

2018 Hurricane Season Review

The 2018 Atlantic hurricane **season** officially **ended** on **November 30th**. Hurricanes Florence and Michael, caused significant damage in the southeastern United States. The season produced **15 named storms**, including **eight hurricanes** of which **two** were “**major**” (Category 3, 4 or 5). An **average** season has **12 named storms**, 6 hurricanes, and 3 major hurricanes.

While Louisiana was fortunate to avoid any issues this hurricane season, we once again used the break as a chance to help our neighbors in other states. **GOHSEP** answered numerous calls for **support** related to **Florence** and **Michael**.

The 2018 hurricane season was the first since 2008 to have

four named storms **active** at the **same time** (Florence, Helene, Isaac and Joyce). Hurricane Florence caused catastrophic

flooding in portions of North and South Carolina. Several river forecast locations in the Carolinas approached or broke their record flood level in the days and weeks following the hurricane. It took two to three weeks for many river locations to fall below flood stage, and the final river crested one month after Florence made landfall. For the **fourth** consecutive **year**, hurricane activity began **prior** to the official June 1st start

of the **season**, with **Tropical Storm Alberto** forming on May 25. Alberto made landfall in northern Florida and traveled as far north as the Great Lakes as a tropical depression.



GOHSEP Holiday Food Drive

As some of you may have heard, Governor Edwards and First Lady Donna Edwards recently issued a statewide call for donations to food banks across the state. The food banks are critically short of donations right now, and with the holidays typically being their busiest time of year, the Governor and Mrs. Edwards wanted to encourage everyone to give if they can. We are currently collecting donations from GOHSEP employees. Donation boxes have been placed at the entrance to our Independence office and the LRO.

The items GOHSEP and other State Agencies collect will be delivered to the Governor's staff for a news conference December 20th.

- Canned vegetables
- Breakfast bars
- Dried beans
- Pasta/Spaghetti
- Granola bars
- Juice
- Canned fruit
- Fruit bars
- Dried fruits
- Canned meats
- Canned soups
- Rice
- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Raisins
- Cereal
- Granola
- Crackers
- Pasta sauces
- Mixed nuts
- Trail Mix
- Applesauce

From The Director



Merry Christmas to you and your families.

December is a time of giving and helping those in need. Many of you have shown that spirit in 2018 by deploying, coordinating aid or supporting our neighbors as they faced an emergency. Several states that have been there to help us in recent years were the ones needing assistance this year. Our employees helped line up the support they needed. Others traveled to those areas to be a part of emergency preparation, response and recovery. Many of you took on additional day to day agency responsibilities to fill in for our employees as they were deployed. This tremendous effort is part of the reason Louisiana remains a leader in emergency management, no matter what challenge we face.

As we head into 2019, it is important for us to maintain our momentum from this year. We have several new initiatives including cybersecurity and interoperability. Our closeout rates are on the rise in recovery. We stand ready to answer the bell for any emergency.

Keep up the great work. Have a safe and happy holiday season.

- James Waskom

GOHSEP Leads ResCon Nola Discussions



GOHSEP Dep. Director Casey Tingle discussing the Watershed Initiative.



GOHSEP's Mike Steele and State Fire Marshal Butch Browning.

GOHSEP leaders were part of panel discussions at the recent [ResCon Nola 2018 Summit](#) earlier this month. GOHSEP Deputy Director **Casey Tingle** led a discussion on The **Louisiana Watershed Initiative**, the state's ongoing efforts to shift flood mitigation plans from jurisdictional boundaries to one that more directly takes into account the flow of water and its natural boundaries.

GOHSEP Communications Director **Mike Steele** joined State Fire Marshal **Butch Browning** to talk about the importance of **state to state assistance**, highlighting past events dating back to Hurricane Harvey.

The next ResCon event is scheduled for early 2020.

 **ResCon: The Global Resilience Summit** is the premier annual international conference on the practice of successful resilience and disaster management in an evolving global environment.

Beach~2~Bayou Challenge

GOHSEP's Jason Lachney recently spent a cold and rainy weekend competing in the [Mississippi Gulf Coast Marathon](#), in Biloxi, Mississippi. This event was the first portion of the two leg [Beach~2~Bayou Marathon](#). The second race; [The Louisiana Marathon](#), will take place in Baton Rouge on January 18-20, 2019.

"My training began in an effort to get in better shape. I started with walking a half mile in February and it has progressed to a passion of running and encouraging others to get into the habit." Jason Lachney



Jason is the Section Chief for GOHSEP Operations, you may contact him at jason.lachney@la.gov or at (225) 358-5412.

The Latest GOHSEP Get A Game Plan Podcast is Available



As a result of lessons learned from the March and August **2016 flooding** events, and previous disasters in Louisiana, major **changes** are on the way in disaster **recovery**. This will not only benefit people in Louisiana, but others across the nation. **GOHSEP**, at the direction of Governor Edwards, joined

other state and local leaders in **developing** proposed **changes** that would improve disaster preparedness, response and recovery for our citizens.

With assistance from our Congressional and Legislative partners, significant and important changes were made.

