



Office *of the* Governor
JOHN BEL EDWARDS

CHALLENGES MET. PROGRESS DELIVERED.

Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security
and Emergency Preparedness, 2016–2023

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Introduction

The Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) works with local, state, tribal, and federal authorities; private-sector partners; and private nonprofits (PNPs) so that we prepare for, prevent, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against future emergencies and disasters. Emergency management is governed by state and federal law, regulations, and policy.

Under Louisiana law, emergency management is primarily governed by the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act (Louisiana Disaster Act) – Louisiana Revised Statute (LRS) Title 29:721 – 739. For a complete listing of all duties, refer to the Louisiana Disaster Act.

Message from GOHSEP Director Casey Tingle

Governor John Bel Edwards and his administration have faced some of the largest and most impactful emergency events in our State's history. Since Governor Edwards took office in 2016, the State has been challenged with 244 emergencies, resulting in 49 state disaster declarations and 21 federal disaster declarations as of August 2023. Those of us at GOHSEP have helped coordinate the preparation, response, and recovery related to those events under the calm leadership of Governor Edwards.

The governor not only recognizes the importance of emergency management but actively works to make that function of government better while streamlining the efforts to best assist the public. That level of support has been recognized by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, our local partners, and members of our Congressional delegation. While this level of activity is never easy to navigate, the progress made in wrestling these emergencies has made the state stronger and more resilient moving forward.

Executive Summary

GOHSEP's Legacy Report details major achievements in emergencies by this agency over the course of Gov. Edwards' administration (2016-2023). The work literally started before the administration officially took office as Governor Edwards joined former Governor Bobby Jindal in response to a river flooding event that started in December of 2015. That was followed by numerous severe weather events over the years that included hurricanes and other smaller tropical threats, flooding, winter weather, extreme heat, and tornadoes/damaging winds. There were also non-weather emergencies tied to the COVID-19 pandemic, civil unrest, and water system failures.

Louisiana has not only strengthened ties with our federal, state, and local emergency managers but under Governor Edwards and GOHSEP's leadership, has housed thousands of families through newly developed shelter and repair programs following massive flooding and devastating hurricanes. These programs, specifically the Hurricane Ida Shelter program, the Hurricane Laura non-congregate shelter program, and Shelter at Home were developed and in use within a few weeks of those large-scale events.

State Emergency Operations as of Summer 2023

Total Emergency/Disaster Incidents – **216**

State Declarations – **43**

Federal Declarations – **19**

GOHSEP utilizes WebEOC for incident and resource management. WebEOC is a secure, Internet-based emergency information management application that provides real-time information sharing of operational details from various government and public safety groups in response to an imminent threat, emergency, or disaster.

EMAC Deployments helping other states – **71 separate deployments**

- Louisiana has deployed **2,547 personnel** to other states to assist them through EMAC.

EMAC Assistance received from other states – **125 separate requests**

- Louisiana has received **6,436 personnel** through EMAC.

EMAC offers assistance during governor-declared states of emergency or disaster through a responsive, straightforward system that allows states to send personnel, equipment, and commodities to assist with response and recovery efforts in other states.

Emergency Declarations

The Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act (Louisiana Disaster Act) – Louisiana Revised Statutes (LRS) Title 29:721 - 739 – provides the authority for the Governor, Parish Presidents and municipal chief executive officers to issue emergency declarations. Parish Presidents and Mayors can declare a State of Emergency in their respective jurisdictions. The Governor can declare a State of Emergency for any jurisdiction in the State or the State as a whole.

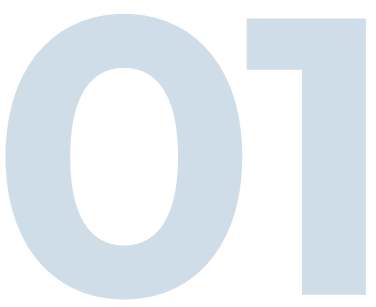
The occurrence of a disaster or emergency requires a response that creates issues not experienced in the everyday management of government. The emergency declaration grants the Governor and local officials in the declared area the authority to exercise extraordinary police powers to respond to the incident – powers they do not possess without the issuance of a properly executed emergency declaration.

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act) authorizes the President to issue an emergency or major disaster declaration, or both, for disasters that overwhelm the combined capabilities of State and local government resources.

- **Emergency Declaration** - An emergency declaration addresses impending emergencies or disasters. It is issued when, in the determination of the President, Federal assistance is needed to supplement State and local efforts and capabilities to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe.

- **Major Declaration** - A major declaration is issued post-disaster when, in the determination of the President, damages are of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant major disaster assistance to supplement the efforts and available resources of local governments, States, certain private nonprofit organizations (PNPs) – those that provide critical and essential governmental-type services – and individuals.

Major declarations open the door to the availability of disaster-related Stafford Act funding and technical assistance as well as Federal assistance under other authorities. A Stafford Act disaster declaration may also trigger federal funding from other sources, such as U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), among others.



Challenges Met

2016

March Flooding

Very heavy rainfall started on Tuesday, March 8, and continued off and on through Saturday, March 12. Rainfall amounts of over 20 inches were recorded in a few locations before the rain ended. Many locations across the State experienced extreme flash flooding. Numerous roads were flooded and closed.

The flooding resulted in numerous high-water rescues and forced the closure of many schools. Homes and businesses were evacuated in many locations, mainly across northern Louisiana. Several historical records were broken on area rivers and lakes.

August Flooding

Rains started on August 9 as scattered thunderstorms in advance of a slow-moving storm system. Rainfall totals increased dramatically as the storm reached Louisiana. On August 11, parts of southern Louisiana reported more than six inches of rain. On August 12, Baton Rouge observed a non-stop battering of thunderstorms resulting in 11.24 inches of rain. That same day, totals in Livingston Parish exceeded 17 inches of rain between midnight and 3 p.m. The next day brought even more heavy rain, with impacts to the west also being reported.

Weather experts reported incredible rainfall totals due to the deluge. Northeast Livingston Parish experienced an astounding 31.39 inches of rain from the storm. White Bayou, LA, saw 26.14 inches. Baton Rouge received over 19 inches.

