

Office of the Governor
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



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August 27, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C

Through: George A. Robinson
Regional Administrator
FEMA Region VI
800 North Loop
Denton, Texas

SENT VIA EMAIL

Dear President Trump:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. Sections 5121-5207, (Stafford Act); and implemented by 44 CFR Section 206.35, I request that you declare an Emergency Disaster effective August 27, 2017 for the State of Louisiana as a result of Hurricane/Tropical Storm Harvey. The National Weather Service forecasts that remnants of Hurricane Harvey will bring heavy rainfall to Louisiana posing serious danger to life and property of the citizens of our state. Significant lifesaving efforts such as search and rescue, transportation to shelters, logistical support, and shelter operations are particularly needed in Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis, and Vermillion parishes.

In response to this situation, I have taken the appropriate action under state law and have declared a statewide emergency on August 24, 2017. Furthermore, I have directed the execution of the State Emergency Operations Plan on this date as well in support of the statewide emergency declaration in accordance with Section 510 of the Stafford Act. A copy of that declaration is attached.

The National Weather Service is predicting that southwest Louisiana will see 10 to 20 inches of rain between tonight and tomorrow, central Louisiana 1 to 5 inches, and south

central Louisiana 2 to 8 inches. Due to the rains, major river flooding is anticipated. Cameron Parish has already closed schools and issued initially a mandatory evacuation, which was downgraded Saturday to a voluntary evacuation.

The following information is furnished on the nature and amount of state and local resources that have been used to alleviate the conditions of this disaster:

COMMITTED STATE, LOCAL, FEDERAL, AND VOLUNTEER RESOURCES

STATE ACTIONS

Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP)

- GOHSEP is monitoring the situation and has activated their Crisis Action Team as of 23 August 2017.
- GOHSEP activated Level II (24 hour operations) on 24 August 2017.
- GOHSEP will be monitoring WebEOC for mission or asset requests.
- GOHSEP Regional Coordinators are currently monitoring the situation and maintaining communications with the EOC.
- Unified Command Group Meetings were held on August 24th and 26th.

Louisiana National Guard (LANG)

- LANG has activated full-time force Soldiers in order to operate the JOC.
- LANG maintain the TAC 24 hour operations.
- 1,000 cots are being delivered to New Orleans by COB Friday, August 25, 2017 (139th).
- LNO attended SAR meeting in Calcasieu Parish (256th).
- 15 LANG soldiers on State Active Duty Orders to assist with monitoring and reporting on NOLA pumps.
- 500 cots delivered to Gretna EOC to support possible sheltering operations.
- MSgt Olivier reported to Orleans Parish EOC as LNO.
- LANG personnel will attend SAR meeting in Calcasieu Parish at 1000 25AUG2017.
- LANG personnel will attend NOLA SAR Meeting 1300 25AUG2017.
- St. Martin Parish to pick up 3 pallets of sandbags from Camp Beauregard 1300 25AUG2017.
- Cameron Parish requested 1 LANG LNO to begin operations on 26AUG2017.

Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA)

- CPRA is currently coordinating with our field offices to gather updates on:
 - Projects under construction. We want to make sure that our contractors follow their approved severe weather plans as required. (We have been in contact with field offices since 8/16) All contractors are following their severe weather plans.
 - Local flood authorities' and USACE's preparation activities. We want to make sure that the flood protection infrastructure is operated appropriately and become aware of any issues or anticipated issues ASAP. (We have been in contact with levee districts since 8/17)

- Out of an abundance of caution the Lake Borgne Surge Barrier By-Pass (barge) Gate was closed 8/23/2017.
- CPRA Water Control Projects are generally closed when a TS enters the gulf. The following are currently closed: Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion, Caernarvon Freshwater Diversion, Naomi Siphon (freshwater diversion), West Point a la Hache Siphon (freshwater diversion) – was closed previously due to USACE levee work, Cameron Creole – all gates closed except the Grand Bayou boat bay.
- Terrebonne Levee and Conservation District (TLCD) plans to begin closing some non-essential gates 8/25
- All gates on the Cameron Creole Watershed Structure are closed - https://cims.coastal.louisiana.gov/WCS/WCS_Public.aspx

