

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor Edwards Urges Residents to Get a Game Plan, Monitor the Weather

BATON ROUGE, La. — Today, Gov. John Bel Edwards has signed a proclamation designating September as National Preparedness Month. The Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) and our partners encourage everyone to Get A Game Plan. This enables the public to protect themselves, their families and homes in the event of severe weather or other emergencies.

“This week, Louisiana marked the 13th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, and we are currently in a window commonly known as the heart of hurricane season,” said Gov. Edwards. “Everyone should be mindful of the weather and have a plan in place that hopefully you will not have to use, but in case the need arises you will be prepared.”

“We are starting to see the tropics heat up like we typically do this time of year,” said GOHSEP Director Jim Waskom. “Emergency managers at the state, local and federal levels are dedicated to help protect you during an emergency. National Preparedness Month is a time for you to examine your emergency plans and to restock your supply kits. Hurricanes are one of the biggest concerns to the state, but each region faces other possible threats that could force you to take immediate action or evacuate.”

GOHSEP will be working with our FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) partners on information for the public focused on key topics.

The overall preparedness month theme is: ***Disasters Happen. Prepare Now. Learn How.*** The theme empowers all of us to take an active role in preparing for disasters and emergencies. As we enter the peak of hurricane season, it is important for us to think about our personal preparedness as we help others protect their lives, property, and belongings in advance of a disaster.

- Week 1: September 2-8 Make and Practice Your Plan**
- Week 2: September 9-15 Learn Life Saving Skills**
- Week 3: September 16-22 Check Your Coverage**
- Week 4: September 23-29 Save for an Emergency**

Saturday, September 15 is the National Day of Action, when individuals, organizations, and businesses take part in an activity such as participating in an exercise, drill or other efforts aiming to increase preparedness. Stay tuned for ways

you and your family can participate each week.

FEMA Administrator Brock Long encourages everyone to talk about National Preparedness Month with friends and family. With just a simple conversation, you can be a driving force for preparedness within your community.

Families and individuals should have an emergency plan that outlines what they will do if they have to shelter in place because of an emergency and what they will do if they have to evacuate. Emergency kits should include supplies for three days and copies of important paperwork like insurance policies and medical records. Gathering supplies in one place will help you locate them in the event of a power outage. If your family must leave its home, the kit can go with you.

ONLINE RESOURCES

www.getagameplan.org: Louisiana residents can take simple steps to protect themselves, their families, their pets and their homes. GOHSEP provides detailed tips and information for how to respond in the event of a tornado, flooding, thunderstorm, hurricane or other severe weather.

www.weather.gov: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) provides detailed, zip code level weather information for the public on its Website. Users can get information about severe weather warnings and alerts and also view forecasts from National Weather Service staff.

www.ready.gov: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) outlines what to do in many disaster scenarios on its preparedness site.

ALERT FM: Free App that allows GOHSEP to create and send digital alerts and messages based on geographic or organizational groups. Messages are delivered to the data subcarrier of existing FM transmitters around the US. Overlapping signals of FM stations ensure rapid message transmission even when other communication systems are disrupted.

Find more tips on weather and preparedness on GOHSEP's Facebook and Twitter accounts. Listen to conversations on all aspects of emergency management by downloading GOHSEP's The Get A Game Plan Podcast. 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 of emergency. You can download the Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Guide and find other information at www.getagameplan.org.

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