Rains of this magnitude falling in this short amount of time are exceedingly rare. From August 12-13, the two-day rainfall amounts in the hardest hit areas have only around a 0.2% chance of occurring in any given year: a 1 in 500-year event.

2017

Hurricane Harvey

Hurricane Harvey made landfall as a Category 4 system on August 25 near Corpus Christi. Sustained winds in Harvey's eyewall were 130 mph at that time.

Harvey was the nation's first major (Category 3 or stronger) hurricane landfall since Hurricane Wilma struck Florida in October 2005.

Harvey's center of circulation stalled over south Texas on Aug. 26 and then drifted slowly east into the Gulf of Mexico before making a final landfall in Cameron Parish on Aug. 30. Harvey was still a named storm 117 hours after its original landfall.

It was the slow movement from Aug. 26-30 that led to the catastrophic flooding that was observed in southeast Texas and southwest Louisiana. Search and rescue teams from Louisiana assisted with high water rescues in areas east of Houston. Much of the region was forced to evacuate, with thousands of people filling shelters in both states. Much of Interstate 10 near the Texas-Louisiana line was closed due to high water.

2018

Hurricane Florence

Louisiana deployed nearly 100 emergency responders/emergency personnel to North and South Carolina to assist local authorities with response to Hurricane Florence. Hurricane Florence was a slow-moving Category 1 storm that produced more than 30 inches of rain in a few North Carolina locations, exceeding the highest single-storm rainfall amounts ever seen in the eastern portion of the State. The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) coordinated the personnel support through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) system.

Firefighters in the EMAC group will be bringing basic search and rescue equipment, along with boats, ATVs, and trucks.

GOHSEP communications staff also assisted with delivering public information from the state emergency operations center before, during, and after the storm's landfall.

02

2019

Hurricane Barry

Barry formed over the north-central Gulf of Mexico and moved slowly across the northern Gulf. The cyclone made landfall as a Category 1 hurricane over south-central Louisiana. It produced heavy rainfall and flooding over portions of the Mississippi Valley.

The heaviest rainfall occurred over south-central and southwestern Louisiana, where accumulations of 10 to 15 inches were widespread. The National Weather Service reports the maximum storm-total rainfall was 23.58 inches near Ragley, Louisiana. In the Baton Rouge and New Orleans areas, rainfall totals were 4 to 8 inches.

There were no reports of deaths associated with Barry. Damage associated with the storm was primarily due to flooding from a combination of heavy rains and storm surge. In Calcasieu Parish alone, dozens of homes experienced major flooding, and more than 20 rescues were conducted. Across Louisiana, trees and power lines fell, and first responders rescued 93 people from flood waters in 11 parishes. More than 300,000 people were without power at the peak outage point. In Mississippi, there was minor flooding in beach areas near Biloxi, but no significant damage to homes, roadways, or businesses was reported.

2020

2020 Hurricane Season (Cristobal, Marco, Laura, Sally, Beta, Delta, and Zeta)

During the historic pandemic and worldwide spread of the COVID-19 virus, the State of Louisiana encountered a record-setting Atlantic hurricane season. 2020 was the most active and the seventh costliest Atlantic hurricane season on record. Five named storms hit Louisiana during a record-smashing Atlantic hurricane season. Laura was the most catastrophic, killing at least 27 people and destroying homes and businesses in a vast swath of the State after making landfall in August 27. It was followed seven weeks later by Delta. In addition to Hurricanes Laura and Delta's landfall, Tropical Storms Cristobal and Marco and Hurricane Zeta also hit the Louisiana coast.

At one point or another, Cristobal, Marco, Laura, Sally, Beta, Delta, and Zeta all had forecasted tracks that included Louisiana.

Responding to a record number of hurricanes during a worldwide pandemic created unique challenges in response and recovery efforts for the State. Emergency management personnel and activities were

limited due to social distancing restrictions or moved to virtual platforms. In lieu of traditional mass care programs, Non-Congregate Shelters (NCS) were used as emergency sheltering sites due to the existing and continued public health emergency of COVID-19. This primarily involved one household occupying one hotel room, depending on the number of people in the household. The highest population of citizens sheltered was on September 12, 2020, with 18,213 evacuees in both Louisiana and Texas.

Despite being in their own pandemic responses, many states provided vital response resources to Louisiana and our citizens. As mentioned above, the State of Texas sheltered over 5,000 citizens from Louisiana that evacuated there with their own resources. Oklahoma assisted by sending over its incident management team to provide invaluable support to the State Emergency Operations Center. Search and Rescue teams from Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas all answered the call to deploy resources and personnel to assist with response efforts.

COVID-19

Louisiana confirmed its first COVID-19 presumptive positive case on March 9, 2020. COVID-19 is a unique disaster that is unlike any event Louisiana has ever experienced. The State is no stranger to dealing with the immediate aftermath of other crises, such as a flood or hurricanes. In fact, the recovery has been phenomenal as communities are united and come together to support one another. This pandemic, by its very nature, prohibits individuals from connecting to social supports such as family, friends, and faith community. For Louisiana, a State that prides itself on a genuine culture of hospitality, our social and physical connections are priceless and valued above all things. It is rare not to have a gathering, hug, and other special connections to share the love we have for people and each other.

Due to the rapidly contagious conditions of this virus, the State of Louisiana escalated its efforts to address this threat. Continued cases increased, and on Wednesday, March 11, 2020, Louisiana Governor Jon Bel Edwards issued a State of Emergency Declaration for Louisiana to combat the spread of COVID-19. Being bombarded with an abundance of media, news, and other information outlets, citizens became overwhelmed with excessive worry, fear, and anxiety about the certainty regarding a threat that seemed to instantly change guidance regarding prevention and protection from contracting this virus.

