



Office of the Governor  
JOHN BEL EDWARDS

LOUISIANA  
STATE  
POLICE

# CHALLENGES MET. PROGRESS DELIVERED.

Louisiana Department of Public Safety, 2016–2023

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## Introduction

### Message from Colonel Lamar A. Davis

"Since my appointment as Louisiana State Police Superintendent / Deputy Secretary of the Department of Public Safety in October of 2020, our agency has seen tremendous changes, challenges, and successes in every aspect of our public safety roles," stated Colonel Lamar Davis. "Our accomplishments are a direct reflection of our employees' hard work, dedication, and commitment to public safety across the state. Over the past year specifically, Louisiana State Police and the Department of Public Safety have accomplished amazing tasks."

Across the Office of State Police, vital operational enhancements were put into place including the creation of the Force Investigation Unit and Professional Standards & Compliance Section and the implementation of technological enhancements including electronic citations, a new electronic crash reporting solution, expanded use of our records management system/computer aided dispatch, and a unified public records intake/response system. Most notable, Louisiana State Police was accepted into the Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) Project allowing the department to join a select group of law enforcement agencies across the country and firmly demonstrate our commitment to transformational reform.

The Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles implemented innovative enhancements to improve field office efficiency and quality of customer service including a language interpretation service, 6-year ID renewals, Class E driving tests appointments, and extended call center hours for reinstatements.

The Louisiana Highway Safety Commission was selected as a Semifinalist by the National Safety Council for the 2022 Green Cross for Safety Award in recognition for the agency's work in diversity outreach in traffic safety. LHSC provided the federal funding for the development and implementation of the update to the Uniform Motor Vehicle Traffic Crash Report and the creation of a new electronic crash report system, eCrash, for use by all law enforcement agencies in Louisiana, which was a collaboration between the LHSC, the Louisiana State Police, and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, and additionally funded an Apple/iOS and Android platform app designed for and to assist law enforcement officers investigating motor vehicle crashes.

The Louisiana Gaming Control Board facilitated the rollout of mobile sports betting resulting in \$27 million in state revenue, approved several legacy riverboat licenses to build state of the art land based casinos, and coordinated with the LSP and Attorney General's Office Gaming Division to review and revise outdated gaming rules and regulations.

The Liquefied Petroleum Gas Commission reported zero propane related fires for 2022 due to education and partnerships with local and national industry partners.

Through 2022, the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office managed response activities on approximately 400 oil spill incidents while working to finalize settlements for several natural resource restoration projects across the state.

In 2022, the Office of State Fire Marshal saw the beginning of State Fire Marshal Chief Dan Wallis' administration while the agency took on the added responsibility of administrating firefighter training programs at the Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Academy (FETA). The State Fire Marshal's Office was also successful in guiding legislation requiring carbon monoxide alarms in all homes sold or leased starting Jan. 1, 2023. The move comes after a number of tragic deaths and near-deaths tied to generator-induced carbon monoxide poisonings in the wake of numerous hurricanes in 2020 and 2021.

"As we continue to move our agency forward, we must keep our momentum. Community engagement, investing in ourselves and in one another, accountability, recruitment of the best available qualified applicants, and providing professional public safety services to our citizens and visitors must remain top priorities. We have a unique opportunity to change lives every day. It is through this commitment that we will not only change lives but save many more."

# Progress Delivered

## Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal

Successfully Passed the Following Legislation:

### Act No. 462

- Overall, this new law modernizes the enforcement of amusement ride safety in Louisiana and mirrors other licensing authority of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM).
- OSFM licenses owners, operators (not ride operators), and third-party and set-up inspectors who perform annual and set-up inspections.
- Reconfigures ride registration, simplifying enforcement with a tagging and plate system. This system will immediately convey proper registration with OSFM, up-to-date or out-of-date inspections, compliance, deficiencies, etc.
- Allows for the OSFM to take on more of an enforcement role, conducting compliance inspections, audits, and investigations of accidents, injuries, and law violations.
- Clearly prohibits certain activities and allows for fines and penalties.

### Act No. 574

- Relative to regulations affecting boilers and to exempt certain potable water boilers from required inspections.

### Act No. 157

- It allowed the state fire marshal, in consultation with the Louisiana Department of Health, to develop and promulgate rules to implement provisions related to the review of plans for LDH-licensed facilities. The rules shall be applicable to both public and private entities

### Act No. 262

- Many places across the State of Louisiana were booming with construction. With construction came the need to house temporary workers. More often than not, these workers were housed overnight in substandard living conditions that do not comply with any code adopted by this Legislature. Their lives were, ultimately, at risk.
- This bill sought to require these structures being used for overnight housing of temporary workers to comply with Louisiana's Industrialized Building Law.
- This would ensure that they are subject to uniform health and safety standards and inspection before being used in Louisiana.

Initiatives and projects:

**IMS:** The SFM's award-winning Information Management System website was put into service starting in 2016. The online portal has allowed operations including plan review, investigations, and inspections to become virtually paperless and operational 24/7. The efficiencies

developed as a result have improved the ability for the SFM to interact with the public, local governments and each other. In 2018, the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) recognized our IMS with its President's Award.

**USAR:** The State Fire Marshal's Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) unit partners with specialized teams in fire departments across the state during times of disaster. In 2016, these teams and their top-of-the-line resources assisted in-state with the February 24th tornado outbreak in Laplace where teams were able to identify previously unknown affected areas a 1/4 mile out from where local first responders were conducting operations. A month later, USAR teams assisted with flooding in the northeast part of the state. Then, in August, SFM personnel and USAR teams from Louisiana and Texas conducted more than 5000 rescues and evacuations in the Baton Rouge Metro area during the Great Flood.

## Louisiana Office of State Police

- On January 1, 2016, the Louisiana State Police formed Troop N by entering into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) with the City of New Orleans.
- LSP formed the Recruiting Section to actively recruit qualified applicants.
- LSP consolidated communications statewide by implementing three regionalized communications centers: Baton Rouge, Lafayette, and Alexandria.
- LSP personnel conducted missions in response to historic flooding in northern Louisiana in March 2016 and in southeast Louisiana in August 2016.
- LSP responded to multiple protests in Baton Rouge related to the death of Alton Sterling.
- LSP ESU responded to Camp Minden and completed the largest explosives remediation in the United States.
- Uniformed Criminal Patrols teams seized over \$9 million worth of illicit narcotics
- Louisiana State Analytical and Fusion Exchange (LA-SAFE) was awarded "Fusion Center of the Year" by the National Fusion Center Association.

# 02

# 2016

## Louisiana Gaming Control Board

During Governor John Bel Edwards's tenure in office, the La. Gaming Control Board has been led by three different Chairmen. Former Chairman Ronnie Jones served from Governor Edwards inauguration in January of 2016 until June of 2020. Chairman Mike Noel was appointed by the Governor in June of 2020 and served as Chairman until June of 2021. In July of 2021, Governor Edwards appointed Chairman Ronnie Johns and he continues to serve in that capacity.

The years of Governor Edwards tenure has brought some major changes to the Gaming industry in Louisiana. Over an 18 month period in in 2016/17, the Riverboat Gaming and Economic Task Force met to conduct a much needed overview of the gaming industry and what recommendations could be made to the Louisiana Legislature to modernize the statutes that govern gaming. Public hearings were held involving dozens of witnesses over an 18 month period. Every CEO of licensed gaming companies testified before this task force as well as general managers, civic stakeholders, and industry representatives. This was the first time since the inception of gaming in Louisiana in the 1990's that such a thorough overview was conducted. The result of this task force were three recommendations resulting in legislative changes that have changed the landscape of casinos in the state including a path to land based operations for the riverboats.

## Louisiana Office of State Police

- The Louisiana State Police Training Academy graduated 46 new troopers from Cadet Class 95.
- The Transportation Safety Services (TSS) Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) Compliance Review Unit (CR) received the Compliance Investigation/Review Award from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), in recognition for having the highest achieving compliance investigation/review program in the nation during FFY 2016/2017.
- LSP ESU responded to the Williams Gas Plant Explosion and a major well blowout in Red River Parish.
- The Louisiana State Police Gaming Enforcement Division developed and conducted active shooter training for first responders in each of the State's gaming markets.
- CID Detectives Section successfully investigated 38 officer-involved shootings as the lead investigative agency.
- LSP Narcotics agents seized over \$28M worth of illicit narcotics.
- SVU conducted 59 Human Trafficking cases and 69 Child Exploitation cases.
- Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information – LCJIS implemented a complete refresh of all hardware and software maintaining the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS)
- The LSP Crime Lab DNA Unit generated 1,025 Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) hits including leads in 59 homicides, 101 sexual assaults, and 54 armed robberies
- The LSP Applied Technology Section completed the statewide deployment of 170 Intoxilyzer 9000 instruments.
- Conducted Operations "Out the Box" and "Summer Heat" in the New Orleans area.
- LSP responded to Hurricanes Harvey and Nate.
- The Louisiana State Police Training Academy graduated 109 new troopers from Cadet Classes 96, 97, and 98.
- The Transportation Safety Services (TSS) Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) received the Safety Enforcement Award from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), in recognition for having the highest safety enforcement program in the Nation during Fiscal Year (FY)

# 2016

## Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles

The Office of Motor Vehicles implemented the provisions of the Real ID act and began issuing Real ID compliant driver's licenses and identification cards. Implementing a real ID compliant credential ensures that Louisiana citizens will be allowed to travel and enter federal facilities with their Louisiana issued credential.

# 2017

## Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal

Successfully Passed the Following Legislation:

### Act No. 170

Created Revised Statute 14:206.1 which criminalized engaging in life safety and property protection contracting without an OSFM-issued license.

### Act No. 346

Empower the state fire marshal with a means by which he may provide insurance coverage to volunteer members of fire companies for the treatment of heart and lung disease, stroke, and certain types of cancer.

### Act No. 427

Created an ad valorem tax exemption that would apply beginning in the tax year in which any of the emergency responders died including a volunteer firefighter, verified by the Office of the State Fire Marshal to have died while performing firefighting duties.

### Act No. 221

Cleaned up the manufactured and modular housing laws.

**Home for "The Spirit of Louisiana":** A campaign began this year to build a museum-like home for "The Spirit of Louisiana" fire truck that was donated to FDNY after 9/11 and then came back to NOFD following Hurricane Katrina. When the truck went out of service, the SFM took control and utilized the apparatus for public events and parades. This campaign, in collaboration with the Fire Marshal's Association of Louisiana and the Walk of Honor Foundation, is ongoing and aims to provide a permanent place for the public to come see "The Spirit" when the truck can no longer operate safely.

**USAR:** The SFM's USAR unit and partner teams stepped out of state to assist first responders in Texas and Florida with hurricanes Harvey and Irma by conducting hundreds of structural assessments and evacuations.

## Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles

The Office of Motor Vehicles, through its contract with Envoc, launched the first digital driver's license application in the United States known as LA Wallet. This application, as authorized by Act 625 of the 2016 Regular Legislative Session, allows an individual to purchase a digital driver's license. The digital driver's license can be utilized at roadside and is refreshed in real time, thereby, providing law enforcement with the most current information available. Offering a digital driver's license application gives citizens another means by which to carry a credential. Participation in the digital driver's license application is voluntary. In the first year, 34,300 citizens elected to purchase a digital image of their driver's license.

The Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles implemented a temporary instructional permit. By issuing the temporary instructional permit, the Office of Motor vehicles is able to establish the identity of the student prior to attending the state required driver's education class. Mandating the issuance of a temporary instructional permit prior to the driver's education course reduced the amount of fraud and potential identity theft.

## Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office

Settled Lake Washington, Mendicant Island, and West Champagne Bay Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) claims: The cash settlement amount for these three incidents, including outstanding past assessment costs and future restoration project planning and implementation costs, was \$2,082,119.29. The Trustees used a portion of the settlement funds to create additional marsh acreage immediately adjacent to the CWPPRA project known as the "Lost Lake Marsh Creation and Hydrologic Restoration Project." That project has been constructed and is in the monitoring phase. The Trustees are also utilizing settlement funds to create crevasse splay marsh habitat by implementing the South Pass Crevasse Spur Project located on the Mississippi River delta in the Pass-A-Loutre Wildlife Management Area. This project is currently in the engineering and design phase, with an expected construction start date within the next year.

## Louisiana Office of State Police

- The Transportation Safety Services (TSS) Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) Compliance Review (CR) received the Comprehensive Investigation Award from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), in recognition for having the highest achieving compliance investigation/review program in the Nation during FY 2017/2018.
- Patrol implemented an Aggressive Driving Interstate Enforcement (ADIE) element, which introduced "ghost" marked patrol vehicles to better detect aggressive drivers on interstates and other major highway systems.
- Operation Summer School was conducted in partnership with NOPD to detect, deter, identify and apprehend individuals involved in various types of criminal activity in specific crime-plagued areas of New Orleans.

- The LA-SAFE Cyber Squad was established in April 2018 in response to a growing need for technical expertise in the field of cyber threat intelligence and cybercrime.
- Completed the distribution, training, and implementation of Axon body-worn cameras to Patrol personnel.
- Implemented PowerDMS, an electronic document management system, for policy management.
- LSP personnel responded to Hurricane Barry.
- Conducted Operations "Summer School" and "Royal Box" in the New Orleans area and Shreveport areas to assist local communities with crime spikes.

## Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal

Successfully Passed the Following Legislation:

### Act No. 92

- This Act revised R.S. 40:1646, state fire marshal; owners; life safety systems and equipment inspections.
- It provides that whenever the inspecting officer finds that the owner has failed to comply with the provisions of this Section (having his life safety certified annually), the officer shall order the owner to comply.
- Whenever the inspecting officer finds life safety systems and equipment to be inoperable or not in compliance with applicable safety standards, the inspecting officer shall order the owner to have the life safety systems and equipment inspected and brought into compliance with applicable safety standards.
- Whoever fails to comply with an order issued by the fire marshal may be issued a first warning and ordered to comply with the initial order.
- Whoever fails to comply with a second order issued by the fire marshal may be fined not more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned for not more than six months, or both.
- The fire marshal may authorize a fire prevention bureau to enforce the provisions of that Section law.

### Act No. 364

- This bill allows a local government to accept OSFM determinations regarding alternative methods of compliance for building code requirements other than fire protection and life safety related. This is via an agreement established between the local government and OSFM.

- Gave local governments more opportunities and options when it comes to code enforcement of new and renovated structures in their areas.
- Without this Act, there would be no mechanism by which a local government could allow anything for anything other than the strictest interpretation of the building code, even when it economically or structurally infeasible.

### Act No. 598

- Introduced conveyance devices into the family of life safety devices regulated by the OSFM.
- Conveyance devices would now be required to be registered with the OSFM.
- In 2024, conveyances devices will be required to have annual inspections by licensed inspectors.
- Conveyance device mechanics and inspectors and their firms would be required to be licensed by the OSFM.
- The industry requested this bill to create a level of safety for this industry.

### Act. No. 211

- Updated the Firework Law

## Act. No. 357

- Gave the State Board of Architectural Examiners and the Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board access to architectural plans electronically submitted to the OSFM. The Act limits the liability of the OSFM if either of the boards breaches confidentiality.

Operation Save A Life: This campaign, started in 2012, aims to help less fortunate Louisianans prioritize fire protection with free smoke alarm installations conducted by SFM personnel and/or partner fire departments. In 2018, the SFM was successful for the first time in getting a federal grant to help boost the inventory for this program. The award helped our agency address a request backlog in the hundreds.

"Look Before You Lock": A collaborative public relations effort this year, led by LDH's Office of Public Health, focused on reducing the tragic instances of children being forgotten in hot cars. The SFM was proud to create content for this effort and to share the campaign content via traditional media and social media to elevate the message as much as possible.

USAR: Our teams were twice again called upon in 2018 by South Carolina and Florida for hurricanes Florence and Michael to assist with structural assessments and flood evacuation missions.

## Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles

The Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles established an internal project management office (OMV PMO) to ensure the success of new projects and programs through documentation and standardization for all ongoing and future OMV projects. The OMV PMO is solely responsible for ensuring timely and successful implementation of projects which has resulted in greater controls and a reduction in anticipated project timelines. Staffing the OMV PMO also allowed key OMV personnel, formerly responsible for project management, to focus on OMV program administration.

The Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles and Office of Technology Services secured the necessary staffing and began development and coding of a solution to replace OMV legacy systems and aid in migrating all existing applications off of the UNISYS mainframe.

## Louisiana Gaming Control Board

In 2018, the Board coordinated active shooter training for riverboat personnel at three regional sites. The cooperating properties closed its casino floors at three locations for several hours to permit live, real-time training through the use of specially designed scenarios. This template has served as a model throughout the country for other jurisdictions.

School safety: With schools all across the country reviewing their safety protocols, procedures, and practices, following deadly school shooting tragedies, the Office of State Fire Marshal reminded all educational facilities around Louisiana about the agency's available resources and partnership opportunities to assure the most secure environment for students. The agency issued two Interpretive Memos relative to school safety-- one was an update to an existing memo directing methods allowed for locking doors from entry while the second addressed, for the first time, the concerns of fire alarm operations and malicious activation. The development of the memos was made in collaboration with the National Fire Protection Association, as well as the National Association of State Fire Marshals.

In 2018, following our deployment to South Carolina, the SFM here and there developed a standing USAR agreement between the two states for Incident Support Team services. This memorandum of understanding aimed to reduce the lag time of EMAC requests, improve the knowledge of available assets, and limit inactivity while missions were determined. This "Thousand Mile Agreement" was put into action twice in 2019 and has been duplicated in partnerships with Florida and Oklahoma.

## Louisiana Highway Safety Commission

Successfully Passed the Following Legislation:

- ACT 130 Allows prosecution of DWIs in the city, municipal and traffic court of New Orleans under state DWI or local law and allows DWI convictions in New Orleans' city and municipal courts to be used as a prior offense for purposes of enhancing the grade of prosecution of repeat DWI offenders
- ACT 192 Repeals the prohibition against law enforcement officers issuing warning citations for violations of motor vehicle laws
- ACT 198 Increases from \$25 to \$75 the special cost assessed upon DWI conviction that is paid to the agency that owns the instrument that performed the BAC analysis
- ACT 291 Extends from 30 days to 90 days the period of time a DWI offender may request an administrative hearing for hardship driver's license, if the offender can produce documentation proving hospitalization, incarceration or other reason acceptable to DPSC
- ACT 403 Creates the offense of careless operation of a motor vehicle during flood conditions, while allowing exemption for utility, military, law enforcement or emergency services vehicles
- ACT 415 Creates the offense of reckless operation of an off-road vehicle on a public roadway or right of way, to include 3-wheelers, 4-wheelers, dirt bikes and other all-terrain vehicles
- ACT 508 Amends from 3 years to 8 years the amount of time a third or fourth DWI offender can be placed on probation if the defendant is in DWI or drug court and adds other specialty courts, such as mental health, re-entry, and veterans' courts, and prohibits DWI third and fourth offenders from earning compliance credits while in DWI/ drug court, to make substance abuse treatment more feasible

## Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office

Settled Green Canyon Block 248 NRDA: The cash settlement amount, including outstanding past assessment costs and future restoration project planning and implementation costs, was \$3,871,169.54. The Trustees intend to utilize the settlement funds from this incident to implement the South Pass Bird Island Project, the Calcasieu Lake & Sabine National Wildlife Refuge Living Shoreline Project, and Genetic Stock Assessments of Pantropical Spotted Dolphins. These projects are currently in the engineering and design/planning phase.

Launched the LOSCO small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) program to assist in oil spill response as well as restoration monitoring. LOSCO's sUAS program has flown over 150 missions, and has grown to 5 aircrafts.

## Louisiana Office of State Police

- Louisiana State Police deployed over 256 Troopers during three deployments in support of Mardi Gras 2019 in New Orleans.
- LSP participated in the Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission initiative on school safety and assessed security and safety at 1,628 K-12 schools.
- Operation "Connect the Boxes" was conducted in FY 2018/2019 and used a multi-faceted team approach, using both plainclothes personnel and uniformed foot and vehicle patrols to accomplish its mission of deterring and intercepting criminal activity in New Orleans.
- LSP Recruiting Section developed a video focusing on hiring qualified applicants for Cadet Class 100 and beyond. The phrase "What's Your Why" was utilized across social media platforms, recruiting events, websites and commodities.
- The sUAS (Small Unmanned Aircraft System) Unit was created and completed a 10-week long certification program in conjunction with the University of Louisiana Monroe (Trained 32 Troopers/ Investigators from both patrol and investigations).
- The Cyber Crime Unit (CCU) investigated a Ransomware Cyber Attack (Ryuk), which involved 22 local governments across the State of Louisiana.
- LSP personnel responded to Hurricane Barry.
- LSP personnel responded to Ruston Tornado.
- LSP was awarded the BJA Grant and COPS Grant to provide a free, comprehensive security solution to all K-12 schools. The RAVE Panic Button Mobile Solution allows schools to effectively communicate quickly with law enforcement during an emergency. The goal is to reduce response time so that the threat can be mitigated quickly and lives can be saved.
- Louisiana State Police Crime Laboratory (LSPCL) was successfully re-accredited by the top forensic laboratory accreditation body, ANAB, for another 4 years.

## Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal

Successfully Passed the Following Legislation:

### Act No. 234

- Cleaned up the Amusement Ride Law

### Act No. 11

- Provide for the issuance and use of fire department identification numbers.

### Act No. 214

- Made it clear that Fire Prevention Bureaus enforce code equivalencies determined by the Office of State Fire Marshal.

### Act No. 114

- Created a certification and registration process for fire-resistant material applicators. Provides for a civil penalty for those that do not comply.

**St. Landry Church Fires Case:** Over a ten-day period, three historically black churches were set on fire in and around Opelousas in St. Landry Parish. Within six days of that last fire, SFM personnel, alongside FBI and ATF agents, identified a suspect and made an arrest. This arrest was quickly followed by guilty pleas in state and federal courts with a 25-year sentence.

**Urban Search and Rescue (USAR):** The State Fire Marshal's Office managed multiple disaster deployments this year, both in-state and out. Our teams, which include specially trained firefighters from around the state, responded to the Mississippi River flooding event, the tornadoes in Ruston and Jackson parishes, Hurricane Barry and hurricane threats in Florida and South Carolina.

**Economic contribution:** SFM Plan Review and inspections work contributed to the completion of the New Orleans airport project, the opening of the new Children's Hospital in Baton Rouge and the new medical school building on ULM's campus.

## Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles

In an effort to reduce customer wait times and to assist in employee recruitment and retention, OMV requested a special entrance rate and premium pay for staff assigned to the New Orleans Veterans Highway and Shreveport locations. Both of these locations service a large influx of customers daily and experience higher customer wait times. In addition and to aid in reducing customer wait times, OMV received an additional 35 positions during the 2019 Legislative Session. Additional staff and retention of veteran employees will result in a decrease in wait times and an increase in effective and efficient customer service.

