

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

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



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Governor Edwards Declares State of Emergency in Louisiana

BATON ROUGE (February 7, 2017) – The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) Crisis Action Team (CAT) has been activated in order to address any requests for support from parishes and other state agencies due to today's tornadic activity. Seven areas across southeast Louisiana sustained possible tornado damage during several rounds of storms lasting most of the day. Governor John Bel Edwards has declared a state of emergency and FEMA preliminary damage assessment teams are scheduled to begin work tomorrow in impacted areas in order to help determine what levels of Federal assistance will be available.

Region 1

Orleans

Tornado activity was spotted by the New Orleans Fire Department and the New Orleans Police Department in the area of Chef Menteur Highway.

Jefferson

The National Weather Service (NWS) confirmed a tornado touchdown at approximately 10:45 am between the 700 block of St. George Avenue and 3700 block of Jefferson Highway. The parish will continue to work with the NWS to confirm path and intensity.

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Region 2

Livingston

Officials and NWS confirmed tornado activity in the Killian and Springfield area.

Another possible tornado was reported in the Watson area damaging homes in the northern portion of the parish.

Ascension

A tornado was confirmed to have touched down in the Donaldsonville area at approximately 11:00 am near the Old Rice Mill. Other damage was reported in Donaldsonville on Williams and St. Patrick Streets.

Region 3

St James

A tornado was reported on the west side of the Sunshine Bridge. Officials say there is damage on June Street in a small community known as Lemannville. NWS thinks this may be the same system that struck Donaldsonville.

Region 9

Tangipahoa

3 possible tornadoes impacted the parish. A large tornado was reported in Akers south of Ponchatoula before the moving towards Madisonville. A second possible tornado caused damage in Ponchatoula. A third possible tornado impacted an area near Amite. NWS believes this may be the same system that passed through the Killian area.

St Tammany

There were reports of a tornado touchdown in Madisonville at Highway 22 and Pine Street. There is more possible damage in northern St Tammany.

Injuries:

There have been 28 reported injuries in the New Orleans region due to the storms. 9 more have been reported in the Baton Rouge region. 2 injuries were reported in the North Shore region.

There have been no reports of fatalities at this time.

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GOHSEP Director James Waskom said, “The numerous alerts provided by the media, the National Weather Service, local agencies and state agencies likely saved lives considering the widespread damage across the region. We may continue to see more severe weather systems like today’s storms due to our unusually warm winter. Please stay out of the damaged areas so that first responders and utility crews can complete their work. Additional traffic in impacted areas could cause initial recovery work to be delayed.

GOHSEP has answered requests from Orleans Parish for items such as cots, blankets, food and water related to local shelter operations. The Louisiana Army National Guard is providing 150 personnel to Orleans to help with security issues. 36 additional deputies are also being provided by outside agencies through a Louisiana Sheriff’s Association emergency task force.

For the most up-to-date road status information, DOTD offers motorists various resources:

- 511 Traveler Information: Travelers can find information regarding road closures by visiting the 511 Traveler Information website at www.511la.org or by dialing 511 from their telephone and saying the route or region about which they are seeking information. Out-of-state travelers can access the system by calling 1-888-ROAD-511 (1-888-762-3511).
- MyDOTD: Motorists can receive automatic and up-to-date information on local projects, lane and road closures, and other DOTD activity by signing up for MyDOTD at www.dotd.la.gov.

Find more tips on weather and preparedness on GOHSEP’s Facebook and Twitter accounts. You can receive emergency alerts on most smartphones and tablets by downloading the new Alert FM App. It is free for basic service. The Get A Game Plan App is another resource available to help you and your family prepare for any type emergency. You download the Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Guide and find other information at www.getagameplan.org.

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