Two days later, on March 13, Governor Edwards amended the State of Emergency and closed all public schools in Louisiana, in addition to

canceling or postponing gatherings of 250 people or more. Schools sent children home and hurriedly implemented home-schooling strategies, i.e., work packets and distance learning, in an attempt to continue education. Parents' stress levels increased as they began to telework and also help kids with instruction lessons too. As Louisiana citizens took precautions to avoid contact in an attempt to stop the spread, frustration, stress, and increased fear intensified, causing major interference with individuals' activities of daily living and normal habits of life as quick plans for isolation from family, friends, and normal peer supports began. Other concerns and worries set in for citizens and vulnerable populations that may have had limited resources to compete and battle for basic supplies as increased panic buying occurred at stores and grocers.

All these measures also began to impact daily lives and routines, which also impacted normal business practices. Businesses began already experiencing significant impacts to unusual operations, i.e., only delivery or take out, and some employees were terminated. This situation created compounded worry and anxiety on how people were going to make ends meet and provide and shelter their families. The State of Louisiana gathered data about economic impact. On Monday, March 16, 2020, Governor Edwards submitted a request for a Small Business Administration Economic Injury Declaration, certifying business concerns that have suffered substantial economic injury as a result of COVID-19. Louisiana received that first statewide Declaration for SBA for economic injury due to COVID-19. This effort was intended to provide working capital so that employers could have the working cash flow to pay fixed debts, i.e., employees, to keep their business afloat.

On Sunday, March 22, 2020, Governor Edwards amended the State of Emergency to issue a Stay at Home Order directing all Louisiana residents to shelter at home and limit movements outside of their homes beyond essential needs to further combat the spread of COVID-19 in Louisiana. Citizens were stressed and frustrated with feelings of hopelessness as they faced the unknown of COVID-19 and its impact on the future.

This same Order put some limits on businesses operating in Louisiana. Businesses consistent with guidance from the Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) may remain open, and individuals may leave their residences to perform any work necessary to operate and maintain these businesses. The following business categories are consistent with the CISA guidance:

- Healthcare workers and caregivers
- Mental health and Social Service workers
- Pharmacy employees
- Workers supporting groceries, pharmacies, and other retail sales of food and beverage products
- Restaurant carryout and quick-serve food operations and food delivery employees
- Farmworkers
- Electricity and Utility Industry Employees
- Critical Manufacturing Employees (medical supply chains, energy, transportation, food, chemicals)
- Petroleum, Natural, and Propane Gas
- Worker Transportation
- Logistics Workers
- Communications and IT Employees

Despite emergency protective measures being in place, the capacity at the state and local levels continued to be strained. The jobs of essential personnel and volunteers became even more stressful due to possible exposure, infections, and even death. This impact weakened the State's capacity in its attempt to be more creative in maintaining critical infrastructure. Limitations on supplies due to competition with other states and supply chain disruption produced increased added frustration on responders and others to support the needs of its citizens. This spiraling rise of stress, grief, and anxiety levels continues to escalate each day, as does the death toll and the number of confirmed positive COVID-19 cases.

On March 24, 2020, Gov. John Bel Edwards requested and received a Major Disaster Declaration for the State of Louisiana as the number of cases of COVID-19 continued to grow and the State's efforts to combat the spread of illness intensified. This declaration allows the State to apply for the Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training grant to help meet the behavioral health needs of disaster survivors. All of the State's 64 parishes and tribal and territorial governments are designated under LA-4484-DR.

2021

Arctic Outbreak

During the week of February 8-15, 2021, a cold front crossed the region and ushered in cold air from the Arctic into Louisiana and neighboring states. The National Weather Service says this was one of the coldest air masses to ever reach the region, and for some locations, it was the coldest ever. After Wednesday, February 10th, temperatures got cooler and cooler each day across the area, eventually dropping below freezing by Saturday, February 13th, and remained below freezing across many areas until Thursday, February 18th, and for some locations, Friday, February 19th.

According to the National Weather Service, the area encountered two minor freezing drizzle events on the morning of Friday, February 12th again on Saturday, February 13th. These events led to minor icings on bridges and elevated roadways each day. I-49 north of Shreveport was closed on Friday, February 12th, in anticipation of the freezing drizzle event Saturday morning, February 13th.

During the early hours of Sunday, February 14th, the first of two major winter storms began to push into the region, bringing a mix of snow, sleet, and freezing rain to the area, with the heaviest snowfall occurring Sunday night into the morning hours of Monday, February 15th. Following the first of two winter storms, Shreveport broke its daily record by 19 degrees with a low of 1°F. This record led to widespread water main breaks and major pipe bursts across the Deep South region.

By the evening hours of Tuesday, February 16th, the second of two winter storms began to push into the area from the northwest. This event brought a more confined corridor of heavy snow to northeast Texas and southwestern Arkansas but also brought substantial amounts of sleet and ice to areas along and south of the I-20 corridor. The combination of the record cold and two winter storms resulted in power outages across central Louisiana from ice, water shortages in much of the area, and road closures until Friday, February 19th. Along the I-20 corridor, most areas were impacted with at least 4 inches of snow, sleet, and ice covering roads. Recovery during the event was difficult as treacherous roads slowed crews from fixing water main breaks and restoring power.

Hurricane Ida

Hurricane Ida was a deadly and destructive Category 4 hurricane that struck Louisiana on August 29, 2021, the 16th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina's landfall. It became the second-most damaging and intense hurricane to make landfall in Louisiana on record, only behind Hurricane Katrina in 2005. In terms of maximum sustained winds at landfall (150 mph), Ida tied 2020's Hurricane Laura and the 1856 Last Island hurricane as the strongest on record in the State.

Ida intensified into a hurricane on August 27, just before moving over western Cuba. A day later, the hurricane underwent rapid intensification over the Gulf of Mexico and reached its peak intensity as a strong Category 4 hurricane while approaching the northern Gulf Coast. Ida made landfall near Port Fourchon, Louisiana, devastating the town of Grand Isle along with many areas inland to the north of the barrier island.

Ida is considered the fifth-costliest tropical cyclone on record and the fourth-costliest Atlantic hurricane in the United States.

Damage assessments were conducted in various ways. Local offices of emergency preparedness published messaging to citizens that included links to self-report damages from the storms. These messages were pushed via traditional media as well as social media outlets in order to reach a wider participant base.