## Louisiana Gaming Control Board

- In 2019, the Board achieved 100% compliance with minority purchasing goals at each property for the first time in the history of gaming in Louisiana. Also in 2019, the Board required middle and senior management personnel of each casino to attend human trafficking training conducted by the Board and La. State Police.

## Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office:

- Settled Breton Island NRDA: The cash settlement amount, including outstanding past assessment costs and future restoration project planning and implementation costs, was \$8,723,394.88. The Trustees are utilizing settlement funds to create additional acreage at the North Breton Island Restoration Project currently being constructed as compensation for the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.
- Launched the Louisiana Oil Spill Management System to the public to facilitate the sharing of information between LOSCO and members of the public.

## Louisiana Highway Safety Commission

- Since 2018, LHSC has maintained the volume of sub-grantee projects that it has traditionally funded, but LHSC began expanding the number of sub-grantee recipients, especially in previously unchartered areas of the State, and LHSC implemented higher and enhanced levels of contractual deliverables expected of sub-grantees.
- Most noteworthy, LHSC created a full-time program coordinator position dedicated to diversity and inclusion outreach in 2019. The resulting engagement efforts with BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) communities and other ethnic, minority, differently abled, socio-economically disadvantaged and previously underserved populations contributed to LHSC's selection as a Semifinalist by the National Safety Council (NSC) for the 2022 Green Cross for Safety Award, leading the country in lifesaving outreach initiatives that began as intentional and proactive diversity and inclusion engagement in traffic safety, prior to directive and mandate from the federal funding source to do so. LHSC's DEI vision has never been tied to a singular metric of diversity, such as race or ethnicity, but embraces the broadest possible definition of "diversity and inclusion," thereby targeting communities and populations which are overrepresented in roadway fatality statistics, and which may have been previously absent or underrepresented in highway safety discussions. The scope and breadth of its engagement is what earned LHSC this NSC recognition, which also formed the basis for LHSC receiving its first-ever "Commendation" from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). The following litany demonstrates a sample of LHSC's DEI footprint:
  - In the Hard of Hearing/Deaf Community and the Blind Community, LHSC established new partnerships with members of the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf and Louisiana Center for the Blind, and with Louisiana's Superintendent for the Special School District, and in collaboration with high students, LHSC created and posted PSAs in American Sign Language (ASL); and created infographics messaging Occupant Protection and additionally scheduled Child Passenger Safety seat events for this demographic using ASL communication.
  - In the African-American Community, LHSC expanded its partnerships with the Bayou Classic network and New Orleans Essence Festival organizers to conduct DEI outreach and education; and grew its engagement with university campus fraternities and sororities at Louisiana HBCUs, which focused on Impaired Driving Prevention; and expanded the diversity forum style "town hall" discussions throughout the state, in high traffic safety problem areas, by mobilizing public participation, through representatives of local government, public health and safety, public education, and court system, and with involvement from non-profits and community advocates; and continued the annual traffic safety focus on Black History Month profiles that LHSC began several years ago with interviews of African-America public safety figures in Louisiana, and emphasizing the notable traffic safety contributions of African-Americans throughout our country; and continued implementing summits for diverse populations which constitute the vulnerable pedestrian and bicycling road users demographic in Louisiana; and generally merging the reach of traffic safety messaging with events, such as Juneteenth celebrations, set in African-American communities throughout the state, and in public education venues, to foster middle school awareness of Pedestrian and Biking safety practices.

- In the Hispanic Community, LHSC continued its robust community engagement by creating and posting PSAs and Infographics in Spanish related to Seat Belt Usage and Impaired Driving Prevention, and by conducting Child Passenger Safety events in Spanish; and by expanding LHSC's collaboration with its Hispanic and Spanish-speaking partners, such as Louisiana's Mexican and Honduran Consulates, the Hispanic Apostolate and Catholic Charities and YMCA on safety messaging throughout the year, and with special emphasis during Hispanic Heritage Month; and by expanding child booster seat events to serve the Hispanic and Latino communities; and through Occupant Protection presentations in pre-kindergarten through 6th grade schools which have significant Hispanic enrollment.
- In the Vietnamese Community, LHSC continued its outreach by creating and posting PSAs and Infographics in Vietnamese related to Child Passenger Safety and by implementing a New Year's Occupant Protection Campaign targeting a Vietnamese and Vietnamese-speaking audience; and by generally growing its partnerships, especially in collaboration with Catholic Charities and the Catholic Diocese.
- In the Native American and Tribal Community, LHSC has for years been funding safety initiatives for Child Passenger Safety through the Louisiana Passenger Safety Task Force, which LHSC also funds; and LHSC has amplified its outreach to Louisiana Tribal leaders by a presentation to the membership of the Louisiana Native American Commission, and subsequent engagement to Tribal leadership to offer LHSC resources and funding for these sovereign communities; and by participating in Louisiana's Native American Awareness Day full-day celebration at the State Capitol and creating a video compilation of the event, with highlights of Tribal concerns about roadway safety issues, to be shared within each Tribal sector.
- In the Military and Armed Services Community, LHSC responded to data demonstrating that military personnel are at great risk of injury or death while travelling on foot, to and from their military bases, and assembled a presentation about Pedestrian Safety for that specific need; and LHSC has continued to expand its on-base presence, educating about best safety practices off and on military installations, which include presentations during Safety Standdowns on topics of Occupant Protection, Impaired Driving Prevention, Distracted Driving, Teen Driver Safety, Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety, Motorcycle Safety and Rail Safety.
- In the Older/Mature Driver Community, LHSC initiated CarFit instruction, that offers new service and resource opportunities for the older driver population, which according to recent fatality data, represents 19% of traffic fatalities. LHSC, in collaboration with AAA, AARP Driver Safety and the American Occupational Therapy Association, is facilitating events to serve the safety needs of drivers 65 years of age and older in group and individualized settings. Because LHSC Staff has received technical training and certification to operate as a regional CarFit coordinator, LHSC can directly participate in these educational events.
- In the Young Driver Community, LHSC continues to fund programming to reach huge numbers of young drivers, 15 to 24 years of age, across Louisiana, mostly through the state school system. For instance, in 2018-19, LHSC reached at least 41,887 young drivers; in 2019-20, LHSC programs reached at least 16,661 young drivers, and even with the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, a conversion to virtual outreach allowed the programs to reach approximately 110,000 young drivers; and in 2020-21, LHSC reached at least 14,802 young drivers throughout Louisiana, which virtual programming options reaching approximately 113,000 young drivers.
- In the Vulnerable Road User Population, LHSC has undertaken robust engagement with Pedestrian and Bicycling communities. In collaboration with the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports Office, LHSC created an Annual Virtual Walkathon with targeted outreach to almost 50,000 state employees, and which is going into its fourth year of operation. In 2020, a bicycle and pedestrian social media campaign was launched in collaboration with many safety advocates at the government and non-profit level, to provide safety tips for vulnerable road users, and the resulting video was highlighted nationally. LHSC has continued to spotlight Pedestrian Safety with regular presentations, community events, PSAs, social media postings, radio and television interviews and service announcements.
- In the Motorcycling Community, LHSC has continued its public awareness work with the Motorcycle Awareness Campaign Foundation, with the distribution of hundreds of "Watch for Motorcycles" signs throughout regions of the State and with an annual Motorcycle Awareness Ride and follow up speaking engagement and expo for the past five years. LHSC continues to enhance a social media spotlight and website blog on Motorcycle Safety.
- In the Women's Reproductive Health Community, LHSC, through its funding of the Louisiana Passenger Safety Task, began and continues to target and educate pregnant and post-partum women who, according to recent crash data, are overrepresented in Louisiana traffic fatalities. Motor vehicle crashes are a primary cause of death (16%) for this demographic, and are second only to pregnancy-related causes of death. LHSC funds Occupant Protection awareness and instruction, in-person and through social media for this cohort, since their premature death is a primary consequence of failure to wear or properly use a seat belt, due to physical conditions of pregnancy and post-child birth status.
- In Women's and Children's Services, LHSC Conducted Child Passenger Safety education and outreach in collaboration with Louisiana Department Health's Child & Family Services, by engaging with socio-economically dependent mothers of infants and young children at mandatory health progress appointments, to instruct on the proper child restraint devices to use and to ensure proper installation and to provide free access to child passenger seats and services, if mothers cannot obtain child safety seats themselves.
- On matters of Rail Safety, LHSC has continued to fund Louisiana Operation Lifesaver, a nonprofit public safety and education awareness organization dedicated to reducing collisions, fatalities and injuries at highway-rail crossings and to eliminate dangerous behavior, including trespassing, on or near railroad tracks. Operation Lifesaver volunteers made 242 presentations that reached 5,832 attendees. These presentations were conducted in various venues, including schools (Pre-K, K-8 and High School), driver's education classes, and at trainings of law enforcement, firefighters, school bus drivers, professional drivers, and in outreach education to corporations, and other organizations. The volunteers also reached an additional 4,755 people by working 17 special events.
- In the Young Student Population, LHSC commenced a pilot Middle School "Traffic Safety Ambassador" Program, focusing on multiple traffic safety topics, and serving a student population which is 65% African-American and 25% Hispanic, to promote safety conversations and behavioral attitudes among an impressionable demographic.

## Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal

Successfully Passed the Following Legislation:

### Act No. 268

- Added private or commercial industrial and allied emergency services to the list of groups subject to training by LSU-FETI.
- Added members to the FETI Commission.
- Redefined the duties of the FETI Commission
- Required that the FETI Commission be apprised of all grant opportunities.

### Urban Search and Rescue (USAR):

**Puerto Rico:** A team of SFM personnel including enforcement and Plan Reviewers deployed to Puerto Rico following a devastating earthquake to help conduct damage assessments on homes and businesses.

**Operation Save A Life:** In 2020, the SFM was named the recipient of the largest FEMA grant award for Operation Save-A-Life in the program's existence. The Fire Prevention and Safety grant award, totaling more than \$168,000, brought in more than 17,000 smoke alarms to the program's inventory which was installed by SFM personnel and their partner fire departments in the homes of Louisiana families that need them most. The backlog of requests and demand following the announcement was so great that these installations were complete within months with the backlog fully addressed.

## Louisiana Highway Safety Commission

Successfully Passed the Following Legislation:

### ACT 41

- Authorizes judges to order second and subsequent DWI offenders to undergo a substance use disorder assessment by a physician and receive medically assisted treatment

### ACT 152

- Affords electric bicycles same rights as bicycles, and excludes them from definition of motor vehicle, ATV, or motorcycle

## Louisiana Office of State Police

- COVID drastically impacted the operations of all State agencies.
- LA-SAFE established 24/7 operations on January 1, 2020. LA-SAFE became a 24-hour center and truly became the clearinghouse for cyber incidents. CCU worked 64 network intrusion cases in 2020. These include 5 ESF-17 deployments, 8 ransomware events that involved total network destruction and 25 incidents for local / parish government entities.
- The Office of State Police partnered with Mark43 to offer a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and integrated Records Management System (RMS). The platform allows LSP to provide increased efficiency of dispatching and monitoring calls dispatched to Uniform Troopers.
- LSP personnel responded to Hurricanes Laura, Delta, and Zeta.
- LSP provided security at three different COVID Isolation Sites throughout the state. LSP provided security at the Medical Monitoring Station (MMS) at the Morial Convention Center. At the same time, Troopers provided security in over 30 hotels during non-congregate sheltering. During the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the LSP EOC was activated and staffed for. 64 days managing PPE distribution, implementing departmental safety guidelines and procedures, and coordinating security missions at isolation sites and medical monitoring stations.
- The Legislature authorized Fantasy Sports in Louisiana. The LSP Gaming Enforcement Division worked diligently to promulgate rules and facilitate the applications for fantasy sports operations in Louisiana.
- The Office of State Police partnered with Rave Mobile Safety to offer an emergency notification system, Rave Alert, capable of sending users text and e-mail messages.
- LSP personnel responded to Hurricanes Laura, Delta, and Zeta.

## Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office

Settled Raphael Pass NRDA: The cash settlement amount, including outstanding past assessment costs and future restoration project planning and implementation costs, was \$460,569,67. The Trustees are in the process of drafting the Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan (DARP), which will, among other things, present the Trustees' preferred restoration alternative to the public for comment.

## Louisiana Office of State Police

- LSP began Cadet Class 100 on December 5th, which employed 65 LSP Cadets.
- Department legislation was passed to include:
  - Enhancing the survivors benefits for officers killed in the line of duty as well as provisions for service-related heart attacks and/or strokes
  - Creating law that ensures privileged communication within police peer support programs
  - Strengthening of human trafficking and child sex crimes laws
- The Cyber Crime Unit's Lookout project, which is a centralized honeypot framework, identified 1,637,000 unique Indicators of Compromise (IOC), which have assisted in eight (8) separate federal investigations, which were led by Homeland Security Investigations, Secret Service, and the FBI.
- Louisiana State Police, Police Logistical Services/Fleet Operations completed the purchase, up-fit, and dissemination of 246 Police Pursuit Vehicles (PPV) three months ahead of schedule. This task involved researching, testing, and installing new equipment and conducting an extensive analysis of the section's up-fit process, all while dealing with a significantly reduced workforce because of COVID-19.
- CID pioneered and implemented the Violent Crime Abatement Committee (VCAC) concept in Shreveport to address a surge in violence detected over the past 12-18 months. This committee, which consists of all law enforcement and prosecutorial stakeholders in the area, developed a strategic, multi-pronged effort to turn the tide on violence. This concept is spreading to other cities throughout Louisiana.

- The DOC and BRCC are partnering together to offer educational opportunities for offenders. LSP's involvement will be getting qualified and interested individuals assigned to the State Police Barracks the chance to become certified in automotive repair, carpentry, HVAC, food services, and possibly electrical repair. On-line classes will be held at night, through secure software, with the practical applications and testing to take place at the job sites using equipment that is in place.
- LSP Crime Lab successfully began the TrueAllele program. This state of the art software uses probabilistic genotyping to determine the profile of a DNA evidence submitted by the law enforcement agency, and cross-references this profile against known DNA profiles in the CODIS system.
- LSP played a major role in response to the 2021 Ice Storm in North LA (Troop G and F).
- The Legislature authorized Sports Wagering / Betting in Louisiana. The LSP Gaming Enforcement Division worked tirelessly and efficiently to draft rules, regulations, and license operators for in-person Sports Wagering at the 20 Louisiana Casinos. Eight (8) Casinos are currently operational with seven (7) others in the licensing process and five (5) more preparing their applications for submission.
- LSP responded to Hurricane Ida.

## Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal

Successfully Passed the Following Legislation:

### Act No. 114

- Funds deposited into the Louisiana Fire Marshal Fund shall remain in the fund.

### HCR No. 99

- Legislature of Louisiana urged and requested that Louisiana State University and the office of state fire marshal, work together, to enter into the necessary agreements to enhance the training of firefighters to reduce the number of fatalities in the state of Louisiana, reduce the costs of fire prevention and fire suppression, and reduce the costs associated with property damage caused by fire or explosion.

### Act No. 342

- Provided that four (4) percent (%) of the tax on surplus lines be credited to the Louisiana Fire Marshal Fund as provided for in R.S. 22:835.

### Act No. 29

- Provided the proper mechanism for the Louisiana Manufactured Housing Commission to obtain criminal history records from the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information for purposes related to licensure by the Manufactured Housing Commission.

## Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles

# 2021

OMV worked with NIC Louisiana to redesign Expresslane.org in January 2021. The remodeled website further simplifies interactions with state government and enhances the overall citizen experience. After the relaunch, the website set new monthly records for users in both January and March. The website redesign and additional services being provided online contributed to a 35% increase of the number of new users accessing the site as reported by Google Analytics. The newly redesigned website won two prestigious international creative awards. Expresslane.org earned gold in the 2021 Hermes Creative Awards and silver in the 2021 MUSE Creative Awards.

The Office of Motor Vehicles began streamlining oversight processes of public tag agent's (PTA) and auto title companies (ATC) to ensure adequate time was spent on high priority items such as training and accountability. The Office of Motor Vehicles, to further aid oversight activities, requested the ability to establish additional positions to be dedicated to oversight activities. The increase to staff was necessary to accommodate the growing number of PTA's and ATC's and to ensure motor vehicle registration and titling laws are enforced, taxes owed are paid, vehicles are properly registered and the citizens of Louisiana are not defrauded. The streamlined oversight practices and additional positions have allowed the Office to perform one on one onsite training of PTA's

and increase the number of site visits performed. These initiatives have allowed OMV to uncover and address multiple files which were processed incorrectly and taxes that were improperly assessed. It also allowed OMV to proactively work with the entities to reduce a number of errors before they occur and non-renew or terminate contracts with those entities that were not performing in an acceptable manner

In December 2021, Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles began issuing an optional "Autism" indicator to driver's licenses. Qualified applicants include any person diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder by a qualified medical or mental health professional. The autism indicator will appear under the customer's picture on the license. The autism indicator is optional and can be removed from a credential at any time, as requested by the applicant. The "Autism" designation can be displayed on any class driver's license, including the TIP. The autism indicator improves public safety and situational awareness. It allows an individual, who meets the requirements and chooses to take advantage of this option, to add the autism indicator to their driver's license. Autistic individuals and law enforcement will benefit from this change allowing the law enforcement officer to have a better understanding of why an individual may behave in a certain manner and provide the autistic individual with a safer, more comfortable encounter with law enforcement.

## Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office

- Settled Calcasieu River NRDA: The cash settlement amount, including outstanding past assessment costs and future restoration project planning and implementation costs, was \$19,160,000. The Trustees proposed the following suite of restoration actions to fully compensate the public for the natural resources and services injured as a result of this incident:
  - Long Point Bayou Marsh Creation (CS-0085) Project;
  - Construction of an oyster cultch project in the Lower Calcasieu River estuary;
  - Houma Navigation Canal (HNC) Bird Island Project; and
  - Recreational fishing enhancement projects.
- CS-0085 is currently being constructed. The other projects are in varying stages of engineering and design and/or planning.
- Settled Gretna-Mississippi River (aka Barge DMg32) NRDA: In addition to requiring the responsible party to directly fund the transfer of approximately 650 acres of land for conservation purposes (at an estimated market value of more than \$3.2 million), the responsible party was required to pay the Trustees \$2,071,212 to fund future restoration efforts. The Trustees selected the following suite of restoration actions to fully compensate the public for the natural resources and services injured as a result of this incident:
  - Woodlands Acquisition, Management, and Recreational Enhancement Project. This project provided for the acquisition and legal protection of approximately 650-acres of contiguous

coastal forested wetland habitat in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, ensuring that ecological, bird and wildlife, and recreational services continue into the future. Settlement funds received will also go towards habitat and recreational enhancements on the protected property;

- Construction of a crevasse splay project in the Lower Mississippi River; and
- Recreational fishing enhancement projects.

The 650-acre property has been transferred to a land conservation group and conserved in perpetuity. The other projects are in varying stages of engineering and design and/or planning.

- Settled Mooringsport NRDA: The cash settlement amount, including outstanding past assessment costs and future restoration project planning and implementation costs, was \$1,213,037.56. The Trustees selected the implementation of the Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery Alligator Snapping Turtle Head-Start Project as one component of the preferred restoration alternative for this NRDA. The Trustees are still evaluating restoration projects to compensate for injuries to mixed forest, bayhead swamp and aquatic habitat.
- Settled Taylor Energy NRDA: \$16,500,000 will go to the State and Federal Trustees for NRDA. The State and Federal Trustees reserved with the right to submit additional claims to the Federal Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund if it is determined that this amount is less than the full amount of natural resource damages resulting from the incident.

# 2021

## Louisiana Highway Safety Commission

Successfully Passed the Following Legislation:

- **ACT 78** Amends law requiring drivers to yield right of way to parked vehicles flashing amber or yellow warning lights to include vehicles flashing green warning lights
- **ACT 203** Amends definition of "autocycle" to include partially enclosed seating area and controlled by a steering mechanism instead of steering wheel

- **ACT 261** Requires more comprehensive record review of applicant for a commercial driver's license
- **ACT 317** Makes changes to law relative to crash reports and the reporting process
- **ACT 478** Authorizes DOTD, LSP, and LHSC to establish a highway safety corridor program based on crash data

# 2022

## Louisiana Office of State Police

- Operational enhancements and initiatives
- Creation of the Force Investigation Unit as a statewide unit comprised of specially trained detectives that investigate DPS-related Use of Force incidents including, but not limited to, deadly force, retaliatory force, and in-custody deaths.
- Administration of an ongoing, comprehensive assessment by The Bowman Group to proactively identify opportunities to enhance operational capability, efficiency, and accountability at all levels.
- Creation of the Professional Standards & Compliance Section to oversee, coordinate, and implement the numerous opportunities for growth, advancement, and enhancement revealed to our agency through our ongoing assessment.
- Implementation of technological enhancements including electronic citations, a new electronic crash reporting solution, expanded use of our records management system/computer aided dispatch, and a unified public records intake/response system.
- Louisiana State Police was accepted into the Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) Project allowing the department to demonstrate a firm commitment to transformational reform with support from local community groups and elected leaders. Louisiana State Police joins a select group of more than 215 other law enforcement agencies and training academies both regional and statewide from across North America.

## Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal

Successfully Passed the Following Legislation:

### Act No. 458

- Provided that at the time of sale or lease of a one- or two-family dwelling, it shall have, at minimum, an operable carbon monoxide detector with a life-long sealed battery.
- Provided that professional installers of generators in one- or two-family dwellings shall also install at that time an operable carbon monoxide detector with a life-long sealed battery.

### Act No. 757

- Transfer of the Fire and Emergency Training Institute and the responsibility and administration of firefighter training programs from Louisiana State University to the Office of State Fire Marshal. The Office of State Fire Marshal has now been designated as the official agency for firefighter training. The new agency is referred to as the Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Academy (FETA). Since this transition, the new FETA leadership has expanded training offerings

and accessibility across Louisiana and mended relationships with previous partners and customers that had been lost to private industry training services.

### FETA Takeover

- Act No. 231 of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session provided for the transfer of the Fire and Emergency Training Institute and the responsibility and administration of firefighter training programs from Louisiana State University to the Office of State Fire Marshal.
- The Office of State Fire Marshal has now been designated as the official agency for firefighter training.
- The new agency is referred to as the Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Academy (FETA).
- Since this transition, the new FETA leadership has expanded training offerings and accessibility across Louisiana and mended relationships with previous partners and customers that had been lost to private industry training services.



