

Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness



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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Division Summaries

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

- 23-24 State Functional Hurricane Exercise
- 25 Shelter Task Force Conference Call
- 29 Memorial Day

JUNE

- 1 Shelter Task Force Conference Call
- 5-8 Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Association (LEPA) Conference (Lake Charles)
- 15 Shelter Task Force Conference Call
- 22 Shelter Task Force Conference Call
- 29 Shelter Task Force Conference Call

DISASTER RECOVERY SECTION

Section Chief Art Jones

Individual Assistance:

As of April 28, FEMA received 937,246 referrals for Individual Housing Assistance and approved 692,140 referrals, totaling \$3,115,500,271 for Hurricane Katrina. For Hurricane Rita, FEMA received 255,767 referrals for Individual Housing Assistance and approved 161,071 referrals, totaling \$404,676,102. The Small Business Administration has approved 4,493,347,900 in assistance for both Katrina and Rita.

Public Assistance:

As of May 2, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness distributed \$848,337,168 in public assistance funding for Hurricane Katrina and \$51,830,300 for Hurricane Rita.

TROOPS TO TEACHERS

State Director Al Almodovar

Troops to Teachers continues to pursue the goal of helping relieve teacher shortages, especially in math, science, special education and other high needs subject areas, and to assist military personnel in making successful transitions to second careers in teaching.

Stipends of up to \$5,000 are available to reimburse the costs associated with becoming certified to teach. Recipients of these stipends must agree to teach for three years in a school located in a "high-need" district. In addition, bonuses of \$10,000 are available to those who agree to teach for three years in a school that serves a high percentage of students from low-income families.

PREPAREDNESS SECTION

Section Chief Neal Fudge

The Hurricane Tabletop Exercise for the Governor and her cabinet will be May 16. The Hurricane Tabletop Exercise for FEMA Region 6 will take place in New Orleans on May 16-17, and the State Hurricane Functional Exercise will be May 23-24.

The following courses are scheduled for the month of May:

L253- Coordinating Environmental & Historical Compliance	20-22 March	JFO Baton Rouge - 3rd floor
ICS- 700- NIMS (SARTA)	April 12	Franklin
ICS- 700/800- NIMS (SARTA)	April 18	Union
IS 700/800- NIMS Introduction/ NRP Introduction	April 18	St Mary
ICS-100- Introduction of ICS	April 19	St Mary
ICS-100- NIMS (SARTA)	April 19	Union
ICS- 200- Basic ICS for Federal Disaster Workers	April 20	St Mary
IS 700/800- NIMS Introduction/ NRP Introduction	April 25	Vermilion
ICS-100- Introduction of ICS	April 26	Vermilion
ICS- 200- Basic ICS for Federal disaster workers	April 27	Vermilion

OPERATIONS SECTION

Section Chief Lt. Col. Bill Doran

Operations is busily preparing for the upcoming 2006 hurricane season by reviewing lessons learned and implementing changes in Standard Operating Procedures for the State EOC. Training and exercising new procedures are our main thrusts between now and June 1st.

Operations also welcomes quite a few new employees. As our new team gets on board, we will focus our efforts on this season and then strategically for the future.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECTION

Section Chief Matt Farlow

The IT Section would like the parishes to be aware of services offered by The National Communications System (NCS) that may benefit them during the upcoming hurricane season.

The National Communications System (NCS) A Quick Guide On Services Offered

By Steven Burr, GOHSEP

The National Communications System is part of the Department of Homeland Security. NCS offers a range of National Security and Emergency Preparedness communications services that support qualifying federal, state, local and tribal government, industry, and non-profit organization personnel in performing their related missions.

NCS requires your organization establish a designated Point of Contact (POC). This person is responsible for requesting and managing the various accounts.

Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS)

GETS provides emergency access and priority processing for both local and long distance service. GETS is used by emergency-related organizations in emergency situations during which the probability of completing a call over normal or other alternate telecommunication means has significantly decreased.

For additional information on the GETS program, please visit their website at <http://gets.ncs.gov>.

Wireless Priority Service (WPS)

WPS is a service for priority cellular network access. This program provides emergency-related organizations priority handling for emergency calls in heavy network traffic. With this service, qualifying agencies have the priority access they need to help ensure they get their mission-critical calls through without delay.

For additional information on the WPS program please visit their website at <http://wps.ncs.gov>.

Telecommunications Service Priority (TSP)

The TSP Program provides national security and emergency preparedness users with priority authorization of telecommunications services vital to coordinating and responding to crises.

The TSP Program provides service vendors with a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) mandate for prioritizing service requests by identifying those services considered critical. A telecommunications service with a TSP assignment is assured to receive full attention by the service vendor before a non-TSP service.

Users should be aware that TSP restoration priorities must be requested and assigned before a service outage occurs.

For additional information on the TSP program, please visit their website at <http://tsp.ncs.gov/>.

Quote for the Month

"The greatest mistake you can make in life is to be continually fearing you will make one."

—Elbert Hubbard (1856 - 1915)