



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Department of Public Safety & Corrections • Public Safety Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Daycare Capacities Temporarily Increased in Response to Flood

Capacity increased to address childcare demands

Baton Rouge, LA – While thousands of Louisianans have begun the long, arduous process of rebuilding their lives and homes ravaged by the recent and unprecedented flooding, the State Fire Marshal's Office has quickly moved to address an issue of paramount concern for working parents—childcare—especially in light of the fact that dozens of licensed facilities were heavily impacted by floodwaters.

In response to an anticipated increase in the demand for childcare, facilities that were not affected may receive an additional number of children until November 30, 2016, based upon compliance with the following requirements established by the Fire Marshal's Office:

- Daycare facilities requesting a capacity increase must be located within or very near to a flood-affected parish;
- The facility must NOT have received any floodwater or other damages;
- An inspection of the facility must be conducted by the Fire Marshal's Office to determine the limits of the increase in capacity.
- The increase shall not exceed a factor of 1 person per 25 square feet of facility area; and
- The increase must be acceptable by the licensing agency, which is the Louisiana Department of Education.

Should an extension of time for a facility to house additional children be needed beyond November 30, 2016, requests shall be considered on a case-by-case basis.

For further information regarding daycare facilities, please visit the State Fire Marshal's website at www.lasfm.org.

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