## Leadership Transition

- In May of 2022, the State Fire Marshal's Office experienced a proud transition in leadership as the state's longest tenured fire marshal retired and his long-time second-in-command was chosen by Governor Edwards to take the reins.
- State Fire Marshal Chief Dan Wallis has continued moving the agency in the progressive direction it has been going for the past 14 years providing the citizens of Louisiana with expert plan review services, thorough building safety inspections, quick and quality arson investigations, robust emergency/disaster response and reliable oversight of the life safety and property protection industry across our state.

## Increased Home Safety Protections

- The State Fire Marshal's Office partnered with a New Orleans-area lawmaker to pass legislation requiring carbon monoxide alarms in all homes sold or leased starting Jan. 1, 2023.

## Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles

- **Language Line Interpreting Services:** OMV began offering a free, language interpretation service to non-English-speaking customers, including customers that communicate via sign language. The service is available at all 79 OMV field office locations and through the OMV call center. This vital service empowers our customers and allows our agency to continue providing the highest level of customer service in an innovative fashion. The service is quick, reliable and secure. It complies with ADA laws pertaining to services for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. The ADA requires that title II entities (State and local governments) communicate effectively with people with communication disabilities. The goal is to ensure that communication with people with these disabilities is equally effective as communication with people without disabilities.
- Improved field office efficiency and quality of customer service
  - Implemented 6-year ID renewals
    - Previously IDs were 4-year renewals; by renewing less often, we will see less foot traffic and limit the amount of times a customer has to physically take time off of work and go into a field office.
  - Added Class E driving tests to appointment options
    - OMV began offering Class E driving tests by appointment in every parish in Louisiana. This increased field office efficiency and improved customer service by reducing wait times.
  - Reopened storm-damaged offices and offices that relocated to new buildings. The end of these long-term closures provided additional service options for residents. (Kenner-Ida, Sulphur-Laura, Bossier-New Office)
  - Extended call center hours for reinstatements and added a voicemail option for residents to receive a callback from OMV.

- The move comes after a number of tragic deaths and near-deaths tied to generator-induced carbon monoxide poisonings in the wake of numerous hurricanes in 2020 and 2021.
- This legislation joins a similar safety measure put in place more than a decade ago that began requiring smoke alarms in all homes to quickly alert families when there is a fire emergency so that everyone can escape safely.
- Since 2012, the agency's Operation Save-A-Life has contributed to the effort to get smoke alarms in all Louisiana homes by partnering with local fire departments to install smoke alarms in homes for free.
- And in 2022, the agency received the largest federal grant award for the program in its existence allowing for the purchase, distribution and free installation of 17,000 smoke alarms in every corner of our state within six months of receipt of that grant award.
- Successful partnerships/deals with the federal government and other states

- OMV collaborated with federal and state agencies to educate motorists on recognizing the signs of human trafficking and how to respond to possible cases. OMV's human trafficking awareness campaign featured billboards across high-trafficked roadways in Baton Rouge, Covington, Hammond, New Orleans, Shreveport and Slidell. The agency also ran informative commercials at gas station pump TVs urging drivers to utilize the anonymous and confidential National Human Trafficking Hotline at (888) 373-7888. Drivers were also encouraged to text HELP or INFO to BEFREE (233733) if they suspect human trafficking. Posters, informational brochures, window decals and wallet cards were also available to guests at select OMV field office locations.

## Louisiana Highway Safety Commission

Successfully Passed the Following Legislation:

- **ACT 334** Requires all persons arrested for DWI be fingerprinted and the fingerprint record be filed in a database
- **ACT 393** Removes requirement that Licensed Practical Nurse can only draw blood with subpoena or court order
- **ACT 478** Prohibits smoking or vaping marijuana by a driver or passenger in a motor vehicle while on public road
- **ACT 615** Removes the minimum 12-month probation period for defendants enrolled in drug court
- **ACT 673** Adds felony DWI and first degree vehicular negligent injuring to the existing law relative to enhanced penalties, including increased jail time, for driving under suspension for manslaughter, vehicular homicide, or negligent homicide
- LHSC was selected as a Semifinalist by the National Safety Council (NSC) for the 2022 Green Cross for Safety Award. LHSC was nominated for work being conducted in diversity outreach in traffic safety as Louisiana leads the nation in these lifesaving efforts.
- LHSC provided the federal funding for the development and implementation of the update to the Uniform Motor Vehicle Traffic Crash Report and the creation of a new electronic crash report system, eCrash, for use by all law enforcement agencies in Louisiana.
  - This work was guided by the Crash Report Steering Committee, which was a collaboration between the LHSC, the Louisiana State Police, and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.
  - This updated crash report and new electronic crash reporting system align with the Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria (MMUCC) 5th Edition.

- LHSC received two grant awards from GHSA and Responsibility.org.
  - One award will be used to purchase hydrogen, compressed-air, and zero-air generators for the Northwest Louisiana Criminalistics Laboratory, which provides forensic toxicology services for 29 of Louisiana's 64 parishes.
    - This new equipment will be used to test blood samples from suspected impaired drivers for a wider analysis of drugs, including inhalants.
  - The second grant will be used to contract with a forensic toxicologist, who can provide expert analysis and courtroom testimony in drug-impaired prosecutions.
- Such cases can be more complex than alcohol-impaired driving cases, and prosecutors sometimes end up settling for lesser charges or dismiss the cases due to a current lack of forensic support.
- GHSA and Responsibility.org said this "first-of-its-kind on-call toxicology program...can be a model for other states" because it can identify dangerous, drug-impaired drivers, get them off the streets and into proper treatment and monitoring programs.
- Giving law enforcement the tools to identify alcohol- and drug-impaired drivers and expanded testing is critical for protecting all roadway users," GHSA and Responsibility.org said in a news release announcing the grants.
- Louisiana, Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland, and Nevada were the only five states to receive this grant funding.

# 2022

## Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office

Through 2022, the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office managed response activities on approximately 400 oil spill incidents while working to finalize settlements for several natural resource restoration projects across the state.

- This coordination helps ensure that those responsible for oil spills in Louisiana appropriately respond to incidents and clean up the oil and environment.

LOSCO worked with the United States Department of Justice, Taylor Energy Company (TEC), and other parties to finalize the settlement/Consent Decree resolving claims against TEC from the discharge of oil from TEC's former oil production facility in the Gulf of Mexico, which began when the facility was damaged during Hurricane Ivan in September of 2004.

- The settlement provides the State and Federal trustees with \$16.5 million to be used for natural resource restoration projects.

LOSCO led the State and Federal natural resource trustees in finalizing a Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan (DARP) for two natural resource damage assessment (NRDA) settlements – the 2006 Calcasieu River oil spill and the 2014 Mid-Valley Pipeline oil spill.

- These documents, which are prerequisites to moving forward with restoration projects, identify the natural resources and services that were determined to be injured for each incident, describe the assessment procedures used to quantify injury, outline the scaling techniques and restoration alternative selection process, and present the trustees' preferred plan to restore natural resources or services equivalent to those lost.

## Gaming Control Board

While the rollout of retail Sports Betting occurred in the latter part of 2021, the rollout of mobile Sports Betting came in early February of 2022.

- Mobile betting now accounts for approximately 85% of all Sports Betting.
- Through the end of October, Sports Betting has produced right at \$27 million of state revenue, 25% of that going to Early Childhood Education and smaller amounts to a variety of other programs.
- There have been no major problems with the geo fencing of the nine parishes who voted NO on the referendum along with out of state bettors attempting to participate in our program.

Five legacy riverboat licenses have been approved and are now underway to build state of the art land based casinos.

- Not only are the land based casinos much safer and healthier but they also provide many more amenities for the customer base.
- This provides approximately \$700 million of capital improvements and well over 1000 new employees once completed and operational.

Working closely with the State Police Gaming Division and the Attorney General's Office Gaming Division, outdated gaming rules and regulations are being reviewed and revised.

# 2023

## Louisiana Highway Safety Commission

Successfully Passed the Following Legislation:

- **ACT 362** Provides for safety protocols for elementary school students when being dropped off at and picked up from school
- **ACT 409** Eliminates the waiting period to receive a hardship driver's license upon the immediate installation of an ignition interlock device, and also reduces the BAC level from .20g% to .15g% that triggers enhanced administrative penalties for a DWI offender
- **SB 82** Eliminates the waiting period for a hardship driver's license upon immediate installation of an ignition interlock device which must remain on the DWI offender's vehicle for the entire period of driver's license suspension



# Challenges Met

# 03

## Louisiana Office of State Police

### 2016 floods:

- Consistent and constant messaging regarding interstate/highway closures; displaced families and vehicles
- LSP worked closely and in coordination with DOTD on manning all major road closures
- 56 Troopers displaced from flooding however they continued to work during this disaster
- Troopers in the area of the Holden overpass on I-12 identified all medical needs of those stranded motorists; 200-300 people ages 5mo – 94 years old
- During coordination, 35 people evacuated to shelters via high water vehicles (those people were the only ones initially willing to leave their vehicles)
- LSP delivered water and MREs; once LSP Air Support was able to land, food, baby supplies and water were delivered
- 30,000 rescues; 1,851 rescued pets
- Nearly 200 motor vehicle crashes investigated
- Provided security at shelters
- LSP coordinated with groups offering assistance from LA and nationwide

### COVID-19:

- LSP provided on-site security to COVID Isolation Sites statewide on a 24 hr basis
- Security 24/7 was provided at the NOLA Convention Center for hospital surge site
- Traffic Control and security was set up/monitored/manned at testing sites statewide
- Ensured all sections have reviewed/updated their COOP Plans and are prepared to maintain operations should a significant number of employees become incapacitated, focusing on the following areas:
  - Essential functions,
  - Key personnel,
  - Decision processes,
  - Orders of succession (chain of command),
  - Mission critical systems.

- Reviewed all security plans for possible missions related to COVID-19, including:
  - Commodities Escorts
  - Activation of the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)
  - Chempack Security
  - Coordinating security at Points of Distribution Sites (PODs).
  - Coordinating with DCFS and LANG regarding shelter security plans in the event a hurricane, or other natural disaster, requires sheltering to occur.
    - Specifically, how we plan to protect our security assets along with the sheltered population.

### Hurricane Laura:

- As Troopers monitored evacuation routes, PIOs shared pertinent traffic information while coordinating closely with DOTD, GOHSEP, LSP EOC, and local agencies.
- PIOs conducted numerous interviews with local media and maintained a constant presence on social media to keep citizens informed and engaged with emergency procedures.
- At Troop D, 26 Troop personnel remained at the Troop as the storm pushed inward
- As if the storm damage was not enough, Hazmat Troopers, who had not slept in more than 24 hours were now being called to respond to a chlorine leak in the Lake Charles area
- Troopers who had sustained personal loss, were now out working to clear roadways and help their fellow citizens
- Despite over 100 Troopers sustaining damage to their personal property, our LSP values of selfless service and duty remained a priority.
- As conditions improved, PIOs began immediate post-storm assessments with Patrol Troopers helping to clear roadways, rescue trapped residents, search heavily damaged residential areas, and provide public safety services to affected communities.
- Throughout the immediate post-storm response, PIOs continued to create digital content sharing storm damage, impassable roadways, and images of Troopers assisting throughout the state.
- While maintaining 24 hour EOC staffing, LSP PA coordinated with the Governor's Communications team to provide information for daily UCG calls, facilitate regular media briefings at the LSP Training Academy, and produce daily LSP operational briefing pamphlets for the LSP Command Staff.