On this episode, we will hear from Congressman **Garret Graves**, one of the primary leaders in that fight.

We will get an update on disaster **recovery reform** efforts and we will explain what these changes mean for people here in the state.

We will also speak with Tangipahoa Parish President **Robby Miller**. Since taking office, President Miller has led the parish during the response and recovery for recent events. We will examine those emergencies and talk about the lessons learned.

Subscribe to The [GOHSEP Get A Game Plan Podcast](#) today. Find a link at GetAGamePlan.org or at your favorite podcast store.

Parish Profile - Ouachita

Within days after what is now known as the “Great Flood of 2016,” Ouachita Parish leaders knew a different approach to the recovery was needed than in the past. They needed a management structure that was strong enough to manage passionate debate and discourse, but not so rigid it suppressed expression and exploration of new ideas.

Local officials partnered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Office of Community Development (OCD) and Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) and adopted the National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF) to manage recovery efforts.

In the Fall of 2017 local leaders set a goal to become more



Founded:	March 31, 1807
Named For:	Ouachita people
Largest City:	Monroe (Parish Seat)
Total Area:	632 sq. miles
Population (2017):	155,874

resilient. Upon local request, FEMA deployed a team to assist the local governments. After many meetings and much work the Local/FEMA group transitioned from FEMA Team North to Ouachita Strong.

The Ouachita Council of Governments (OCOG) served as the Executive Long-Term Recovery Committee. They established the Ouachita Long-Term Steering Committee. The Steering Committee established the Recovery Support Functions (RSF). In May 2018 OCOG appointed a recovery manager (Tom Malmay) to work and coordinate with all components.

The Ouachita Parish Resiliency Strategy was introduced to the Ouachita Council of Governments, October 22, 2018. The Strategy is scheduled

Ouachita OHSEP Director:

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www.oppj.org/departments/homeland_security/index.php



Healthy Louisiana Challenge

HEALTHY LOUISIANA CHALLENGE



SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 2019

Louisiana State Capitol

5K RACE @ 8:00 AM

Register NOW!

\$35 Registration

INCLUDES:

- T-shirt
- Access to Post-race Louisiana Festival featuring local musicians, drinks and some of the best southern cuisine around

THE HEALTHY LOUISIANA CHALLENGE

- Established by Gov. John Bel Edwards and the Louisiana Marathon to get Louisianans moving
- Each state department or agency is challenged to **Run with the Gov** in the LA Marathon 5K
- The department or agency with the most miles run during the LA marathon weekend will receive a trophy that will be held at their offices until the next year’s race, along with bragging rights

REGISTER ONLINE:
thelouisianamarathon.com

For questions, email:
Erin.MonroeWesley@la.gov

The Governor is excited to officially launch our **Healthy Louisiana Challenge**. Governor Edwards will be competing in the Louisiana Marathon 5K on Saturday, **January 19, 2019, 8:00 am** at the Louisiana State Capitol. The Governor is challenging each department or agency to create a team to run/walk the Louisiana Marathon 5K. The department or agency with the most miles completed during the LA marathon weekend will receive a trophy that will be held at their offices until the next year’s race along with the all-important bragging rights of being the 2019 Healthy Louisiana Challenge Winner.

Please **sign up** for the **Louisiana Marathon 5K** and encourage your staff and coworkers to do the same at the thelouisianamarathon.com website. Participants must list GOHSEP in the jobs section of the entry form in order for GOHSEP to receive credit. You are also allowed to have **family members and friends** etc. to run/ walk. All they have to do is register with GOHSEP in the jobs section of the entry form for us to receive credit.

You will receive credit for **running/walking** other events also. Every mile completed that weekend will give us credit. There are five events: **Kids Marathon, 5K, Quarter Marathon, Half Marathon, and Full Marathon.**

After you have registered, send an email to jason.lachney@la.gov with your name, and friend/family names registered under GOHSEP. That way we have an idea of how many people will be representing our agency.

If you have already registered and did not list GOHSEP as your workplace, let Jason know so we can get that information corrected and GOHSEP will receive credit for your run.

Remember: A mile is a mile no matter how fast you complete it. The important thing is getting out there to do it.

Dianna Bennett Completes Professional Trainer Certification

Louisiana State Civil Service has announced that GOHSEP's **Dianna Bennett** has completed all the requirements for Comprehensive Public Training Program's (CPTP), **Professional Trainer Certificate** program. The certificate program includes twelve web-based and instructor led courses, a knowledge exam, a capstone presentation examination and a panel interview. The certification program is designed to ensure participants can actively apply concepts into their current positions. This program facilitates more efficient and effective training development and delivery which directly impacts the knowledge of GOHSEP's workforce, and ultimately the quality of the services rendered to Louisiana's citizens.

State Civil Service will **present** Dianna with a **certificate** at the CPTP Policy Board meeting on **March 14, 2019**.

Dianna works as a Problem Resolution Officer with GOHSEP's Public Assistance (PA) at the State LRO and can be contacted at: dianna.bennett@la.gov.

Congratulations Dianna.

