

Louisiana EMAC Deployments



Four GOHSEP Public Assistance Coordinators; Joseph Costello; Lakeivea Warren, Tara Walker; Unmesh Kirtkar were **deployed** on January 2, 2019 to assist the state of **California 2018 Statewide Fires** recovery efforts. The group has been tasked for a **60 day** deployment.

The Public Assistance Coordinators serve as customer service representatives by conducting meetings with applicants to determine significant needs and answer questions, and assist in project development.

The Emergency Management Assistance Compact or EMAC offers assistance during governor-declared states of emergency or disaster through a responsive, straightforward system that allows states to send personnel, equipment and commodities to assist with response and recovery efforts in other states.

Contact GOHSEP's EMAC Coordinator, Victoria Carpenter at victoria.carpenter@la.gov for additional information.

Visit emacweb.org for more information about EMAC.



From The Director



I hope 2019 is off to a wonderful start for everyone. It is for GOHSEP. We recently found out our **annual state financial audit** is complete with **no findings or observations**. Thanks to all of our staff involved in keeping the records straight and helping us be responsible with taxpayers' money. Our **recovery** staff continues to **hit marks** helping communities and survivors recover from the 2016 floods and other emergencies and we remain ready to support our local partners who dealt with heavy rains in December and lingering river issues. That **river flood fight** is happening much sooner than normal and may continue well into the spring.

Even with that work and the holiday season, you are still taking time to help others. Many of you answered Governor Edwards and Mrs. Edwards call to **refill our food banks** across the state during a holiday food drive. Boxes of collected items were delivered on December 20th. Meanwhile, GOHSEP Operations Section Chief Jason Lachney is leading a GOHSEP team competing in the **Louisiana Marathon** and races related to that event. Governor Edwards' called for state employees to take part in the event in support of our veterans. To date, GOHSEP has about two dozen runners (employees, family members, friends) signed up.

Finally, we will celebrate the life of **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, on January 21st. It is important to remember how Dr. King transformed the nation through peace and how those lessons are still needed today.

- James Waskom

GOHSEP Holiday Food Drive

GOHSEP helped make the holidays a little brighter for Baton Rouge area families. Governor Edwards and Mrs. Edwards attended a news conference on December 1st at the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank to issue a **statewide call for donations** to food banks across the state. The food banks have been running critically short of donations, and with the holidays typically being their busiest time of year, the governor wanted to encourage everyone to give.

You helped answer that call. **GOHSEP donated 13 boxes of food** after the items were collected at Independence and the Louisiana Recovery Office. The Governor's Office and other state agencies also took part in the drive and delivered the collections to the Baton Rouge Area Food Bank a few days before Christmas.

Thank you for your generosity and thank you for those who helped deliver the collected items.

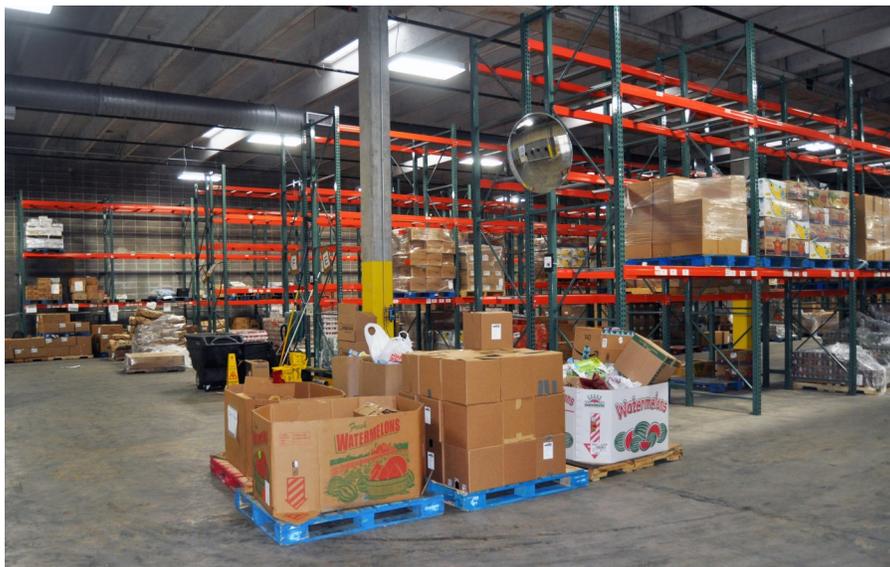
For additional information contact Mike Steele at mike.steele@la.gov.



