

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

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



JAMES B. WASKOM
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Update: Entire State Facing Threat of Severe Weather

BATON ROUGE (April 2, 2017) – The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) continues to monitor severe weather impacting the state. GOHSEP's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been partially activated to help coordinate any calls for support from our local partners. The EOC will be staffed at Level 3 activation until the threat to the entire state subsides. Several areas have reported problems ranging from hail, lightning and flash flooding to wind and tornado damage. Parishes have reported widespread power outages and trees blocking roadways during the course of the day. These types of problems are expected to continue in other parts of the state until Monday morning. The National Weather Service indicates flooding will begin to be the biggest problem in southwest Louisiana as the wind and tornado threat decreases.

Earlier today, Governor John Bel Edwards held a news conference at GOHSEP urging the public to be aware of the continued threat tonight. A modified State Unified Command Group (UCG) made up of several state agencies will meet with Governor Edwards Monday morning at 8:00 am to assess damage and address any new concerns.

The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) placed portions of the state in the HIGH RISK category for tornadoes which is rare for Louisiana. That area extends from western-central Louisiana to north Louisiana. That means there is a threat of EF-2 or greater tornadoes in those areas. Damaging winds in excess of 75 mph and large hail or possible. The threat continues in some areas. The significant tornado potential will spread across the lower Mississippi Valley later tonight and early Monday morning.

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Much of the rest of the state is currently in the MODERATE RISK to ENHANCED RISK category. Excessive rainfall is also expected with 3-6 inches or higher falling in many areas by Monday morning.

GOHSEP Director James Waskom said, “Stay aware of the weather threat for your area. Depending on where you live, that threat may not end for several more hours. Parents should watch for notices from their local school systems dealing with potential school closures. The threat for southeast Louisiana could impact driver’s morning commute. Check for road closures and other problems before you leave your home. Don’t drive through flooded roadways. Most of our deaths during last year’s floods were caused by people attempting drive through high water. Visit www.511la.org for road updates. Monitor your local media and the four National Weather Service offices that cover our state for weather alerts. Keep your phones charged and near you while the threat continues in order to receive potential emergency messaging.”

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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