### Hurricane Ida:

- LSP responded to Hurricane Ida in Southeast Louisiana. Hundreds of Troopers responded to the affected areas for community safety, proactive looting patrols, troop operations support, essential supply escorts and road closure assignments. LSP staffed the EOC on a 24hr basis for several weeks coordinating public safety missions across the state. Throughout the response, LSP social media reach totaled nearly 13 million views over 100 individual posts providing proactive messaging, pre and post storm coverage, and vital information related to storm response and supplies.
- Most of the Hurricane Laura response is applicable to Hurricane Ida also
- Public Affairs was able to increase our "Alert" status with Facebook. The localized "Alerts" were extremely successful at reaching a large amount of people in the affected area. These alerts were reserved for the most important information, including interstate closures and pertinent public safety advisories.

- Every day missions including directing traffic and manning gas distribution points went a long way to improve our public perception.
- Directing traffic at intersections with inoperative traffic signals relieved stress for motorists and showed we were proactive in helping the community.
- Our MFF passed out water and conducted hands-on fueling operations, which was also noticed and appreciated by storm-affected residents waiting for fuel. These acts were documented and posted to our social media accounts.
- Troopers in affected areas were extremely grateful to LSP for providing generator fuel (10 gallons) per day. The morale at the Troops was higher once this was put in place.

## Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles

The COVID-19 pandemic hit OMV extremely hard since we are a customer-facing agency. All OMV offices closed at the onset of the pandemic in March 2020. We had to quickly rethink how to ensure continuity and provide necessary services to our residents despite the new restrictions. First, we had to make every possible modification to our offices. We followed the guidelines most businesses were using and installed Plexiglas barriers at each workstation and required facemasks and social distancing. We implemented an appointment system to help control foot traffic in the field offices and eliminate large crowds in our lobbies. Even with the appointment scheduling system, we allow walk-in customers when time permits. Due to the amount of no-shows and appointment cancellations, we can accommodate most walk-in customers promptly. Louisiana residents have been receptive and the majority love this new system. OMV has received an unprecedented amount of positive feedback through social media, Google reviews and email communications regarding the online scheduling system. Residents seeking reinstatement services, including installment agreements, are now assisted via our call center, mail or a Public Tag Agent. We began utilizing a call center solution that allows us to monitor our phone staff and it records every call from anywhere with internet connectivity. Since most of our reinstatement staff work remotely, we can keep phone lines

open later on weeknights and weekends, when necessary. This flexibility is useful during the influx of reinstatement phone calls we encounter each year during tax return season. The call center is a major benefit to our reinstatement customers since the majority of reinstatement services take a minimum of 20-30 minutes with an agent and can be done from anywhere. Redirecting reinstatement services from field offices also allows us to serve customers in the office that simply need driver's licenses or vehicle services more efficiently. Additionally, we began posting real-time office wait times twice daily (11 am and 2 pm) on our website at [expresslane.org](http://expresslane.org). We are seeing a drastic decrease from the 70-minute wait times a few years back. These changes came because of COVID-19 but OMV quickly saw the benefit to our customers and the need to continue many of these protocols even after the COVID-19 surges. We rarely get customer complaints about wait times at any of our offices, especially those offices that allow appointments. We have also noticed a drastic improvement in staff morale. Our employees now have more balance in their home and work life. They can leave work on time and no longer come to work only to see lines wrapped around the building. The pandemic ushered in a new and improved way of life for OMV customers and our personnel.

## Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, LOSCO continued to operate at full strength by implementing work from home procedures and careful health and safety measures for required field and in-person work. As a result of this effort, LOSCO was able to continue its mission of responding to oil spills and working on NRDA claims while avoiding cases of inter-office spread of Covid-19.

LOSCO was an active participant in the State's response to pollution incidents after Hurricanes Laura, Delta, and Ida. LOSCO received 1,737 oil spill notifications for Hurricane Laura, 388 for Hurricane Delta, and 2,409 for Hurricane Ida. LOSCO worked with Federal and State partners to de-conflict these thousands of spill notifications and identify potential incidents needing immediate response. LOSCO responders participated in post-storm overflights and other oil spill incident site assessments and provided response oversight and coordination.

## Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal

**2016 floods:** During the Great Flood of 2016, the SFM conducted at least 5,000 rescues in a 36-hour timeframe.

**COVID-19:** At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the SFM was proud to be able to acquire PPE when hardly any was to be found in order to outfit the state's fire service with means to protect themselves on service calls from what was initially a very unknown and concerning virus. Following the governor's 'Stay at Home' directive in the spring, our agency worked quickly to develop the OpenSafely program which was not only a critical source of information for Louisiana's business community, but an outlet for the public to lodge complaints and a portal for our partnered enforcement efforts that provided an easy method of logging compliance inspections and tracking enforcement data. More than 30,000 businesses registered with the site to receive the governor's mitigation measure updates throughout the pandemic. From the start of the OpenSafely portal on May 4th, 2020, when Phase 1 began, to the end of the last mask mandate on October 27, 2021, the SFM, along with its partners LDH and ATC, conducted 19,296 inspections and responded to 6,136 complaints. Those teams worked diligently to foster a working relationship with the state's business community. That relationship was rooted in education and a spirit of cooperation which we believe led to an overall excellent rate of compliance among Louisiana's businesses. Lastly, as the COVID-19 vaccines became available to the public, the SFM assisted by coordinating vaccine sites for both the fire service and the public.

**Hurricanes Laura, Delta and Ida:** As the agency that manages the state's Urban Search and Rescue Task Force, we responded to seven storm incidents in 2020, each time coordinating dozens of firefighters from across the state to stage for and deploy to areas of our state either forecast to be impacted and/or directly impacted by tropical systems. At least two of those deployments saw upwards of 500 USAR technicians from around the country, including FEMA teams, thanks to our teams' reputation for being effective, innovative and reliable partners in disaster response over the past few years. One of the highlights of our program is its use of technology to conduct damage assessments that have evolved into assisting communities with applying for recovery funds, helping utility companies with restoration efforts, and identifying polling locations with power challenges in order to get them back online in time for election day. In a letter of commendation from a FEMA mitigation division director, the agency's ability "to collect data and turn it into intelligence" was hailed as a "best practice" that is being noticed nationwide.

The SFM's response to Hurricane Ida included more than 1300 USAR members from across the country. These teams rescued/evacuated more than 2,400 people and conducted more than 44,000 damage assessments. In addition, more than 800 firefighters from across the country and more than 100 apparatus were deployed to affected communities to respond to 911 calls on behalf of fire departments with personnel, stations and equipment directly impacted by the storm. The public safety campaign regarding generator safety was again in play including hundreds of yard signs and thousands of carbon monoxide alarms. While six people did lose their lives due to generator-related causes, many more stories were shared of lives saved by carbon monoxide alarms. This experience also highlighted a new threat from whole-home, standby generators that allowed our agency to update our generator safety messaging to address those additional hazards.

In 2021, the SFM, in its Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) coordination capacity, responded to major storm Hurricane Ida with the largest USAR pre-response in known USAR response history across the US with 900+ USAR personnel staged in Louisiana hours before landfall. The response personnel grew to more than 1,300 at its height with teams from 20 states. These teams rescued and/or evacuated more than 2,600 Louisiana residents from the more than 44,000 structures searched. More than 800 firefighters from across Louisiana, and about a dozen other states, helped affected fire departments with manpower, trucks and equipment in order for them to continue to answer emergency calls in their hard-hit communities. In total, more than 5,500 calls were answered. The SFM also led a continued generator safety campaign before, during and after Hurricane Ida that included messaging on 1,700 yard signs and the distribution of 5,000 carbon monoxide alarms into affected communities.

**COVID-19:** When the COVID-19 pandemic triggered a statewide Stay At Home order, the State Fire Marshal's Office initiated a fire education campaign dubbed "Stay Home Safely" that aimed to help Louisianans be more aware of the fire hazards around their home while they were spending more time there as well as to share tips on how to prevent fire dangers by changing or eliminating the identified hazards.

**OpenSafely:** As the state planned to open businesses back up during the pandemic, the State Fire Marshal's Office led the charge with the development of the OpenSafely system that allowed for businesses to register to receive updated guidance as the state progressed through the phases of opening. The system also allowed for the public to log complaints and for SFM personnel and partner fire departments to conduct enforcement activities to ensure compliance with the phased regulations. This system was key to communicating and partnering with the public to keep Louisiana as safe as possible while navigating through the unprecedented worldwide, public health emergency.

**Laura:** The SFM partnered with more than 400 USAR personnel from local fire departments, other states and FEMA to respond to Hurricane Laura. The biggest response piece was following nine carbon monoxide-related deaths associated with generator use. The agency launched a public safety campaign regarding generators that included putting out thousands of yard signs and distributing thousands of carbon monoxide alarms. The SFM's successful use of the Survey 123 technology to assist with quick damage assessment led to the state getting one of the fastest federal disaster declarations in its history. And because of the SFM's impactful experience with that program, FEMA adopted our use, procedures and protocols for its own disaster response.

**Delta:** Six weeks later, the same section of the state was hit by another significant storm in Hurricane Delta. The SFM's USAR response topped 500 personnel that conducted more than 100 rescues and/or evacuation missions. The public safety campaign regarding generators following Laura continued leading up to and after Delta which seemed to have a lasting impact due to zero carbon monoxide-related deaths being reported.

**Zeta:** More than 100 SFM and USAR personnel responded to Tropical Storm Zeta's impact on Louisiana. While this storm was less damaging than the two earlier in the year, offering affected communities assistance and resources was critical and reengaging the public safety campaign regarding generator safety was, once again, successful.

# Leaving Louisiana Better Than We Found It

# 04

## Louisiana Gaming Control Board

In 2018, the Louisiana Legislature approved legislation for a path for the old legacy riverboats to move land side into new land based casinos.

In 2019, The Board approved the first application for a land based casino for the Isle of Capri license in Westlake, La. Due to the shutdown mandated by Covid19 and then the destruction of that property by Hurricane Laura in 2020, the actual construction of this land based property was delayed. Construction by its parent company Caesars resumed in 2021 and ultimately was completed and opened in December of 2022. This was approximately a \$250 million investment by Caesars.

In 2020, the Board worked with the Governor's office in an unprecedented closure of gaming operations in March of 2020 in response to Covid-19. Louisiana was the first state to shutter its casinos. Chairman Jones chaired the Gaming Task Force for the Louisiana Resilience Commission in developing plans to resume gaming operations in Louisiana. Due to the closure by Covid-19 and adverse market conditions, the Diamondjacks property in Bossier City did not reopen its doors.

In 2020, the Louisiana Legislature also approved a referendum vote to allow the Diamonjacks property to move its license and construct a land based casino in St. Tammany Parish. The voters of St. Tammany defeated that referendum by a margin of 64% No and 36% Yes. With that decision being made, the Board moved forward to begin a process of requiring that license to be terminated. The license holder, P2E then moved forward to sell the property in Bossier City to Foundation Gaming, a reputable gaming company based in Mississippi.

In the early spring of 2023, Foundation Gaming petitioned the Board to sell its interest in the property to The Cordish Companies, a Maryland based gaming company with extensive experience in both the gaming and hospitality industry country wide. Cordish is now undergoing the suitability process through La. State Police Gaming and once approved the Board will entertain its final plans for approval of a major investment in the Bossier City market. This will include a new land based casino as well as a 100% renovation of its 400 room hotel, entertainment venues, restaurants, and retail space. The Board anticipates a \$275-\$300 million investment along with 700 new jobs in that casino market.

Also at this time, we have three other licenses that have been approved by the Board and now under construction for land based casinos.