GOHSEP's Deborah Levins packages the donated goods.



GOHSEP's David Youngblood preps donations for transport.



The Baton Rouge Food Bank warehouse.



GOHSEP's Mark Heidental assist with unloading.



Food Bank volunteers sorting the donations.



Casey Tingle and Toni Rochelle at the Food Bank warehouse.

Southwest Louisiana Hurricane Evacuation Study Kick-off

GOHSEP partnered with FEMA, Army Corps of Engineers, National Weather Service, Stephenson Disaster Management Institute (SDMI), Stevens Technical Services and **ten Parishes** held a kick-off meeting for the Southwest Louisiana Hurricane Evacuation Study on January 9, 2019 in Crowley, Louisiana. The ten parishes that are included in this study are: Cameron, Calcasieu, Jefferson Davis, Acadia, Vermilion, Lafayette, St. Martin, Iberia, St. Mary and Assumption. The purpose of the study is to provide Emergency Management Officials sound data to inform hurricane evacuation planning and decision-making. The **study** consist of five different sections: **Behavioral Analysis, Hazard Analysis, Vulnerability Analysis, Shelter Analysis and Transportation Analysis**. The first major part of the study will be the Behavioral Analysis, which will start in the month of February, SDMI along with the LSU Phone Survey Group will begin calling a minimum of **100 citizens** from the ten parishes involved in the study. The behavioral portion provides feedback from the citizens that live in an evacuation area. This data is turned into reports that includes; who is going to evacuate, when they are going to evacuate, where will they stay, how far will they drive, how many vehicles will they take with them, what routes do they plan on taking. Once the study is completed, a **consolidated report** is made for each parish with all the findings and the information is then **populated into Hurrevac** for all emergency management officials in Louisiana to use as a **planning tool** for evacuations.

For additional information contact Melton Gaspard at melton.gaspard@la.gov.



SDMI's Brant Mitchell speaks at kickoff meeting.

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. It 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**: New comers to emergency management can benefit from an entry level certification. The Louisiana Emergency Manger 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 Manger 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 the lepa.org or contact Amy Dawson at amy.dawson@la.gov.

Parish Profile - Ascension

Last April, **Rick Webre**, the Director of the Ascension Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, was tasked with developing a **Citizen Service Center (CSC)** for Ascension Parish residents. The Citizen Service Center will operate as a centralized call center for Ascension Parish Government. Last week, Director Webre and his staff presented a CSC update to the Ascension Parish Council. CSC training for Ascension Parish Government departments has been completed, and the Citizen Service Center will become operational on January 2, 2019.

The managing Director for the CSC is **Rachael B. Wilkinson**, who is also the Assistant Director of the Ascension Parish Office of Homeland Security. The Citizen Service Center operators will work under the direction of Mrs. Wilkinson and perform their duties **inside** of the **Emergency Operations Center (EOC)**.



The two primary objectives of the Citizen Service Center are to bring **ease of access** to Parish Government services to our residents, and to improve the **accountability** of interaction between parish employees and our citizens. Director Webre's main goal is provide one phone number for residents to contact while providing an accurate tracking system of their request.

The work order system allows the resident to **call one number** with a question, or to request a particular parish government service. The CSC operators can create a work order and send the request to the correct department. Once the

Founded:	1807
Named For:	Ascension of Our Lord Church in Donaldsonville
Largest City:	Gonzales
Total Area:	303 sq. miles
Population (2015):	119,455

work order is created, the caller will receive a work order number for tracking purposes. The advantage of this system is that the resident can track the status of their request on an interactive map at any time. Requests for services will also be accepted 24/7 through an online portal should a resident decide to request services through the internet.

