Let me start by wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season. While I appreciate what you and your co-workers do on a daily basis, it is also important for you to spend time with your families and loved ones.

As we moved towards the end of the 2018 Atlantic Hurricane Season, we felt the impact of other weather related emergencies. Multiple tornado outbreaks rolled across the state along with the first cold fronts of the season. Looking at some of the death and destruction in other states, we are very fortunate things were not worse in Louisiana. While the number of tornadoes was very high, many hit in isolated areas. When tornadoes did hit populated areas, many people talked about hearing the warnings and taking action. That’s proof that emergency alert systems are improving.

Now, we will add recovery for the tornadoes to our important ongoing recovery efforts. Meanwhile, we are busy training and gearing up for the start of a new year. I’m confident our GOHSEP team will be ready for any new challenges we may face in 2019.

- James Waskom
Virtual Louisiana 2

VL2 is our updated version of Virtual Louisiana which is now the common operational picture for the emergency response community for not only day to day planning, but also during emergency response. Louisiana’s Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) launched Virtual Louisiana in August of 2007 and now has updated that platform to VL2 which officially came online in March of 2018.

The VL2 platform is based on the world leading mapping and analytics platform, ArcGIS by ESRI. This allows users to tap into the unique set of capabilities of location-based analytics, collaborate live with other users, share maps, applications and reports.

WebEOC Shelter Manager Updated

The Operations Section recently released an updated version of its Shelter Manager WebEOC board. The Shelter Manager was developed with input from DCFS and the Red Cross, as well as the Shelter Task Force. The board allows DCFS to track changes in shelter statuses and tally official sheltering statistics, including occupancy totals and population demographics. Parish OHSEP users can add, modify, and remove shelter locations within their parish as needed and can also store planning information for each of their shelter sites. A Shelter Manager training video is available online by visiting the GOHSEP YouTube channel.

Continuity of Operations Planning

Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP) sites provide an alternate location of operations for personnel to continue mission essential functions with the required resources. A cold backup site is basically a configured space in a building. A warm backup site is already stocked with infrastructure representing reasonably what is necessary to do your job in your office. A hot site would be up and operational 24 hours a day, seven days a week and would be able to functionally be your primary location of work in case of an extreme disaster in your primary location.

GOHSEP Preparedness is currently revising its COOP plan for the agency. Think about necessary equipment, personnel, software, and communication capabilities to assume the functions of your day to day critical missions. Then, stay tuned for your necessary collaboration to create an effective Interagency COOP Plan.

The Latest GOHSEP Get A Game Plan Podcast is Available

Another episode of The GOHSEP Get A Game Plan Podcast is now available for download!

On this episode, we feature The Provisions Project and hear from Annette Marie Girman - Executive Director of The Provisions Project.

The Provisions Project was founded after the Thousand Year flooding of Baton Rouge and the surrounding area in August 2016. The efforts to help communities are always greatest at the onset of disaster. However through experience in this realm, The Provisions Project founders saw the greatest need during the rebuilding phase and focuses on the long term recovery of communities to assist in acquired resource management and rebuilding.

The Provisions Project core mission believes in equipping the faith-based community with the necessary tools to respond to disasters efficiently, effectively and confidently. This empowers congregations to play a larger role in the disaster response efforts. They believe faith-based groups are a natural fit for this role as they know their communities and are already serving them.

Subscribe to The GOHSEP Get A Game Plan Podcast today. Find a link at GetAGamePlan.org or at your favorite podcast store.
Parish Profile - St John the Baptist

St John the Baptist Parish was devastated by Hurricane Isaac on August 28, 2012. The hurricane intensified and made landfall just south-west of the Mississippi River. Hurricane Isaac pushed 8-10 feet of water across the east bank of St John swamping thousands of homes and businesses in its path. Residents of the parish in flooded areas were quickly evacuated and sent to a shelter in the northern part of the State.

As a result of Hurricane Isaac, St John the Baptist was first in the Nation to create a Parish Long-Term Recovery Plan in accordance with the National Disaster Recovery Framework. The plan incorporates the post-storm needs and vision of parish residents in one document, detailing over key projects designed to make the Parish more resilient.

The lack of a barrier between the parish and Lake Pontchartrain makes it vulnerable to flooding caused by storm surge. Hurricane Isaac manifested that vulnerability. Four years after winning a critical go-ahead from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Congress has approved funding for the $760 million hurricane protection levee designed to protect the east bank of St. John the Baptist Parish, and parts of neighboring St. Charles and St. James parishes from storm surge caused by the occurrence of the so-called 100-year storm, or a hurricane with a 1 percent chance of occurring in any year.

Great work from St. John the Baptist Parish!

Interim Director of Public Safety: Travis Perrilloux
(985) 652-2222 ext. 1172
travis.perrilloux@stjohn-la.gov
www.sjbparish.com/emergency_index.php

NWS Winter Safety

Extremely cold air comes every winter in at least part of the country and affects millions of people across the United States. The arctic air, together with brisk winds, can lead to dangerously cold wind chill values. People exposed to extreme cold are susceptible to frostbite in a matter of minutes. Areas most prone to frostbite are uncovered skin and the extremities, such as hands and feet. Hypothermia is another threat during extreme cold. Hypothermia occurs when the body loses heat faster than it can produce.

