

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

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Governor Edwards Requests Presidential Disaster Declaration

BATON ROUGE (February 10, 2017) – Governor John Bel Edwards has submitted a request for President Trump to issue a major disaster declaration for Louisiana following Tuesday's tornado outbreak. The National Weather Service (NWS) has confirmed six tornadoes, including two EF-3 systems, damaged several areas across southeast Louisiana.

If the request is granted, the state would receive federal aid for recovery efforts.

In the request, Governor Edwards is calling for an expedited Presidential Major Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance (IA), including all programs for Individual Assistance, for the following parishes: **Ascension, Livingston, Orleans, and St. James.**

Individual Assistance:

The FEMA Individual Assistance (IA) Program is an important resource for community members recovering from disaster. FEMA IA Grant Program is managed through FEMA and assisted by GOHSEP.

FEMA Individuals + Households Program (IHP)

The FEMA Individuals and Households Program (IHP) provides financial assistance to individuals and households affected as a direct result of a presidentially declared major

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disaster or emergency. Assistance is available for those who are uninsured or underinsured, have necessary expenses and serious needs, and are unable to meet those expenses or needs through other means. Up to \$33,000 is available in financial help (adjusted yearly), although some forms of IHP assistance have other limits.

This program supports recovery by providing the financial means to disaster survivors to secure adequate interim and long-term housing, in addition to other necessary expenses and serious needs.

Who can participate in IHP?

- IHP is available to those:
- In presidentially declared emergency or major disaster areas.
- Whose primary residence has been damaged or destroyed by the disaster.
- Whose disaster losses are not covered by insurance or are underinsured.
- Who are citizens of the United States, a non-citizen national or a qualified alien, or is in a household where a member of the household is a citizen of the United States, a non-citizen national or a qualified alien.
- Located in a Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) and the homeowner complies with flood insurance purchase requirements and local flood codes and requirements.

Governor Edwards is also seeking an expedited Presidential Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance (PA) **(Categories A-G)** for the following parishes: **Ascension, Livingston, Jefferson, Orleans, and St. James.**

Public Assistance - Assistance to State, Tribal, and local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities, which may include the following categories:

- A - Debris removal**
- B - Emergency protective measures**
- C - Roads and bridges**
- D - Water control facilities**
- E - Buildings and equipment**
- F - Utilities**
- G - Parks, recreational and other facilities**

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GOHSEP's Crisis Action Team remains activated to answer any requests for support from local agencies. So far, nearly three dozen requests have been made since the storms struck. GOHSEP has helped provide food, water, cots and blankets for shelter operations

Here is a look at some of the state agency and volunteer organizations actions:

Louisiana National Guard-

The Louisiana National Guard continues to provide 24-hour security operations in New Orleans East following the historic EF3 tornado, Feb. 7.

The LANG has approximately 100 Guardsmen from 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, supporting the New Orleans Police Department by manning 16 static traffic control points in New Orleans East.

Red Cross-

The American Red Cross continues to help southeast Louisiana residents after Tuesday's storms. As access in New Orleans East improved Thursday, American Red Cross disaster responders provided additional areas with hot meals and relief supplies.

- At the shelter at Joe Brown Recreation Center, 97 residents stayed overnight with additional residents receiving aid there.
- Red Cross disaster responders have served nearly 12,000 meals and snacks before Thursday's dinner delivery. Hot meals, in addition to snacks and drinks, continue today for residents and responders in New Orleans East. They are available at the shelter, as well as via Red Cross vehicles in accessible areas of the affected community.
- In coordination with the parish and other partners, Red Cross volunteers also distributed more than 300 relief items like personal care packages, rakes and shovels.
- Large disasters like this create more needs than any one organization can meet, and the Red Cross is working closely with the entire response community – state, parish and local agencies, other nonprofits, churches, area businesses and others – to coordinate relief efforts and deliver help quickly and efficiently, keeping in mind the diverse needs of the community.
- More than 95 Red Cross disaster responders from Louisiana and across the state are supporting relief efforts. Additional volunteers are joining the efforts daily, including those who will receive training Friday and Saturday at the Red Cross office in New Orleans.

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DCFS-

Residents who are eligible for SNAP benefits and were impacted by the February 7 tornadoes have access to federal disaster food assistance through the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services. Regular income and asset eligibility standards will apply.

Although the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (DSNAP) has not been activated for the February 7, 2017 storm, anyone who is not already receiving regular SNAP benefits can apply for SNAP by visiting www.dcfslouisiana.gov and clicking on "Assistance."

Louisiana State Police-

10 Louisiana State Police troopers have assisted New Orleans Police with traffic control and anti-looting patrols in New Orleans East.

Local officials are utilizing pre-disaster contracts to help remove an estimated 50,000 cubic feet of debris, as coordinated plans involving the state agencies and volunteer organizations are being finalized.

The National Weather Service (NWS) has confirmed six tornadoes in the impacted areas:

New Orleans East: EF-3

Watson: EF-3

Killian: EF-2

Donaldsonville: EF-1

Near Holden: EF-1

Jefferson Parish: EF-0

NWS officials says information on the tornadoes may change as their teams complete storm surveys.

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).

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- 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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