Acadiana Regional Airport (New Iberia) in Iberia Parish.

Training planned for Fontainebleau State Park in St. Tammany has been cancelled due to weather concerns and will be rescheduled.

Other agencies participating include the Louisiana State Police, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Department of Corrections, Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Office, Department of Children and Family Services, the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals and the Department of Transportation and Development.

Local leaders from Plaquemines and Iberia Parishes will also be a part of the event.

The Louisiana State Animal Response Team (LSART) and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) are active in the drill with a focus on animal rescue during disaster response.

The Atlantic Hurricane Season starts June 1 and runs until November 30.

State Exercise:

When: Saturday, April 18th

Naval Air Station/Joint Reserve Base- New Orleans (Belle Chasse)

Media Hours: 9:00am- 12:00pm

Supply distribution systems will be tested along with medical evacuation plans.

10:00am press conference, interviews will be available

Acadiana Regional Airport (New Iberia)

Media Hours: 8:30am- 11:00pm

Search and rescue demonstrations will be taking place.

10:00am press conference

You can receive emergency alerts on most smartphones and tablets by downloading the new ALERT FM App. It is free for basic service. You can also download the new Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Guide and find other important information at www.getagameplan.org. The Get a Game Plan App is also available for download to your smart phones or tablets.

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