Cold weather can also affect crops. In late spring or early fall, cold air outbreaks can damage or kill produce for farmers, as well as residential plants and flowers. A freeze occurs when the temperature drops below 32°F. Freezes and their effects are significant during the growing season. Frost develops on clear, calm nights and can occur when the air temperature is in the mid-30s. Each plant species has a different tolerance to cold temperatures. You may also want to check out the National Weather Service winter safety site for snow and more cold season hazards information.

Holiday Celebration

It is that time again to celebrate the Holiday Season with our annual GOHSEP/FEMA Holiday Event, put together by our employees. This year our employee holiday committee has organized an afterhours holiday celebration at the American Legion Hall.

Please join us on Thursday, December 13, 2018 from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Spouses/Guests are welcome to attend. Dress is holiday business casual. As a reminder, this is a holiday celebration for employees put together by employees and attendance is voluntary.

Tickets for attendance are $25.00 per person and will include fun, food, door prizes, dancing and fellowship. The Michael Foster Project with DJ will be performing.

The deadline for tickets will be close of business, November 30, 2018.
**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Katie Guessfeld (Public Assistance Grants)</td>
<td>11/03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felice Means (Hazard Mitigation Closeout)</td>
<td>11/05</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Hamilton (Operations)</td>
<td>11/05</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jane Ingram (Recovery Grants Administration)</td>
<td>11/08</td>
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<tr>
<td>Claudia Kirtikar (Hazard Mitigation Closeout)</td>
<td>11/12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christina Dayries (Grants &amp; Administration)</td>
<td>11/13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Casey Tingle (Executive)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Randall Hart (Public Assistance Technical Services)</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Waskom (Executive)</td>
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<td>Tenesha Wilson (Hazard Mitigation Grants)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tsz Lee (Recovery Grants Administration)</td>
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<td>Austin Dixon (Operations)</td>
<td>11/18</td>
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<td>Euclid Talley (Homeland Security)</td>
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<td>Teidra Clark (Hazard Mitigation SALs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steven Garcia (Hazard Mitigation Technical Services)</td>
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<td>Cameron Bass (Public Assistance Closeout)</td>
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<td>Christopher Guilbeaux (Emergency Management)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel Crothers (Public Assistance Technical Services)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sulanda Lonnette (Public Assistance Closeout)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glenda Aceves (Public Assistance Closeout)</td>
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<td>Karen Washington (Public Assistance Closeout)</td>
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<td>Marc Aucoin (Public Assistance Grants)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alfrika West (Public Assistance Closeout)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kimberly Barnett (Hazard Mitigation Grants)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chad Hargan (Public Assistance Grants)</td>
<td>11/29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allison McLeary (Legal)</td>
<td>11/30</td>
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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**TRAINING**

- **November 28-29**: ICS-400 Advanced Incident Command System - Madisonville, Louisiana
- **December 3-7**: L0101- Foundations of Emergency Management: Session 1 - Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- **January 17, 2019**: Hospital Incident Command System - Lake Charles, Louisiana
- **January 14-18, 2019**: Hospital Incident Command System - Lake Charles, Louisiana
- **January 23-24, 2019**: MGT-343 Disaster Management for Water and Wastewater Utilities - New Orleans, Louisiana

**OTHER**

- **DEADLINE November 30, 2018**: EMPG and SHSP Project Applications Due

**UPCOMING STATE HOLIDAYS**

- **Thanksgiving**: November 22
- **Acadian Day**: November 23
- **Declared Holiday**: December 24
- **Christmas Day**: December 25

**GOHSEP DOOR DECORATING CONTEST**

Decorations to be completed by December 11, 2018

- Visual Impact
- Craftsmanship
- Completeness
- Most Creative
- Holiday Theme

Winners will be announced on December 13, 2018

**PROMOTIONS**

- **Daniel Crothers** - Section Chief Technical Services

**NEW HIREs**

- **Kevin James**: Assistant Deputy Director, Homeland Security & Interoperability
- **Derrick Dabney**: Recovery Grants Analyst, Recovery Grants Administration
- **Willie Durio Jr**: Recovery Grants Analyst, Recovery Grants Administration
- **Karen Matthews**: Recovery Grants Analyst, Recovery Grants Administration
- **Lorarick Brown**: Administrative Assistant, Recovery Grants Administration
- **Raina Cazier-Wilson**: Operations Officer 1, Operations, Emergency Management

**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

**FOLLOW GOHSEP’S SOCIAL MEDIA...**

- **Websites**: gohsep.la.gov or getagameplan.org
- **Facebook**: gohsep
- **Twitter**: @gohsep
- **YouTube**: www.youtube.com/user/gohsep

**November Birthdays**

- Daniel Crothers - Section Chief Technical Services

**Upcoming State Holidays**

- Thanksgiving: November 22
- Acadian Day: November 23
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