

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

JOHN BEL EDWARDS  
GOVERNOR



JAMES B. WASKOM  
DIRECTOR

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

April 25, 2019

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Mike Steele  
[mike.steele@la.gov](mailto:mike.steele@la.gov)  
225-788-0095

**GOHSEP Coordinating Tornado Response as Severe Weather Threat Continues**

**BATON ROUGE (April 25, 2019)** – GOHSEP (Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness) is coordinating the response for several parishes impacted by tornadic activity and severe weather early this morning. GOHSEP activated its Crisis Action Team early this morning as the severe weather system began causing problems. It is important to point out the severe weather threat will continue across the state as this line of storms moves across the region.

Governor John Bel Edwards hosted a conference call this morning with several state agencies working on response operations. Governor Edwards and other state leaders plan to travel to the impacted areas later today.

The Louisiana National Guard is moving Meals Ready to Eat (MRE's), bottled water and other supplies to the region ahead of potential requests for support from local emergency managers. Guard personnel are also coordinating debris missions and other activity. Louisiana State Police, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Office are assisting with search and rescue missions and filling any law enforcement needs for the impacted region.

Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development crews are working to clean debris from roadways and repair damaged traffic signals.

The Louisiana Department of Health has confirmed two fatalities. Responders say a mother and son died after a tree fell on their home in Lincoln Parish. No other details are available at this time.

“We are asking the public to stay weather aware as storms continue to threaten the state,” said GOHSEP Director Jim Waskom. “We are also asking those in areas with damage to avoid traveling. Downed power lines and trees are causing many problems. It is important for emergency responders, search and rescue and utility teams to access the area. Additional people on the road could cause more delays. Listen for updates from your local media, the National Weather Service and your local emergency managers.”

## **ONLINE RESOURCES**

[www.511la.org](http://www.511la.org): 511la.org offers streamlined, statewide travel info from your computer or mobile phone.

[www.getagameplan.org](http://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.

**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](http://www.getagameplan.org).*