December 2022 Tornado Outbreak

After a mostly uneventful 2022 Hurricane Season for Louisiana, a string of severe winter weather events started with a deadly tornado outbreak in mid-December. A strong upper-level disturbance and surface low produced several supercell thunderstorms with embedded tornadoes across Louisiana. The storms started in the evening hours of Tuesday, December 13, in Northwest Louisiana and continued across the State Wednesday. These supercell thunderstorms produced straight-line wind damage and several tornadoes.

MOVEIt Data Breach

The Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Public Safety Services, Office of Motor Vehicle ("OMV") responded to a data security incident that involved the personal information of individuals who applied for and/or were issued a Louisiana driver's license, identification card and/or vehicle registrations. This notice explains the incident, the measures that have been taken, and some steps you can take in response.

On May 31, 2023, Progress Software Corporation, which developed and supported the MOVEIt managed file transfer platform, notified all customers across the globe, including OMV, of a zero-day vulnerability that an unauthorized party leveraged to access and acquire data without authorization. Upon learning of the incident, immediate measures were taken to secure the MOVEIt environment utilized to transfer files. A thorough investigation was conducted, and it was determined that there was unauthorized acquisition of and access to OMV files in the MOVEIt environment.

While some LWIN towers were damaged, and there were operational failures due to power issues with generators and downed communication lines, the State worked the problems diligently by deploying backup generators and Star Link satellite systems.

The state-managed Hurricane Ida Sheltering Program was developed to help those affected by the storm get placed in travel trailers as part of their recovery. The State initially purchased roughly 2,000 trailers as well as developed, implemented, and refined a new FEMA approved program to jumpstart the housing mission for hurricane survivors. Governor John Bel Edwards announced the program in early October as a bridge to help families receive the units ahead of the window FEMA projected to start its Direct Housing mission. GOHSEP was tasked with developing the program, purchasing the trailers, establishing staging areas and priority zones with leaders from the impacted parishes, and installing the units. The first families received their units within weeks of the program being announced. Nearly 5,400 trailers were ultimately leased at the height of the program.

This event was the first of several weather events or weather threats impacting Louisiana during much of the winter season.

Some of the Hurricane Ida Shelter Program units (RV trailers) were deployed to help families recovering from these events after the trailers were no longer needed for the program.

Through a thorough analysis, OMV determined that files involved in the incident contained the personal information of individuals who applied for and/or were issued a Louisiana driver's license, identification card, and/or vehicle registration. The information varied by individual but included a name and one or more of the following: address, date of birth, Social Security number, driver's license, learner's permit or identification card number, height, eye color, vehicle registration information, and handicap placard information.

GOHSEP coordinated the response to the event, including the initial public information flow informing citizens about the issue and the steps to take to protect their personal information.

2022

2023

Significant GOHSEP Legislation

CYBERSECURITY

Act 187 formerly SB 46 (Peacock) took effect on 8/1/2019. This law enacts the Louisiana Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act. It authorizes entities to monitor, share, and receive certain information relative to cyber threats; to authorize certain defensive measures; to provide relative to certain security and information controls; to provide for confidentiality of certain information; to provide with respect to evidence; and to provide with respect to data breach notifications. This Act provides a framework for permissive sharing of cybersecurity information under Louisiana law that is consistent with and does not conflict with the requirements of the federal Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015, 6 U.S.C.A. §1501 et seq.

Act 155 formerly HB 633 (Freiberg) became effective on 6/9/2020. This law provides for the mandatory training in cybersecurity awareness for all state and local employees, officials, and contractors. This law requires the Dept. of State Civil Service to create and implement a cybersecurity awareness training for state and local officials and employees and contractors who have access to their agency's information technology assets. This law also requires that each new agency official or employee with access complete cybersecurity awareness training within the first 30 day of initial service or employment.

Act 355 formerly SB 398 (Foil) became effective on 8/1/2020. This law provides for qualifications of volunteers to cyber response and recovery support efforts with GOHSEP. The volunteer must be (1) 18 years of age or older. (2) Be a resident of the state. (3) Have no criminal convictions or arrests aside from minor traffic violations. (4) Not be identified on any national criminal registry, including, but not limited, to the National Sex Offender Registry. (5) Have a verifiable educational or professional background in information technology services or information security and assurance.

SB 152 (Milligan) was sent to the Governor for Executive Approval on 6/7/2023. This bill creates the Louisiana Cybersecurity Commission. GOHSEP worked closely with Senator Milligan and his staff to develop this bill. The proposed law enacts the Louisiana Cybersecurity Commission within DOA to coordinate cybersecurity efforts statewide, maintains the stability of public services while ensuring proper privacy and protection of data entrusted to the state and provides for the purposes, duties, and powers of the commission in order to identify, prioritize, and mitigate Louisiana's cyber risks.

SCHOOL SAFETY

Act 44 formerly SB 43 (Appel) took effect on 6/1/2019. This law provides for student input in the annual review of high school crisis management and response plans. It requires each public school principal to jointly prepare a school crisis and management and response plan with local law enforcement, fire, public safety, and emergency preparedness officials. Further provides that the school principal and designated officials shall consider and include input from students, parents, teachers, other school employees, and community leaders, if appropriate. It further requires each public school principal, local law enforcement, fire, public safety, and emergency preparedness officials to jointly review the plan at least once a year and revise the plan as necessary.

Moreover, when conducting the annual review of the crisis management and response plan for a high school, the school principal shall seek and consider input from the students enrolled in the school who shall be represented by either the president of the senior class, or the president of the student council, and at least one other responsible student selected by the principal.

Act 148 formerly HB 160 (Bouie) took effect on 8/1/2019. This law provides for the collection and reporting of certain information relative to school safety and discipline. Existing law requires the state Dept. of Education to establish a standardized data collection and analysis system to collect data from schools and school systems for the purpose of preparing and producing progress profile reports. Provides that the purpose of the progress profiles is to establish a database for educational planning, increase accountability at all levels, provide information to parents of school children and the public about the status of education, provide achievement and performance information to schools and colleges. Act 148 requires that the progress profiles be published on the Dept. of Education's website. The law also requires: (1)Relative to the collection of student discipline information, that such information be collected in total and by unduplicated counts, disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender, sex, English learner status, and students with exceptionalities, excluding gifted and talented, in accordance with data collection conducted pursuant to federal law (relative to compliance with civil rights laws), including but not limited to information on student suspensions, expulsions, removals to alternative settings, referrals to law enforcement, and school-related arrests. (2)The collection of the number of school resource officers.

