

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

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



JAMES B. WASKOM
DIRECTOR

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Mike Steele

mike.steele@la.gov

225-788-0095

GOHSEP/Louisiana National Guard to Lead Emergency Response Exercise

BATON ROUGE (April 2, 2019) – The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) and Louisiana National Guard (LANG) will coordinate the state Disaster Response Exercise (DRX) beginning April 3, 2019. This exercise allows state agencies to test actions such as search and rescue operations, evacuation procedures, restoring civil order after a disaster, commodities distribution, re-establishing communication and publically examine our combined capabilities to synchronize emergency response functions. Combined, more than one thousand employees from several agencies and members of the Louisiana National Guard will take part in the exercise.

GOHSEP Director Jim Waskom says, "The goal of the exercise is to make sure we stand ready with a coordinated response for any emergency event impacting the state. The time for this type of activity is before you face a crisis. There have recently been several rounds of severe weather impacting the Gulf Coast region and we continue to face a threat from high river levels across the state. In addition to that work, we are less than two months away from the start of hurricane season. GOHSEP continues to work with our local, state and Federal partners through this type of training to make our state more resilient."

"The disaster response exercise allows us to partner with our local, state, federal and non-governmental organization agencies to test response capabilities," said Maj. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, the adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard. "Interagency

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coordination at the parish and local level is key to a successful response and exercises like this are invaluable. We are committed to the citizens and communities of Louisiana and what we do now pays huge dividends later."

Gov. John Bel Edwards will lead an exercise Unified Command Group (UCG) briefing at GOHSEP Friday morning.

Gov. Edwards will then hold a news conference at **8:30am, Friday morning in GOHSEP's media room** before he departs to view exercise activity.

The exercise will be staged in two locations Friday:

Plaquemines Parish:

Integrated Search and Rescue operations consisting of Boat Rescue, High Water Vehicle Rescue, Lilly Pad Operations, and Pet Rescue

Where: 161 Marina Rd., Port Sulphur, LA 70083
(News conference planned for 11:00am)

Natchitoches Parish:

Integrated Search and Rescue operations consisting of Boat Rescue, High Water Vehicle Rescue, Lilly Pad Operations

Where: Grand Ecore Boat Launch, Tauzin Island Rd., Natchitoches, La., 71457
(News conference planned for 1:00pm)

There will also be exercise activity Saturday:

Ouachita Parish:

Integrated Search and Rescue operations consisting of Boat Rescue, High Water Vehicles Rescue, Integrated Air Search & Rescue, Lilly Pad Operations, Flood Water Mitigation (HESCO Barriers, Aqua Dam, Sand Bags, Super Sacks)

Where: Sterlington Recreation Area, 159 Old Sterlington Rd., Sterlington, La., 71280
(News conference scheduled for **11:15am, Saturday**)

Please note the times and persons taking part in the news conference may have to be adjusted if weather conditions impact helicopter travel for state leaders.

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Other agencies participating include the Louisiana State Police, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Department of Corrections, Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Office, Department of Children and Family Services, the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals and the Department of Transportation and Development.

Local leaders from key parishes are also expected to take part in the event.

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 of emergency. You can download the Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Guide and find other information at www.getagameplan.org.

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