

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

JOHN BEL EDWARDS  
GOVERNOR



JAMES B. WASKOM  
DIRECTOR

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**Louisiana Response and Recovery Teams Assisting Hurricane Impacted States**

**BATON ROUGE (September 11, 2017)** – The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) is deploying employees and coordinating assistance from other state agencies for Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Harvey response and recovery efforts. The employees are being deployed after requests for help from hurricane impacted states made through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC).

"We are ready to help our neighbors during their time of need," said Gov. John Bel Edwards. "Other states often look for Louisiana specialists to help with response and recovery efforts due to our experience. Louisiana search and rescue teams saved lives in Texas and thousands of evacuees found refuge in our shelters after flooding last month in Texas. We stand ready to answer any call for support we can help fill."

GOHSEP Director Jim Waskom said, "Louisiana is often one of the first states to answer the call for help after a crisis. The threat from Irma is still evolving as the system pushes north. We will monitor those conditions and be ready to respond. It is important to remember we are still in the heart of hurricane season and other threats could develop. Finalize your emergency game plans and restock your emergency supplies."

EMAC offers assistance during governor-declared states of emergency through a responsive, straightforward system that allows states to send personnel, equipment, and commodities to help disaster relief efforts in other states. Through EMAC, states are able to join forces and help one another, as needed, during each phase of the emergency. The state-to-state system was developed after Hurricane Andrew in 1992 and established in 1996.

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**Current Louisiana EMAC Missions:**

**GOHSEP:**

EMAC Specialists (3) - 2 FL, 1 GA  
Shelter Specialist (1)

\*GOHSEP's Deputy Director is also in Texas helping develop potential temporary housing options based on the Shelter at Home program.

**Louisiana State Fire Marshal:**

Urban Search and Rescue Specialists (50)  
Canine Search Specialists (3)  
Medical Specialists (2)  
Operations Team (5)  
Incident Management Team Commander (1)  
Operations Chief (1)  
Planning Chief (1)  
Logistics Chief (1)  
Finance/Administration Chief (1)  
Safety Officer (1)  
Public Information Officer (1)  
Medical Manager (1)

**Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries:**

Water Rescue Teams (50)  
Command Center Operator (1)  
Fuel Trailer Operators (3)

**Louisiana Army National Guard:**

One engineering company (159) to provide mission command and coordination of platoons to conduct repair, maintenance and construction of various infrastructure needs.

For more information on the Emergency Management Assistance Compact visit [www.emacweb.org](http://www.emacweb.org).

GOHSEP's highly trained EMAC teams have been called upon to assist in past emergencies such as 2009 North Dakota Flooding and Kentucky Ice Storm, 2011 tornado outbreak in Alabama and Missouri, 2011 Hurricane Irene Maryland and Vermont, 2012 Hurricane Sandy Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Connecticut.

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Visit [www.511la.org](http://www.511la.org) for road updates during an emergency. 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](http://www.getagameplan.org).*

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