GOHSEP Door Decorating Contest Results

1st Place:	The Most "Pun"-derful Time of the Year (PA Grants: Around Christen's Office)
2nd Place:	Nightmare Before Christmas (PA Technical Section: Back left corner of LRO)
3rd Place:	Ops-Ville Misfits (Operations Section: Front hallway at Independence)
Honorable Mention - Craftsmanship:	Christmas at the Lake House (Supply Office: Back hallway at Independence)
Honorable Mention - Completeness:	Ginger "Bread" Land (Recovery Grants: Cubicles on the right past the file room at LRO)
Honorable Mention - Originality:	Gifts the Grinch Can't Steal (PA grants: Far end of the LRO)



1st Place: The Most "Pun"-derful Time of the Year (PA Grants, LRO)

GOHSEP Door Decorating Contest Results



2nd Place: Nightmare Before Christmas (PA Technical Section, LRO)



3rd Place: Ops-Ville Misfits (Operations Section, Independence)



Honorable Mention - Originality: Gifts the Grinch Can't Steal (PA grants: Far end of the LRO)



Honorable Mention - Completeness: Ginger "Bread" Land (Recovery Grants, LRO)



Honorable Mention - Craftsmanship: Christmas at the Lake House (Supply Office, Independence)

GOHSEP Holiday Celebration



GOHSEP Holiday Celebration



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Kristal Craig (Hazard Mitigation SALs)	12/01	Venita Johnson (Public Assistance Grants)	12/18
Kevin James (Homeland Security)	12/02	Melanie Schmidt (Facility Management)	12/19
Catesha Williams-Smith (Preparedness)	12/05	Cheryl Russell (Hazard Mitigation Grants)	12/21
Tia Dawson (Public Assistance Grants)	12/06	Sandra Dugas (Hazard Mitigation Closeout)	12/21
Dana Michelli (Homeland Security Grants)	12/07	Chris Keene (Operations)	12/23
Jacquelyn Watts (Legal Services)	12/07	Dianne Bennett (Public Assistance Grants)	12/25
Carol Ransom (Public Assistance Grants)	12/08	Khريس Douglas (Homeland Security Grants)	12/25
Meg Owen (Public Assistance Technical Services)	12/09	Allisha Thomas (Hazard Mitigation Grants)	12/26
Kennon Clayton (Public Assistance Closeout)	12/10	Kristen Mauldin (Public Assistance Grants)	12/27
Tara Walker (Public Assistance SALs)	12/11	Frederica Toussant (Legal Services)	12/28
Toni Rochelle (Executive)	12/14	Sophia Adams (Recovery Grants)	12/29
Victoria Carpenter (Operations)	12/16	Kevia Bold s (Recovery Grants)	12/30
Noel Franklin (Public Assistance SALs)	12/18		

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

TRAINING	January 17, 2019	Hospital Incident Command System - Lake Charles, Louisiana
	January 14-18, 2019	L0101- Foundations of Emergency Management: Session 2 - Baton Rouge, Louisiana
	January 23-24, 2019	MGT-343 Disaster Management for Water and Wastewater Utilities - New Orleans, Louisiana
	January 24-25, 2019	MGT-319 Medical Countermeasures: point of Dispensing, Plan & Response - Houma, Louisiana
	February 4-6, 2019	L0102 Science of Disaster 2 - Baton Rouge, Louisiana
	February 7-8, 2019	L0103 Planning - Baton Rouge, Louisiana
	February 12-13, 2019	MGT-319 Medical Countermeasures. Point of Dispensing, Plan & Response - Amite, Louisiana
OTHER	December 18, 2018	St. Mary Parish Exercise
	December 19, 2018	PA 101 Course - State EOC, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
	January 19, 2019	Healthy Louisiana Challenge - Louisiana State Capitol, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

PROMOTIONS

Stanley Aaron
Team Lead, Hazard Mitigation SALs

NEW HIRES

Shawanda Mallet
Sub-recipient Monitoring, Grants & Administration

UPCOMING STATE HOLIDAYS

Declared Holiday	December 24, 2018	New Year	January 1, 2019
Christmas Day	December 25, 2018	Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday	January 21, 2019
Declared Holiday	December 31, 2018		

Holiday Safety Tips

Holiday Entertaining

- Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires.
- Use proper food preparation hygiene.

Trees

- When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "fire-resistant."
- When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness.
- Cut a few inches off the trunk to expose the fresh wood for better absorption and keep the stand filled with water.
- Set up your tree well away from heat sources.

Toys and Ornaments

- Appropriate toys for the appropriate age.
- Toys with cords, and small parts should not be given to small children.

Children and Pets

- Poinsettias are poisonous to humans and animals, keep them out of reach and out of little mouths.
- Avoid tinsel, it can cause mild distress to death if eaten.
- Watch children and pets around space heaters or the fireplace.
- Store scissors that you use to wrap presents out of your child's reach.
- Inspect wrapped gifts for small decorations, which may be choking hazards.

Security

- If traveling for the holidays, don't discuss your plans with strangers and don't post it on social media prior to your trip.
- Have a trusted friend or neighbor to keep an eye on your home on expected package deliveries.

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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