Act 164 formerly HB 348 (Jenkins) will become effective on 8/1/2023. This law provides relative to school safety. This law requires employees to immediately report all threats to law enforcement and to the administrator (if the employee is not the administrator). Requires the administrator, upon being informed of the threat, to make reasonable efforts to attempt to inform persons who are targets of the threat and take all necessary measures to protect their lives and safety.

Further requires: (1)The school administrator next to make reasonable efforts to attempt to notify the appropriate personnel within the school district administration. (2)The school administrator and the school district administrator to determine if risk is imminent for any other persons because of the threat, and if so, to notify them and make reasonable efforts to attempt to take measures to protect their lives and safety. (3)The school administrator and the school district administrator to determine whether to notify parents of the students at the school.

This law provides that if the investigation results in evidence or information that supports that a threat is credible, the school or school district shall implement measures to provide for ongoing protection of the safety and lives of all students and staff at the school. This law also requires law enforcement to begin the investigation immediately. It also requires the school administrator to notify any person who was directly threatened at least two school days prior to such a student's return; excepts students charged with certain crimes against teachers from those allowed to return; and adds that the school administrator or his designee may conduct a search of the student or his property for weapons upon his return.

SB 207 (Milligan) was sent to the Governor for Executive Approval on 6/8/2023. GOHSEP has worked closely with Senator Milligan and his staff to develop SB 207 that would be known as the as "The School Safety Act of 2023". SB 207 will (1) create the School Safety Act which provides for school crisis management and response plans, (2) will provide for the duties and membership of the Louisiana Commission on School and Nonprofit Security and (3) will establish the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools. Specifically, the proposed law:

Provides for each school to have a school crisis management and response plan. Requires an annual safety drill at the beginning of each school year, but then adds at least one additional safety drill to be conducted during high traffic or transition points during the school day.

Requires a district threat assessment team to be created and provides for the team to have input into the creation and revision of the plan provides for bleeding control kits to be placed in easily accessible locations within each school and for the principal to designate employees to be trained on the use of bleeding control kits and traumatic injury response.

Provides immunity from criminal and civil liability for the administration of aid to a traumatic injury, unless personal injury results from the gross negligence, requires the in-service training to include an active shooter scenario and to be reported to the local superintendent and LDOE, requires LDOE to review national awareness campaigns relative to response to traumatic injuries and use of a bleeding control kit and develop and offer annual training.

SB 207 also provides for the Louisiana Commission on School and Nonprofit Safety within GOHSEP, adds members and duties, establishes the Center for Safe Schools within GOHSEP, for which the commission shall provide oversight.

Provides that GOHSEP shall adopt regulations and rules for the commission and the center pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act and provides oversight of those rules to legislative committees on education, requires the center to develop, by December 1, 2023, a statewide panic emergency notification system and an anonymous reporting system.

Further requires each public school board to implement the use of a panic emergency notification system and anonymous reporting system by April 1, 2024, and report the systems implemented to BESE and the Center by May 1, 2024.

NON-PROFIT SECURITY

Act 263 formerly HB 242 (Miller) became effective 8/1/2021. This law establishes the Louisiana Commission on Security for the Faith Community. Relative to Homeland Security, this act establishes the Louisiana Commission on Nonprofit Safety and Security; provides relative to the purpose, membership, authority, and duties of the commission; provides for the establishment of a security grant program; establishes the Louisiana Nonprofit Safety and Security Grant Program Fund; provides for the duties and authority of GOHSEP, with regard to the program and fund; provides for the purpose of the program and fund; and provides for the eligibility requirements for grant applicants.

Act 690 formerly SB 311 (Milligan) became effective 8/1/2022. This law provides for the authorities and responsibilities of GOHSEP and adds that GOHSEP shall do the following by August 1, 2022: (1) Promulgate rules to regulate disbursement of assets and diversion of resources during an emergency utilizing the emergency rulemaking process. This law also provides for an annual emergency preparedness class.

GOHSEP enacted emergency rules to establish procedures and processes for political subdivisions to request and receive public resources during a state of emergency or disaster in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 29:726 (E) (30), the Administrative Procedures Act and to expedite implementation of the provisions of Act 690. The emergency rule became effective August 1, 2022.

Additionally, Act 690 mandates that GOHSEP create a grant program through which eligible schools and nonprofit organizations can apply for and receive grants to defray the cost of security enhancements. GOHSEP is also required to promulgate rules necessary to implement the security grant program and to administer the Louisiana School and Nonprofit Security Grant Program Fund.

EMAC

Act 246 formerly SB 151 (White) became effective 6/14/2017. This law deletes references to Interstate Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Compact and enters the state into the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) with all states that have enacted or will enact the compact in accordance with PL 104-321, with the purpose of providing mutual assistance among the states in meeting an emergency or disaster. It provides that states entering into this Compact must provide assistance in managing any emergency disaster that may be duly declared by the governor of the affected state, whether arising from natural disaster, technological hazard, man-made disaster, civil emergency aspects of resources shortages, community disorders, insurgency, or enemy attack.

Further provides that states must provide for mutual cooperation in emergency-related exercises, testing, or other training activities using equipment and personnel simulating performance of any aspect of the giving and receiving of aid by party states or subdivisions of party states during emergencies, such actions occurring outside actual declared emergency periods.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Act 548 formerly HB 388 (Hodges) became effective 8/1/2018. This law provides relative to emergency management. This law is also known as the "Volunteer Bill". The law amends and reenacts R.S. 9:2793.8, R.S. 29:733(C)(Article 6), and R.S. 33:4712.18(A)(3), and enacts R.S. 29:735.4 and R.S. 42:1102(18)(b)(iii), relative to emergency preparedness and disaster management. The existing law provides for the Emergency Management Assistance Compact which, in part, provides that officers or employees of a state, political subdivisions, or local governments rendering aid to another state pursuant to the compact shall be considered agents of the requesting state for purpose of liability and immunity. This law also extends the application of existing law to registered and credentialed volunteer organizations and private entities contracted with the state or local governments.