- The Treasure Chest in Kenner is investing approximately \$100 million in its land based casino with new restaurants and entertainment venues. Completion is expected in late 2024.
- The Hollywood property in Baton Rouge is under construction now for its land based casino with an anticipated investment of \$80-\$90 million. This will also include new restaurants and entertainment venues. This property will be rebranded as The Queen of Baton Rouge when it opens, anticipated for late 2023.
- The Belle of Baton Rouge has been approved to move land based into the now empty Atrium property. This project will also include the complete renovation of the now closed adjacent hotel, with all 254 rooms under complete renovation. Also there will be new restaurants and entertainment venues. The anticipated investment for this property is now at \$100 million and hopefully it will be completed in mid-2025.

The Harrah's land based casino in New Orleans is undergoing a major renovation of its casino along with the construction of a new hotel adjacent to the casino footprint. This major investment by Caesars is expected to be \$450 million. Also, this property will be rebranded as Caesars Casino.

Chairman Johns is also in talks with three other riverboat licenses about the possibility of investing in land based casinos. It is the belief of the Board that investments in land based properties will further grow the market and revenue to the state and local government.

## Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles

OMV continues to see tremendous progress on the development of its new motor vehicle application, NEAL (Newly Enhanced Application for Licensing). Since 2018, OMV in partnership with the Office of Technology Services (OTS) have worked on the development and several pieces are in production today. NEAL will replace our current, antiquated Unisys Mainframe. The upgrade is long overdue and necessary for OMV to continue being able to serve the people of Louisiana for years to come. The current Unisys Mainframe is costly to maintain, takes time to gain access to, limits the ability to train staff in a timely manner, reduces efficiency at our field offices, and does not have adequate logging/tracking features that are available today with newer technology. Based on current development we anticipate OMV will have a completely new application in the next few years that will reduce and even eliminate many of the challenges that OMV faces today using the Unisys Mainframe and

provide cost savings to OMV. Using an Agile methodology for project development has allowed OMV to see a faster return on investment by putting NEAL in the users hands faster and providing feedback to ensure it is meeting OMV's business needs. All OMV reinstatement staff, field office staff in the entire state, management, and some public tag agents are already using the new application for various transactions and information such as: notice of violations, cancellations, office listing, code lookup list, public messaging, parish tax table, credential search, license status search, and applicable reporting and security for each component. The leadership of this administration has been amazing and we are experiencing 100% support to make this dream become a reality. It will allow OMV to provide customers the level of service they expect and deserve.

## Louisiana Office of State Police

- The Department of Public Safety has taken great strides in amending policies and practices and these improvements and reforms affect every aspect of our department.
- Our leadership team was tasked with researching nationwide best practices that would enhance operational capability, increase efficiency, and promote accountability.
- LSP has been undergoing a comprehensive assessment by The Bowman Group, the Department of Justice, and the Legislative Auditor's Office.
- A top recommendation of The Bowman Group was to create a dedicated section of the department whose main focus is to oversee and coordinate the reform process.
- From this recommendation the Professional Standards & Compliance Section has been created.
- The mission of the Professional Standards & Compliance Section will be to:
  - Create, deploy, and empower multi-disciplinary leadership to oversee and coordinate the reform process.
  - Dedicate command level personnel responsible for the oversight of the reform process and strategic planning.
  - Create a specialist function to manage the reform process and implementation.
  - Create a specialist function to evaluate and promote compliance with reform goals.
  - Adopt and articulate a unified organizational mission, vision, and core principles where individuals can both excel and be uniformly coherent in advancing LSP values and reform goals including:
    - Procedural Justice
    - Fair and Impartial Policing
    - De-Escalation
    - Community Engagement & Community Policing
- In 2022, Louisiana State Police was accepted into the Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) Project™.
- Georgetown University Law Center's national training and support initiative for U.S. law enforcement agencies committed to building a culture of peer intervention that prevents harm.
- By demonstrating a firm commitment to transformational reform with support from local community groups and elected leaders, Louisiana State Police joins a select group of more than 215 other law enforcement agencies and training academies both regional and statewide from across North America.
- Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) Overview
  - ABLE helps agencies create a climate in which active bystandership is welcome and effective.
  - ABLE requires a commitment from leadership to build a culture where active bystandership is encouraged, expected, and accepted.
  - Officers are trained how to give an intervention, how to receive an intervention, and how to follow up on the intervention to prevent future harm.
  - ABLE teaches the power of active bystandership to not only reduce officer mistakes, prevent misconduct, and promote health and wellness, but also to serve as a vehicle for true cultural change.
  - Many large police departments around the country are becoming ABLE-certified, such as Dallas, Philadelphia, Denver, Baltimore, and Boston.
  - Active bystanders can interrupt the harm doing by intervening to stop the behavior and signaling it is not acceptable.
  - Active bystanders can engage others by focusing responsibility on them to intervene.
  - ABLE training is provided at no cost to law enforcement agencies, but agencies must commit to creating a culture of active bystandership and peer intervention through policy, training, support, and accountability.
- Additional Reforms and Successes since 2020 and plans moving forward.

- The Office of State Police collaborated with Mark43 to offer a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and integrated Records Management System (RMS).
- The platform allows LSP to provide increased efficiency of dispatching and monitoring calls dispatched to Uniform Troopers.
- It also enables LSP to enhance and streamline the operations of reporting incidents promptly with accuracy and accountability.
- Colonel Davis actively participated on the Police Training, Screening, and De-escalation Task Force chaired by Senator Cleo Fields.
- In 2021, Colonel Davis conducted Town Hall meetings around the State to meet with legislators and to discuss his vision for the Department.
- Numerous policy and operational reforms were implemented including:
  - Expanded the Use of Force Policy, including a ban on chokeholds, a ban on the use of impact weapons to the head or neck area, and a mandate that all of our Troopers and DPS Officers carry a Taser, if trained and certified.
  - Enhanced the Body-Worn Camera/In-Car Camera policy, which expanded the types of incidents that shall be recorded, provided clarity to the number of video reviews by supervisors, clarified the actions that will be taken when misconduct is observed, and ensured that officers shall have their cameras on and ready to record at all times as dictated by policy.
  - Implemented a Duty to Intervene policy
  - Mandated and completed Implicit Bias Training for all personnel
  - Continued growth of the Trooper and Employee Assistance Program
  - Worked with the POST Council to add supplemental information to the POST Employment Status Change Report for terminations and involuntary resignations.
  - Initiated administrative investigations regarding allegations of misconduct to ensure accountability immediately after learning of an incident.
  - Created a standardized Early Identification System for consistent tracking purposes of employees with possible indicators of high-stress

- A statewide, top-to-bottom, third party assessment of LSP for 2022-2023 is currently being conducted by The Bowman Group.
- LSP is implementing enhanced De-Escalation Training and Duty to Intervene training for all LSP/DPS commissioned officers in addition to the base curriculum mandated by POST.
- LSP is evaluating the implementation of a Discipline Matrix, which could provide guidance and more consistency when issuing discipline.
- LSP is continuing to review and build accountability as it relates to body-worn/in-car camera review and all Use of Force review processes through policy changes and researching best practices nationwide
- In addition to all Patrol personnel, all Criminal Investigation Division personnel at the rank of Lieutenant and below have been issued body-worn cameras.
  - When working uniformed enforcement capacity, they will comply with the current LSP body-worn camera policy.
- Technology and Business Support is adding an in-car camera/body-worn camera "check box" to LSP reports denoting that video footage exists.
- A program is being designed to standardize the release of critical information as soon as possible (body-worn camera and in-car camera footage).
- Effective February 9, 2022, the Force Investigation Unit (FIU) began its role as a statewide unit of specially trained detectives that will investigate DPS-related Use of Force incidents including, but not limited to, deadly force, retaliatory force, and in-custody deaths.
  - FIU will also conduct monthly Use of Force related best practice training at each Troop in conjunction with our Training Academy.
- LSP continues to leverage technology and evaluate nationwide best practices to enhance operations and accountability throughout the Department.
- LSP has also implemented the eCrash solution and eCitation program that is currently in the pilot process in several Troop areas. These programs will further enhance accountability to our managers and provide additional transparency to our citizens and leaders.

## Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office

- LOSCO's new Louisiana Oil Spill Management System (LOSMS) has increased the sharing of oil spill information with the public and State and Federal partners. This database is divided into a public facing portal and an internal data repository. The public portal allows LOSCO to share key oil spill response, NRDA, and restoration data with the public through an easy access website. LOSMS also includes a way for the public to submit restoration project ideas for consideration. The database's internal data repository allows State and Federal Trustee agencies to view and share detailed information, making communication and coordination more efficient between entities.
- LOSCO established a sUAS program to assist across all oil spill roles. In spill response, this imagery has been used to identify oiled areas not visible at ground level and direct resources to collect that oil. Additionally, the use of sUAS has been integrated into NRDA assessment plans to help determine the extent of oil spill injuries. Finally, LOSCO has deployed sUAS during restoration monitoring field work, not only for the perspective, but to reduce and hopefully eliminate the need to disturb newly created marsh with airboats and other machinery while performing monitoring.

# Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal

Comparisons of where the agency was in 2015 to now

- Budget improvements: At the start of Gov. Edwards' term, the SFM's budget was \$24,979,164. The budget fluctuated within \$2 million less and more each year through FY 21 where it increased to \$30,827,281. Today, nearing the end of FY 22-23, the SFM is blessed with a budget of \$39,081,201 which includes having absorbed the operational budget of the state fire academy which came under the SFM's umbrella Jan. 1, 2022.
- Personnel improvements (new positions created or staff restructuring)

- Public Information: In 2018, the State Fire Marshal's Office officially established a public affairs division led by an official public information director position which has elevated the agency's public fire safety education efforts and success as well as helped Louisianans know more and understand better what the SFM is and does for them.

- Leadership Transition: In May 2022, the State Fire Marshal's Office experienced a proud transition in leadership as the state's longest-tenured fire marshal retired and his long-time second-in-command was chosen by Governor Edwards to take the reins. State Fire Marshal Chief Dan Wallis has continued moving the agency in the progressive direction it has been going for the past 14 years providing the citizens of Louisiana with expert plan review services, thorough building safety inspections, quick and quality arson investigations, robust emergency/disaster response and reliable oversight of the life safety and property protection industry across our state.

- Staff Strengthening: In Chief Browning's tenure, and continuing into Chief Wallis', an effort to create and make permanent several Deputy Chief positions was completed. There is now a Chief Deputy over Enforcement and Special Services. Chief Wallis is also developing a new section focused on Employee and Operational Development that will also be led by a Deputy Chief.

- New efficiencies found
  - IMS: While many agencies struggled in many ways to conduct effective operations during the governor's Stay At Home order and beyond, the State Fire Marshal's Office was successful thanks to our Information Management System (IMS). The IMS, a web-based system with portals for all divisions of the agency, helped avoid all disruptions that would have occurred in the past in a remote work environment. The critical functions of Plan Review, Licensing, Inspections and Investigations not only continued, but actually thrived, with productivity statistics showing a 40% increase in overall scope of work completed for the year.

Efforts that are underway but won't be launched or have made meaningful progress until 2024 or later

- The SFM is at the beginning stages of a statewide Community Risk Reduction program that will work with local fire departments to use their emergency call data to determine their communities' top dangers and citizens most at risk in order to develop a public safety campaign to reduce those risks and raise awareness with those vulnerable citizens. Knowing these elements of the many communities across our state will also help the SFM get a bigger picture from a regional and statewide level as to the types of risks Louisianans are facing most in order to help them prevent falling victim to those dangers.
- The SFM is working hand-in-hand with GOHSEP to develop an enhanced, statewide emergency response structure bolstered by training and certifications that will back up our state's successes with recognized credentials.