Louisiana State Police (LSP)

- LSP Patrol (Normal staffing levels)
 - Resource status checks have been completed
 - Coordinating with local law enforcement and state agency partners
 - Troops A, B, C, D, I, L, and N are prepared for evacuation, traffic control, and search and rescue missions
 - Troop D is in contact with Texas DPS, advised that the Texas evacuation routes predominately move to the north and do not involve I-10 into Louisiana.
 - Troops E, F, and G are prepared for shelter security missions
 - TESS personnel are prepared to augment Troops with additional manpower
 - Emergency Services Unit has coordinated with DEQ and private industry for pre-storm safety measures and post-storm response
- LSP Bureau of Investigations
 - Rapid Response Teams are prepared to augment Troops with additional manpower
 - Gaming Section has begun coordination with Lake Charles properties for activation of their Hurricane Plans
- LSP Crisis Response Staff has been monitoring storm and providing situational awareness to LSP Command Staff and DPS Agency Heads since last week
- LSP Public Affairs
 - PIOs continue to monitor this weather event and communicate preparedness to the public through traditional and social media channels.
 - PIOs are engaged with our PIO partners at GOHSEP, DOTD and locals agencies to ensure the public has the most recent public safety information regarding the storm.
- LSP Air Support is standing by for aerial reconnaissance of affected areas
- LSP Radio Communications
 - Communications assets checked and fully operational
 - Tower sites are fueled
 - Tactical communications equipment checked and ready for deployment
 - Mobile Command Posts ready for deployment
- Troop D commander has been in contact with Cameron Parish authorities who do not require any LSP assistance at this time

- Two light plants were requested from LSP and will be delivered.

Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD)

- The ESF3 EOC will continue with a partial activation during daylight hours through the weekend and transition to full activation at 6am Monday.
- Districts are preparing equipment
- Coordinating with New Orleans to discuss an accelerated phased limited evacuation due to pump capacity flooding issues
- Coordinated vehicle staging area (VSA) with Babycakes Baseball; coordinated alternate VSA with Morial Convention Center
- Alerted vendors of wraparound services at VSA sites
- Coordinating bus contracts
- 25 August meeting with New Orleans on the use of the UNO Lakefront Arena as a parish pickup point

Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF)

- Advisory issued to livestock owners to prepare
- LDAF is available through our Emergency Hotline 1-885-452-5323
- LDAF CTN pet shelters are on standby for activation
- Pet NGO's are staging resources for ASAR in Calcasieu parish
- Coordinated LaSPCA, Orleans parish and surrounding parish animal control agencies for pet sheltering plans
- Mobile pet shelter and livestock equipment is readied for deployment
- LDAF fuel stations are prepared for activation in the event of a commercial fuel disruption
- Measures in place to release USDA food commodities for mass feeding

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (DWF)

- Conducted initial response assessments, including agent availability and SAR equipment readiness, etc.
- Participated in a meeting with Calcasieu Parish with local leaders
- EMAC Request received from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) for SAR assistance. 1 Alpha Team (10 agents, 10 trucks, 10 boats) sent to Texas.
- Today, 3 additional Alpha Teams are preparing to move to assist SAR in Texas.

Department of Corrections (DOC)

- Communicating with local facilities to provide support as needed

Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ)

- Emergency Response and Regional staff are on standby and making preparations to respond
- Contacted EPA and ESF-10 partners (LSP & LOSCO) to discuss post-storm response coordination.
- Radiation licensees in the anticipated impacted area will be contacted to discuss storm preparations and contingencies of radiological sources

- Discussions with FEMA Region 6, Waterford 3, and Riverbend Station; both facilities are enacting the preliminary stages of their Severe Weather plans

State Fire Marshall (SFM)

- Liaison deputies are in contact with OEP offices in effected area.
- ESF-4 has notified the States Fire Service along with USAR teams.
- ESF-4 moved our mobile command unit to stage in Lafayette, La. Pending deployment forward.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

- Sent advisory (email blast) to all oil and gas operators to take necessary measures and precautions to minimize environmental impacts due to releases resulting from damage to infrastructure.

Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH)

- Medical facilities have been placed on alert to conduct readiness for both SIP and evacuation plans.
- Gap analysis has been conducted, and LDH staff and surge contracts and federal ESF-08 are on standby.

Public Service Commission (PSC)

- All utilities have activated their Emergency Service Plans. The PSC will begin to provide outage reports if/when they occur.
- Cleco has all of their crews and contractor crews on stand-by, and equipment has been secured in preparation for outage response. They are in contact with elected officials, industrial customers, and business leaders to remind them of their storm processes and to offer continued access during this time.
- Entergy has made preparation efforts, especially concerning flooding in areas that have flooded before. They are addressing potential flooding of substations by relocating the equipment in low-lying areas, and having Tiger Dams and Hesco Baskets on stand-by for deployment.
- Entergy is also working with Jefferson Parish officials and the PSC to coordinate a plan to help preserve the pumping capacity at Pumping Station 6. That work is finished and included adding a third power source from Entergy Louisiana to the existing two power sources from Entergy New Orleans (which is not regulated by the LPSC). This ensures alternate sources of power are available always.

Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

- DCFS ESF-6 Staff have been placed on "ALERT" response level today (8/24)
- DCFS Regional Coordinators continue to communicate with local partners for ESF-6 assistance in projected affected areas
- Received Sex Offender data base from LSP and will load in the Phoenix system in preparation for registration if needed

- Working with GOHSEP and City of New Orleans on modified City Assisted Evacuation Plan
- Working to ensure our CTN Shelters are set up and ready
- Will participate with the City of New Orleans meeting at UNO (8/25) for a new Parish Pickup Point
- Monitoring the evacuation of Cameron, Vermillion, and Iberia Parish and any sheltering requirements

Department of Justice

- The LA DOJ is on standby and available to assist with any law enforcement issues upon request
- Consumer Protection Outreach teams are available to disseminate information to consumers in affected areas in the aftermath of the storm
- The LA DOJ Consumer Protection Hotline is manned

Workforce Commission (LWC)

- Mass feeding contractors have been placed on standby and are prepared for deployment

REQUESTS OF OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES

Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

- The Louisiana Office of Lt. Governor; Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism requested two (2) crisafulli pumps from the USACE with 100 feet of hose each, to be picked up by requestor at Bonnet Carre (USACE). These pumps will be used at the Bayou Segnette State Park in Jefferson Parish.

VOLUNTEER AGENCIES

American Red Cross (ARC)

- Participating in Regional and National readiness and preparedness calls
- Region has initiated readiness and preparedness activities to support any response
- DR 400-18 has been issued for Red Cross response
- Parish based Red Cross workforce is talking with local OEP offices
- Continue close communication with DCFS for planning efforts
- Continuing to proactively recruit and train volunteers
- Continue to participate in meetings with GOHSEP/DCFS/City of New Orleans on the modified City Assisted Evacuation Plan
- Proactively providing safety and preparedness messages through news media outlets and social media
- Proactively reaching out to Elected Officials across Louisiana
- General Population Shelter has been identified and placed on "Standby" for the residents of Cameron Parish

SALVATION ARMY

- Participating in Territorial Salvation Army Hurricane taskforce calls
- Personnel, equipment and liaison are on standby
- Conduct an ALM Divisional Hurricane Task Force Call on Friday, 25 August 2017.
- The Southern Territory has activated its amateur radio SATERN (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network) Net for Saturday, 26 August 2017 to receive on-scene situational awareness reports and any emergency, priority or health & welfare messages.

LOUISIANA VOAD

- Mercy Chefs and Operation BBQ Relief are on standby and are ready to deploy for emergency feeding operations.
- Crisis Cleanup is likely activating Thursday for TX/LA response.

PARISH ACTIONS

All involved parishes are monitoring the situation and on standby for response efforts. Detailed actions of parishes included in declaration request are:

BEAUREGARD *(Declaration Received)*

- Sandbags are available at locations across the parish.
- Parish started scheduled Unified Command Meetings on 8/25, one in afternoon as of now.
- School board will make a determination on closing schools.
- Emergency declaration has been submitted.