It also provides for a registry of volunteers for disaster or emergency responses; provides for credentials of these volunteers; provides for background checks; and provides a limitation of liability for volunteers. The law authorizes GOHSEP to establish a registry of volunteers to be deployed either by GOHSEP or the parish office of homeland security and emergency preparedness. Defines "volunteer" and authorizes GOHSEP to provide credentials, including identification cards or badges for volunteers. Requires, at a minimum, a check of volunteers on the state sex offender and child predator registry. A federal and state background check may be required in some circumstances, depending upon the mission of the volunteer. Requires the costs of the background check to be paid by the volunteer or his affiliated agency.

Act 713 formerly HB 645 (Zeringue) became effective 8/1/2018. The law provides relative to emergency and disaster management. The existing law provided for the powers and duties of the GOHSEP Director, including the duty to coordinate the activities of all agencies and organizations for purposes of homeland security and emergency preparedness. This law retains existing law and requires the director to coordinate public-private sector relationships to meet the needs of an emergency or disaster, and to coordinate the implementation of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact.

Existing law provides for the office of interoperability within GOHSEP and provides for the authority of the office in managing interoperability programs and efforts identified in the (1) statewide interoperability plan and (2) statewide communications interoperability plan for first responders. Further requires the Unified Command Group (UCG) to establish a comprehensive statewide interoperability plan for short-term and long-term initiatives. This law consolidates the two plans referenced in existing law, to be referred to as the statewide communications interoperability plan.

This law requires the UCG to provide annual reports to the governor and entities in the statewide plan. The law amends the membership of the first responders subcommittee and adds a fourth subcommittee (the long term recovery subcommittee), and provides for its membership and duties. New law creates a Statewide Cemetery Response Task Force and provides for its membership, powers, and duties. Provides for the declaration of a state of emergency by a parish president and provides that they may be terminated by executive order or proclamation. This law also removes the 30-day limitation.

Act 522 formerly HB 933 (Stagni) became effective 6/16/2022. This law provides relative to the emergency preparedness among licensed nursing homes. This law provides relative to nursing homes licensed by the Louisiana Department of Health; provides relative to emergency preparedness among nursing homes; provides requirements and standards for nursing home emergency preparedness plans; provide procedures for and schedules by which nursing homes shall develop and submit such plans; provide for duties of the Louisiana Department of Health and local offices of emergency preparedness with respect to nursing home emergency preparedness to provide relative to sites to which nursing home residents may be evacuated; revises laws creating and providing for the Nursing Home Emergency Preparedness Review Committee within the Louisiana Department of Health; and repeals laws creating and providing for a nursing home advisory committee within the Louisiana Department of Health.

Act 524 formerly HB 1052 (Landry) became effective 8/1/2022. This law establishes the Hazard Mitigation Revolving Loan Fund. The law also provides for the administration of the fund; provides for deposits, interest, and unexpended monies in the fund; specifies how funds may be disbursed and for what types of activity; provides for annual reporting and audits; and provides relative to repayment of loans and waiver in certain circumstances.

Act 3 formerly HB 123 (Stagni) becomes effective 8/1/2023. This law provides relative to nursing home requirements and standards for emergency preparedness plans. It allows LDH to exercise discretion to revoke or deny renewal of a license to a nursing home if the nursing home fails to incorporate required changes into an emergency preparedness plan that was previously rejected by LDH; and should improve nursing home emergency operations.

FUNDING

Act 144 formerly HB 412 (Zeringue) became effective on 7/1/2020. This law expands the authorized uses of monies in the State Emergency Response Fund. Existing law establishes the State Emergency Response Fund (SERF) to provide a source of funds for preparation for and response to declared disasters and emergencies. This law expands the authorized uses of SERF monies to include recovery from a declared disaster or emergency. This law further recognizes the need for a robust cybersecurity defense for the state and its political subdivisions.

This law authorizes SERF monies to be used for the following: (1) Training opportunities for employees of the state and its political subdivisions in information assurance, security, and recovery, cybersecurity, and related fields. (2) Funding additional pay for employees of the state and its political subdivisions who respond to cyber incidents on behalf of the state and its political subdivisions in addition to performing their primary employment duties. (3) Funding the purchase of updated computer hardware and software and internet connected devices for the state and its political subdivisions that are determined to be necessary by the office of technology services following vulnerability assessments, inspections, or cyber incident recovery efforts. (4) Funding retention of private-sector information technology professionals.

HB 1 (Zeringue) has been sent to the Governor for Executive Approval as of 6/12/2023. This potential law will provide for the ordinary expenses of state government for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. It will also provide funding to move GOHSEP off federal grants and to State General Fund.

TEMPORARY HOUSING AND SHELTER PROGRAM

Act 546 formerly HB 1070 (Schexnayder) became effective 6/16/2022. This law provides for the authorities and responsibilities of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) and adds that GOHSEP shall do the following by August 1, 2022:

- Requires the Assistant Deputy Director of Interoperability to provide an annual update to JLCB by August 1st of each year on upgrades made to the La. Wireless Information Network and resiliency and redundancy plans for the system.
- Prepare and maintain a homeland security and state emergency operations plan and keep it current
- Ensure the official state emergency management software system is accessible to certain entities and has specific capabilities regarding requests.
- Develop an emergency management training program to be completed annually by local officials and employees identified by each parish president and at least once a term by members of the legislature.
- Requires the Director to ensure that the employees so designated and any local officials deemed necessary by the parish president have received the annual emergency management training provided by GOHSEP.
- Develop a program to provide additional funding resources for temporary housing and shelter assistance to parish governing authorities within the first 14 days following a presidential declaration of a major disaster or emergency.
- Complete an inventory of portable generators owned by the state and local governments which are capable of operating during a major disaster.