The structure of parish government can be complex and most residents are unfamiliar with the organizational structure. The CSC is **designed to assist** with this challenge by transferring calls for questions to particular departments. If our residents want to check the status of their work order they will simply go the interactive map and search, or call the CSC for an update. It's that easy.

Starting January 2, 2019 the Citizen Service Center will be ready for our residents to request local government services either online or by telephone. Our staff is working diligently on the final details to have the CSC ready for the opening date in January. Please standby for more detailed information on how to access this system.



The Ascension Parish Office of Homeland Security would like to thank the Parish President, the Parish Administrative staff, the Parish Council, and the Ascension Parish Office of Technology for their support in the design, development and implantation of this project.

Ascension OHSEP Director:

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The Latest GOHSEP Get A Game Plan Podcast is Available



Craig Fugate

A **new episode** of The GOHSEP Get A Game Plan Podcast is now available. Please take a few moments and download the show. You can find a link for this episode and previous episodes at www.getagameplan.org.

Show Notes:

Former FEMA Administrator **Craig Fugate** remains very active in the emergency management field. On this episode, he talks to us about what he's doing now. He examines

some of the **recent events** impacting Louisiana and the US. Fugate also gives candid **information** about **flood insurance** and the need for communities to become more **resilient**. Also, it's time to Fight the Flu. **Dr. Joseph Kanter** is the assistant state health officer for the Louisiana Department of Health. He will examine the **current flu season** and give practical **tips** to help protect you and your family. All of us play a role in the flu fight.

Subscribe to The **GOHSEP Get A Game Plan Podcast** today.

Find a link at GetAGamePlan.org or at your favorite podcast store.



Flu Fight

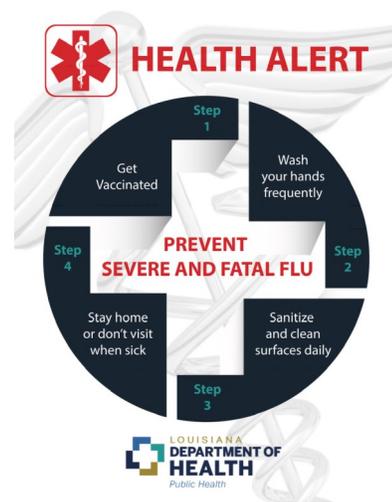
The **Centers for Disease Control** and Prevention and the **Louisiana Department of Health** recommend a yearly **flu shot** for everyone over six months of age who does not have a complicating condition, such as a prior allergic reaction to the flu shot.

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 and resources.

While receiving your flu shot, inquire about other vaccinations that you may need.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Takisha Alford (Hazard Mitigation Closeout)	01/03	Vickie Dennis (Public Assistance Grants)	01/14
Melton Gaspard (Operations)	01/04	Tramaine Childs (Preparedness)	01/15
Brittany Morvant (Public Assistance Grants)	01/05	Shantella Williams (Hazard Mitigation Closeout)	01/16
Tiffany Doucet (Hazard Mitigation SALs)	01/06	Altina Horton (Public Assistance Closeout)	01/19
Kristopher Gregoire (Technical Services)	01/11	Janelle Hamilton (Hazard Mitigation Grants)	01/22
Derrick Dabney (Recovery Grants)	01/12	Jamey Covington (Facility Management)	01/24
Alicia Murray (Facility Management)	01/14	Leah Cope Calvaruso (Public Assistance Grants)	01/31
Jessica Steinberg (Facility Management)	01/14		

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 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 5-7, 2019	ICS 300 & ICS 400 Intermediate & Advanced Incident Command System - 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	January 19, 2019	Healthy Louisiana Challenge - Louisiana State Capitol, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
	February 6, 2019	Grand Gulf Nuclear Drill Dress Rehearsal - State EOC, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
	February 25-March 3, 2019	Interagency Coordinating Committee on Hurricanes (ICCOH)- Raleigh, North Carolina

TRANSFERS

Cody Landry

Homeland Security Grants Specialist (Region 2 and Region 7) - Grants and Administration

Tramaine Childs

Preparedness Officer - Emergency Management

UPCOMING STATE HOLIDAYS

Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday January 21, 2019

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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