# 05

## Stories of Our Success

### Louisiana Office of State Police

**2018:** Meritorious Service Award for Two Troopers: S/T William Green and Tpr. Melvin Massey received the Meritorious Service Award for their performance at a crash scene on the night of February 24, 2018, that exceeded the normal expectations of duty. S/T Green and Tpr. Melvin Massey were on a nighttime escort in Red River Parish that involved the movement of several pieces of oilfield equipment from a flooded area. S/T Green, while traveling north on US 71 in Coushatta with the oversized load behind him, observed an oncoming motorist travel off the road and collided head-on into a utility pole. Tpr. Massey was positioned in the rear. The crash started a chain of events in which the utility pole came down across the highway as electric power lines fell in a domino effect. This caused the first of three explosions which "whited out" S/T Green's in car camera.

As both troopers approached, two large scaled electrical explosions occurred. Tpr. Massey immediately secure the scene and relocated the oil field employees to safety. S/T Green courageously advanced forward into the danger area and noticed live electrical lines on top of the vehicle. The driver, who appeared in an intoxicated state, was attempting to exit the vehicle despite the sparking electrical line. S/T Green immediately took actions and prevented the driver from exiting her vehicle until Fire and Rescue units arrived and rendered the scene safe. Both troopers demonstrated an exceptional degree of good judgement and initiative that kept everyone safe and away from the live power lines.

The actions of both troopers protected the lives of everyone at the scene and reflected favorably upon themselves and Louisiana State Police.

**2020:** Uniformed Trooper of the Year: In June of 2020, Troop C received a phone call notifying us that someone on Facebook by the name of Brock Davis was looking for help with identifying a trooper. The caller explained that Mr. Davis wanted to thank the trooper for helping him in a time of need. When I spoke with Mr. Davis in order to help him identify this trooper, he explained to me that on Father's Day of 2020 a state trooper attempted to stop him while he was driving in a reckless manner on his motorcycle. He stated he made a bad decision and attempted to flee, leading the trooper in a vehicle pursuit through Terrebonne Parish. Mr. Davis explained that he crashed his motorcycle and was transported to the hospital for his injuries. While at the hospital, he was in the emergency room when Trooper Methvin walked into the door. While he was expecting the trooper to be angry, Mr. Davis explained how he was shocked by Trooper Methvin's demeanor. Mr. Davis explained instead of being hostile with him, Trooper Methvin saw that he needed help and asked if he could pray over him. After they prayed together, he then told Mr. Davis to give him a call when he decided he wanted to change his life. Trooper Methvin's compassion and empathy lead him to indeed change his life and become a better person. Mr. Davis explicated to me that because of Trooper Methvin's compassion and prayer, he has been saved. Soon after, Trooper Methvin and Mr. Davis met at Troop C where Mr. Davis was finally able to thank Trooper Methvin for his kindheartedness and his belief in second chances.

Again in June of 2020, Trooper Methvin was dispatched to a crash on LA 3235 involving two vehicles. The two occupants of one of the vehicles in the crash were from Tennessee. The couple's vehicle was disabled from the crash, and they had no other means of transportation. Since they were not from the area, they did not have anyone to call for help with transportation. After Trooper Methvin completed his crash investigation, he asked for permission to drive the couple to a car rental business outside of his assigned area. Due to Trooper Methvin's compassion the stranded couple was able to rent a vehicle and safely travel back home. The couple contacted Trooper Methvin's supervisor to express their appreciation for him going above and beyond his duties in their time of need.

## Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal

In the aftermath of Hurricane Laura, Lake Charles resident Tomeka Gilbert and her children were utilizing a portable generator as their home remained without power. In ordinary times, her home's security system includes a carbon monoxide alarm. Without power, however, the system was inoperable and Gilbert did not have an independent carbon monoxide alarm, nor had she considered having one for this type of situation. That changed after Gilbert encountered a friend, an SFM deputy, who educated her about the importance of having a carbon monoxide alarm for her home while using a generator. The same day, she came across social media posts by her local fire department advertising free carbon

monoxide alarms provided by the SFM, so she went and got one. That night, Gilbert says the alarm woke her and her children. After calling 911, firefighters determined there were dangerous levels of carbon monoxide in her home due to the CO from the portable generator operating on her porch seeping through the window air conditioning unit cooling the bedroom the whole family was sleeping in. Gilbert credits the SFM for saving her and her children's lives because of this post-disaster public safety message regarding generators and carbon monoxide distribution campaign and she wants to share her story to help save others.

## Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles

Would you like to register as an organ, eye and tissue donor? That simple question helps OMV lead the charge in registering residents for organ donation. More importantly, the question saves hundreds of lives each year and improves the quality of life for thousands of others. The joint effort with the Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency has helped over 7.5M residents request to become organ donors at OMV field offices and Public Tag Agent locations. OMV staff knows the importance of this process first hand. Ask Ronnie Dugas, a specialist for OMV in Region Six. Ronnie's worked at OMV for over 25 years and has always believed in being an organ donor. Now he knows how it could change a life. It changed his. Ronnie had two corneal transplants. One in 2009 and another in 2010. Ronnie had something called Keratoconus. It's where his cornea was

shaped like a cone instead of a regular cornea. He noticed one day he tried to put contacts in and they kept popping out. His cornea actually tore that day and had to have the transplant. "Before the transplant, everything was blurry and I couldn't function without contacts. When I woke up, everything was blurry," Dugas said. "Now, I sometimes work and function without any corrective lenses at all. So it really means more to me now that I am actually the recipient and actually know what it does to somebody's life." He's encouraging residents to become donors and motivating OMV and PTA staff to ask people to be an organ donor. Ronnie's story is now part of OMV's mandatory training for frontline workers at OMV field offices and Public Tag Agents. It's a reminder of why that simple question is so important and can change a life.

## Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office

In 2021, in addition to securing millions of dollars for restoration activities to compensate for these injuries, LOSCO was instrumental in securing and negotiating the acquisition and protection of more than 650 acres of wetlands and coastal woodlands near the English Turn in New Orleans. The Woodlands Preserve is now conserved in perpetuity for future generations as a nature preserve, protecting from development one of the only remaining green spaces of this size in the area.

# BY THE NUMBERS

# 06

## Louisiana Office of State Police

Total # services rendered: (numbers provided are approximate)

- Motor Vehicle Crashes Investigated: 220,250
- DWI Arrests: 39,556
- Violent Crime Arrests: 1,156
- Federal Motor Carrier Safety Inspections: 248,159
- Trucks Weighed throughout LA: Nearly 6 million
- Bureau of Investigations Cases Opened: 4,811
  - Cases Closed: 3,826
  - Arrests: 7,986
- Emergency Services Unit Incidents: 43,322
- Insurance Fraud/Auto Theft Cases Opened: 2,013
  - Cases Closed: 2,140
  - Arrests: 1175
  - Stolen Vehicle Recoveries: 1,168
- Special Victims Unit Cases Opened: 717
  - Cases Closed: 583
  - Arrests: 369
- Public & Community Education Presentations: 9,478
- Child Safety Seat Installations: 15,088
- Casino Licensing Applications: 31,186
  - Video Poker Applications: 1,859
  - Casino Compliance Inspections: 24,444
  - Felony Arrests: 603

- LSP Crime Lab Requests Completed: 240,813
- Traffic Crash Report Sales: 397,508
- Photo Lab Sales: 55,710
- Concealed Handgun Permits Issued: 249,099
- Fingerprints: 172,635

Growth in social media:

- Facebook and Twitter were launched in 2011
- Since 2011, LSP has grown on Facebook to nearly 415,000 followers. LSP is the third most followed FB page of all state police agencies nationwide.
- LSP Twitter has nearly 48,000 followers
- The LSP Instagram page was launched in 2021 and currently we have nearly 4,000 followers
- The LSP Recruiting Facebook page has 5,000 followers and this page is used to contact and push specific recruiting information.
- The LSP Youtube channel has approximately 2,600 followers with 63 videos posted.
  - LSP's Critical Incident Community Briefings are posted here and these videos have been viewed nearly 222,000 times

Total # of department bills passed by the legislature: 21

Number of employees hired: 1,021

## Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal

Total # services rendered:

- Plan Reviews- 122,100 with an estimated value of \$68.9 billion
- Inspections- 323,969 (COVID-19 19,296 inspections)
- Investigations- 5041, 1740 arson, 767 closed by arrest
- Licensing- 95,507 permits

Total # of department bills passed by the legislature: 33

Number of employees hired and trained: 406

Rescues- 9,000 through various disasters including hurricanes, floods, tornadoes

Growth in social media following from 2015 to now:

- Facebook account started in 2012.. unknown followers in 2016, but in 2018, had just under 11,000, and today, 41,600+ followers on FB (adding 6k a year on average)
- Twitter started in 2011, began growing followers in 2016.. now more than 2,900 followers, more than 6,500 tweets

Smoke Alarms Installed- 91,177

## Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles

| Fiscal Year | Organ Donor Registrations | Motor Voter Registrations | Selective Service | Military Fund | Licenses / Registrations |
|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| 2017-18     | 887,196                   | 69,413                    | 49,017            | n/a           | 1,120,774 / 1,318,033    |
| 2018-19     | 897,620                   | 62,350                    | 52,950            | n/a           | 1,001,908 / 1,232,447    |
| 2019-20     | 493,315                   | 39,350                    | 38,415            | n/a           | 583,343 / 878,245        |
| 2020-21     | 536,321                   | 47,808                    | 49,371            | n/a           | 510,633 / 619,782        |
| 2021-22     | 769,063                   | 43,094                    | 42,406            | \$15,651      | 635,599 / 568,773        |

## Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office

- LOSCO presented over 300 claims for reimbursement of the State's oil spill costs.
- LOSCO collected over \$5 million in reimbursements from respective responsible parties and/or the National Pollution Fund Center. This money reimbursed the State Oil Spill Contingency Fund, which is funded through a statutorily imposed fee on industry, for monies previously fronted by that Fund to respond to, and assess injuries caused by, oil spills in Louisiana.
- LOSCO and the Regional Response Team for Region 6 granted approval for, and helped facilitate, 13 in-situ burns, an effective technique to remove oil from an environment if appropriate conditions exist.
- LOSCO settled, or helped settle, 10 NRDA claims, totaling \$54,081,502.94 in restoration and future trustee costs.
- LOSCO staff continue work on an average of 30 active NRDA cases at any given time.
- LOSCO responded to over 2,000 oil spills. The largest of which was located along the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet and was estimated to be 8,325 barrels of diesel fuel.
- LOSCO has participated in over 90 oil spill drills, exercising various components of oil spill readiness, response, and NRDA.

## Louisiana Gaming Control Board

The interest and success of Sports Betting has exceeded all expectations of the Board. Through May of 2023, the total amount wagered in Louisiana has exceeded \$3.6 Billion which has generated in excess of \$54 Million of state revenue. By statute, the sports betting revenue is dedicated as following: 25% to Early Childhood Education, 10% to local government in the 55 parishes that approved the referendum, 2.5% to supplement the para-mutual horse racing purses, 2% to the Disability Trust Fund, 2% to the Behavioral Health and Wellness Fund, and because of legislative action in the 2023 Session 3% to the Compulsive Gambling and Problem Fund. Any excess revenue after those dedications goes into the state general fund.



Office of the Governor  
**JOHN BEL EDWARDS**  
 2016-2024