Additionally, Act 526 also provides that GOHSEP shall implement the temporary housing and shelter assistance program and for local governments to participate in the program. Eligibility for participation includes that Parishes/municipalities must submit certification regarding waiver of land use/permitting by September 1, 2022.

This law also requires GOHSEP to coordinate with the Office of State Procurement and other state agencies to have certain prepositioned disaster contracts in place by September 1, 2022, and no later than June 30th for each subsequent year.

Furthermore, GOHSEP is required to submit a list of all prepositioned contracts entered into for the current fiscal year to JLCB by July 15th of each year.

Progress Delivered

03

GOHSEP Preparedness

- Developed and utilized the Self-Report Survey for Damage Assessments to expedite collection and verification of damages in order to expedite federal recovery assistance.
- Established Multi Agency Resource Centers or Resource Service Centers to expand recovery support for survivors
- Launched a Virtual Information Series in archives on Get A Game Plan to support recovery information to survivors
- Initiated the first economic injury SBA Declaration for Hard Rock Hotel Collapse and first statewide economic injury SBA Declaration for COVID (Other SBA Declaration were made but these were unique)
- Initiated use of Next Door APP in emergency management for response, recovery and mitigation

GOHSEP Training

- Created and implemented a face to face an online Emergency Management Training for Elected Officials.
- Provided recovery and resilient training and workshops for communities and other stakeholders
- Investment with Volunteer Louisiana to support Citizen Emergency Response Training (CERT) for deaf and hard of hearing and expanding that to support other groups.
- Initiated Multi Agency Shelter Support Team Training to advance recovery strategies for those in shelters

GOHSEP Exercise

- Held Boomerang Exercise in April 2023 on Recovery (first Statewide Exercise on Recovery in Region 6)
- Hosted annual training exercises related to tropical weather and other threats potentially impacting Louisiana.
- Hosted and improved required training for the nuclear power stations in or near Louisiana.

GOHSEP Planning

- Advocated and contributed to Direct Housing Reimagined to improve FEMA programs to better support survivors and communities to position themselves for a Direct Housing Mission.

GOHSEP Individual Assistance

FEMA's Individual Assistance Program is designed to help disaster survivors with basic critical needs such as a safe, sanitary, and functional place to live during recovery from a disaster. It is not designed to make survivors whole and is not a substitute for insurance coverage.

GOHSEP has provided an active leadership role in response and recovery efforts to support individual and households in the wake of disasters. The focus has been to support the coordination of resources and assistance including volunteer labor, donated goods, contracted services and procured materials provided to individuals and households following the numerous state and federal declarations over Governor Edwards' eight year tenure. GOHSEP serves as the State's Lead for FEMA IA programs such as Disaster Case Management and offered coordination and implementation support of Direct Housing, Crisis Counseling, Disaster Legal Services, Funeral Assistance, Individual Housing Program (IHP) and Other Needs Assistance (ONA) assistance.

Act 526 of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session addressed GOHSEP's role in temporary housing and sheltering in disaster recovery. In alignment with the passage of this legislation, GOHSEP in 2022 has:

- Identified and established a process for parishes and local jurisdictions to participate in sheltering and temporary housing programs including their ability to opt in or out of Temporary Housing and Sheltering Programs through the Expedited Temporary Housing Assistance (ETHA) Waiver.
- Established an Individual Assistance Section to serve as the liaison to all response and recovery partners including federal, state, local, and non-profits that offer resources and services to individuals and households both in the immediate aftermath and through longer term recovery following disasters.
- Managed state run non-congregate sheltering efforts and in the wake of federal declared disasters such as COVID as well as Hurricanes Laura, Delta, and Ida as well as state declared disasters such as the December 2022 Tornadoes through the use of hotel rooms and travel trailers.
 - The Hurricane Ida Non-Congregate Sheltering Program was active within two months of Hurricane Ida landfall. To date the Ida Sheltering Program has provided shelter to 5366 households /15,478 individuals across seven parishes.
 - Shelter units were deployed to parishes impacted by the December 2022 tornadoes as quickly as the day immediately following the weather event. 125 shelter units in total were deployed across five parishes.

Note: This was the first state managed program of its kind approved by FEMA. Families were occupying the first units within 3-4 weeks of FEMA approval despite the state's challenges of purchasing the units, lining up contractors to install the units, identifying those needing this assistance and working with local officials on various permit issues.

GOHSEP Cybersecurity

In 2017, Governor John Bel Edwards established the Louisiana Cybersecurity Commission by Executive Order to coordinate cybersecurity efforts among state governmental agencies, local governments, tribal governments, private companies, academic institutions, and other entities in both the public and private sectors.

In 2019, Governor John Bel Edwards consolidated all of the State's cyber resources and established Emergency Support Function – 17 (ESF-17) within the State of Louisiana's Emergency Response Plan to conduct cyber incident management and response efforts on behalf of the State. Since its inception, ESF-17 has combatted a consistent series of cyber events from a reactive cybersecurity posture, deploying next generation technology solutions to rebuild and improve the network infrastructure of greater than 130 public and critical infrastructure entities impacted by cyber events.

In 2023, the Louisiana Cybersecurity Assurance Program (L-CAP) represents a progression from a strictly reactive cybersecurity posture to the development of a preventative posture, to equitably balance Louisiana's cybersecurity efforts. Designed as a sustainable and scalable cybersecurity ecosystem, L-CAP collects, analyzes, and distributes cyber threat intelligence, while invoking multiple layers of cybersecurity defenses that are constantly adjusted and monitored based on shared threat intelligence to effectively combat rogue elements.

L-CAP's design resulted from ESF-17's successful proofs of concept and was specifically developed to leverage the State's purchasing power (on behalf of the local and rural entities) to receive discounted high-volume prices on key assets such as software licenses and hardware for state-wide distribution. L-CAP is anticipated to require two (2) to three (3) years to establish, before becoming self-sustaining in year four (4).