CALCASIEU *(Declaration Received)*

- EOC is working extended hours
- Executive Policy Group Meeting, Region 5 Directors conference call, VOAD meeting and Port Coordination Team Planning meeting conducted
- SAR planning meeting conducted 8/24, next meeting scheduled 1000 8/25
- VOAD has placed 4 shelter teams on standby
- Prepared to assist Cameron Parish admin, OHSEP and equipment move to Calcasieu Parish, both directors in close communication
- Sandbag points are open
- Continue public outreach through local TV interviews and social media
- Monitoring evacuation routes through the Parish to assist Cameron Parish in their evacuation
- 2 LWIN COWs on standby in Baton Rouge and Alexandria
- Recreational water traffic was stopped on 8/26 on ship channel, Calcasieu river tributaries north of I-10

- McNeese State University and all schools are closed

CAMERON *(Declaration Received)*

- Parish equipment moved north to higher ground
- OHSEP will be relocating operations by 8 AM Friday to Cameron Parish National Wildlife Refuge
- Parish Police Jury offices will be relocating to Calcasieu Parish to resume operations 8/28
- The mandatory evacuation that has been issued for all areas south of the Intracoastal Water Way (NOT the entire Parish) has been reduced to a voluntary evacuation as of 4PM Saturday 8/26
- Schools and government buildings are closed

JEFFERSON DAVIS *(Declaration Received)*

- As a precaution, the Jefferson Davis Parish Police Jury has made sandbags and sand available to residents of Jefferson Davis Parish. Self-service sandbags and sand are available in the following locations:
 - Jennings Police Jury Road Yard on Airport Road
 - Lake Arthur Community Center (Pick up bag first at Lake Arthur Police Department)
 - Woodlawn Fire Station
 - Welsh Police Jury Yard across from Welsh Community Center
 - Hathaway Fire Station on Hwy 102
 - Fenton Police Jury Yard on Estes Road
 - Lacassine Fire Station 17155 Hwy 90 -Elton City Hall
 - Schools are closed

VERMILION *(Declaration Received)*

- Called for a voluntary evacuation 8/25 of low lying areas below Highway 14
- Schools are closed

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

The state is currently recovering from the 2016 floods, with the August 2016 flood being third largest disaster in the country's history. An unnamed storm in August of 2016 flooded much of the state with little to no warning. We know that the predicted rainfall from Hurricane Harvey will produce dangerous flooding across our state, including some of the same areas affected by the 2016 floods.

In further exacerbating the situation, I recently have declared an emergency for Orleans Parish due to the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board's power plant malfunction. The generators that provide much of the power for pumps throughout the city are located at the S&WB's power plant.

SUMMARY

I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective recovery is beyond the capabilities of the state and local governments and that supplemental federal assistance is necessary. I am specifically requesting an emergency Presidential Disaster Declaration for Emergency Protective Measures (Category B) and Direct Federal Assistance (DFA) in order to conduct evacuations and other lifesaving efforts for the following parishes: Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis, and Vermillion. Specifically, I request assistance for transportation to shelters (CAT B), including but not limited to high water vehicles, buses, and drivers (CAT B), logistical support at shelters (CAT B), search and rescue operations (CAT B), emergency power generator support (CAT B), and technical expertise in power generation and pumping operations (DFA). I also anticipate the need for a major declaration request if severe flooding does significant damage to the State.

I certify that for this disaster, the State and local governments will assume all applicable non-federal share(s) of costs required by the Stafford Act. Further, I certify that the Federal Assistance for emergency protective measures are needed to protect lives, property and public health, and they exceed the capacity of local governments and the State.

I have designated James B. Waskom as the Governor's Authorized Representative ("GAR") and William T. Rachal as the Alternate GAR. William T. Rachal is also designated as the State Coordinating Officer ("SCO") for this request. They both will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and will provide further information and justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Bel Edwards', written in a cursive style.

John Bel Edwards
Governor

Enclosures
OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA 010-0-13
State Emergency Declaration (104 JBE 2017)
State Emergency Declaration (95 JBE 2017)