

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

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Louisiana Sends Help to California Due to Devastating Rainfall, Flooding

BATON ROUGE (January 20, 2023) – An emergency recovery team from the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) is deploying to California, as that state grapples with round after round of heavy rains, flooding and landslides. Governor John Bel Edwards during his time in office has prioritized helping other states dealing with emergency conditions, as we have seen other states respond to Louisiana's calls for support after hurricanes, flooding or other events. California began experiencing severe storms, mostly in Northern California, late last month. Since that time, storms have continued on a regular basis statewide. California Governor Gavin Newsom later proclaimed a State of Emergency due to the severe weather conditions. On January 14, President Biden approved California's request for a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration to support the state's emergency response to ongoing storm impacts.

"The scenes and the conditions in California or something we are all too familiar with," said Governor Edwards. "While our prayers are with the people of the state, we will gladly support response and recovery efforts whenever possible. Flooding and the impacts from flooding can be some of the most difficult issues for a family or a community to face, as we saw with the two major flood events in 2016 in Louisiana. We stand ready to help with whatever resources we can share."

In addition, wind associated with the winter storms have caused downed trees and power lines leading to extensive power outages across multiple service territories, road closures and evacuations.

GOHSEP Director Casey Tingle said, “The four person, recovery team from GOHSEP specializes in the Public Assistance field. That work can include everything from federal assistance for debris removal and emergency response work to repairs of public buildings, equipment and public utilities. Our team is experienced and is often called upon by others facing an emergency. The 30 day deployment will allow the group to assist emergency managers in California dealing with these critical aspects of recovery.”

Requests for assistance are made through a state to state system known as the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC.) 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.

For more information on the Emergency Management Assistance Compact visit www.emacweb.org.

GOHSEP has coordinated EMAC teams to assist in recent emergencies such as Hurricane Ian in Florida, last year’s flood event in New Mexico and a wildfire event in New Mexico. Louisiana has benefitted from EMAC assistance during several recent events including hurricanes Laura, Delta and Ida. Teams of emergency management personnel and first responders from other states helped with our efforts.

Find more tips on weather and preparedness on GOHSEP’s Facebook and Twitter accounts. 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.

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