GOHSEP Critical Infrastructure Protection

Passed Illegal Use of a Drone over Critical Infrastructure (HB 265) in May 2021 which presented changes to R.S. 14:337. Key factors that were accepted by the committee were that "Targeted facility" meant the following systems:

- Petroleum and alumina refineries.
- Chemical and rubber manufacturing facilities.
- Nuclear power electric generation facilities.
- School and school premises as defined by R.S. 14:40.6(B).
- Critical infrastructure as defined by R.S. 14:61.1(B)
- Grain elevators

Unmanned aircraft systems, commonly called drones, had proliferated rapidly and are available to hobbyist, commercial UAS operators, and to nefarious actors and individuals. Drones provide bad actors with a low-cost means of conducting intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance missions against—or attacking—our State's Critical Infrastructure facilities. This exponential growth of the UAS/Drone market also corresponded to an increasing flight activity near and over our State's Critical Infrastructure facilities by careless, clueless or criminal individuals with escalating frequency. Moreover, these troubling drone-related incidents presented a security, operational and economic threat to our CI facilities. Our Law Enforcement officers were limited in their ability to act and apprehend individuals to just certain CI facilities covered under existing law.

GOHSEP Interoperability

- Used federal grant one time funding, the State procured 150 Starlink units to allow for more robust communications during statewide emergencies. The State is finalizing a state contract mechanism with SpaceX to allow local political subdivisions to utilize.
- Upgrading and/or replacing a third of all the Louisiana Wireless Information Network (LWIN) tower generators strengthening the first responder communications infrastructure.
- Several significant infrastructure expansion and upgrades to LWIN, including the conversion from T-1 connections to Ethernet to allow faster and more durable infrastructure.

GOHSEP Preparedness Grants

- Managing over Preparedness Grants received – 45
 - Direct Housing, Disaster Case Management, Watershed, Homeowner Assistance Fund, Emergency Rental Assistance Program, American Rescue Plan, Emergency Management Grant Program, State Homeland Security Program, Urban Area Security Initiative,
- Expended \$845 million
- Remaining \$560 million

GOHSEP Public Assistance (PA)

FEMA's Public Assistance Program provides supplemental grants to state, tribal, territorial, and local governments, and certain types of private non-profits so communities can quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies.

After an event like a hurricane, tornado, earthquake or wildfire, communities need help to cover their costs for debris removal, life-saving emergency protective measures, and restoring public infrastructure. FEMA also encourages protecting these damaged facilities from future events by providing assistance for hazard mitigation measures during the recovery process.

- Received federal 19 Federal Declarations for PA
- Processed 3,300 applicants request for assistance
- Distributed \$7.9 billion in PA funding
- Closed 10 disasters



Leaving Louisiana Better Than We Found It

04

Significant Projects

- Shelter at Home 2016 March and August flooding
 - This was a one-of-a-kind sheltering initiative that provided temporary repairs to structures affected by the March and August 2016 flooding. The objective was to allow for and make essential, temporary repairs allowing disaster survivors (residents) to safely occupy their homes while awaiting insurance, SBA, or other proceeds to restore their homes. This initiative reduced the need for large congregate shelters and kept the disaster survivors in their communities offering less disruption to their lives (e.g. school, work, extra-curricular). The program successfully provided temporary repairs to over 10,000 structures across the State.
- Private Property Debris Removal (PPDR) Initiative
- This involves removal of potentially eligible storm-generated debris from private property.
- Entered into contract for strike team resources to assist applicants with closeout activities for legacy disasters
- Coordination with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) on non-federal match with Division of Administration/Office of Community Development for 2016 floods
-
- GOHSEP funded a program management contract for sub-recipient project development
- GOHSEP hosted a joint webinar with FEMA to provide training on Section 1206 of the 2018 Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) related to providing resources for Building Code and Floodplain Management Administration and Enforcement
- GOHSEP participated in joint training with FEMA on (Essential Elements of Information (EEI) and Damage inventory
- GOHSEP is working with FEMA on policy for sheltering critical workers
- GOHSEP continually meets with FEMA Region VI and FEMA Headquarters leadership to present ideas for necessary Public Assistance improvements

Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants

- Regional funding allocation concept (Acadiana Planning Commission)
 - Given the widespread flooding during 2016, there was a shift in GOHSEP Region 4 for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding allocation to a regional approach of pooling their funding to maximize regional benefits. Typically, parishes receive an HMGP allocation based on some of the IA and PA program funding awarded to individual parishes. The Acadiana Region determined they could implement more impactful, large scale projects through a regional allocation. The APC was allocated \$26,085,971 to manage and coordinate hazard mitigation efforts in their region. Can discuss some of the project proposals submitted a couple nearing construction complete, one in phase 1 design, and others under review).
- Louisiana Watershed Initiative
 - LWI is pursuing a holistic approach to watershed management, one that goes beyond conventional mitigation measures and incorporates nature-based solutions. LWI is also developing computer models to better understand flood risk and help select projects best suited for investment in each watershed region. By investing in efforts that build statewide flood defense, Louisiana will better safeguard its communities and culture for generations to come, as well as provide an example for other states facing similar flood risk challenges.
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) allocations
 - From 2016 to present, \$1.3 billion in funding secured through the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to take sustainable actions that reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from future disasters.
- Closeout of the residential projects, the largest residential HMGP effort of its kind. Funding of nearly \$707 million was provided using Katrina and Rita funding for 10,263 grants to successfully mitigate 8,805 properties.
- 2022 Flood Mitigation Assistance Swift Current – pilot grant program that made \$40 million available to LA after Hurricane Ida. The program is aimed at obligating federal funds to mitigate severe repetitive loss, repetitive loss, and substantially damaged structures as quickly and equitably as possible following a disaster event.
- Hurricane Ida Sheltering Program- The Louisiana Hurricane Ida Sheltering program provided emergency sheltering assistance (mostly involving RV trailers) to residents in eligible heavily impacted parishes until other temporary or permanent housing options became available. This program was for emergency sheltering in the most impacted parishes that did NOT have other sheltering options available.





Office of the Governor
JOHN BEL EDWARDS
2016–2024