

**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

Threat of Severe Weather Returns Beginning Tonight

BATON ROUGE (April 17, 2019) – GOHSEP (Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness) is monitoring another powerful, spring storm system which will enter the state Wednesday evening ahead of a cold front. It is the fourth line of storms to impact the state during the past two weeks. GOHSEP's Crisis Action Team has been activated to address any potential calls for support from our local partners as the storms move across the region.

"It is extremely important for the public to stay weather aware during these types of events," said GOHSEP Director Jim Waskom. "It is very difficult to determine the exact location where weather related problems will develop, but as we've seen from recent events, we are likely to have many areas impacted by flash flooding, hail, wind damage or tornadoes or a combination of those dangers. Listen for updates from your local media, the National Weather Service and your local emergency managers. Pay attention to any weather alerts issued for your area and take time to understand what those alerts mean. Use caution if you must travel and avoid flooded roadways."

Here is the latest on timing and possible conditions from our four **National Weather Service (NWS)** offices that cover Louisiana:

NWS Shreveport:

A Flash Flood Watch is in effect 7 PM this Wednesday evening until 7 PM Thursday evening.

Strong to severe thunderstorms are possible tonight and into Thursday. Large hail, damaging winds, and a tornado or two remain possible. Locally heavy rainfall may lead to flash flooding, especially where soils remain very wet from recent heavy rains in southern Arkansas and northern Louisiana.

NWS Lake Charles:

A few showers or thunderstorms will be possible late this afternoon west of the Sabine River before increasing in coverage to include much of the forecast area through tonight as a storm system aloft and associated surface cold front approach.

There is a Marginal Risk (5 percent) that severe weather (primarily in the form of damaging wind gusts and/or hail) may occur along a squall line northwest of a Beaumont to Alexandria line. A tornado or two is also possible.

There is also a Marginal to Slight Risk (5-20 percent) of excessive rainfall leading to flooding across this same area. This will be mainly from street flooding due to high rainfall rates falling in poor drainage areas.

For Thursday, an Enhanced Risk (30 percent) that severe weather is outlined roughly east of a Lake Charles to Alexandria line. This is for the potential of super cell thunderstorms to develop ahead of a squall line late Thursday morning into Thursday afternoon. The risk will include a few tornadoes, along with damaging winds and/or large hail. Also, the possible squall line will bring a risk of damaging winds and/or large hail, along with a few quick spin ups embedded within the line. West of that line back to the Sabine River, a Slight Risk (15 percent) of severe weather is outlined, mainly from damaging winds and/or large hail along a possible squall line.

There is also a Marginal to Slight Risk (5-20 percent) of excessive rainfall leading to flooding across this same area. This will be mainly from street flooding due to high rainfall rates falling in poor drainage areas.

Additionally, due to strong south winds ahead of the front, tides will run about 1 foot to 1 1/2 feet above predicted levels that may cause some water run-up along the coast.

NWS Jackson, MS (covers NE LA):

Severe thunderstorms are expected on Thursday. Tornadoes, damaging wind gusts, and large hail will all be possible - especially across portions of northeast Louisiana and much of central and southern Mississippi.

NWS New Orleans:

A strong spring storm system will affect the area Thursday into Thursday evening and an ENHANCED risk of severe thunderstorms covers the entire area. This event could be more widespread than the last with the greatest hazards expected to be damaging winds, tornadoes which could be strong with long tracks, heavy rain and large hail.

The entire area is under a slight risk for excessive rainfall Thursday as well. Widespread rainfall amounts should be from 1 to 3 inches with isolated higher amounts which could fall in short time.

Small craft advisories will likely be required Thursday through Saturday morning for the coastal waters initially for strong onshore flow ahead of the cold front, then strong offshore flow after the frontal passage.

ONLINE RESOURCES

www.511la.org: 511la.org offers streamlined, statewide travel info from your computer or mobile phone.

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.