



## How Does a LEPA Membership Benefit Me?

In Louisiana, we have always been aware of the need to work together during natural disasters. Now more than ever emergency managers need to network and share "best practices" before disasters happen. The Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Association (LEPA) serves as a forum or "catalyst" for these goals.

Not only does LEPA membership include federal, state and local governments; but also includes business and industry as well. With such a broad cross-section of members, LEPA provides a one-of-a-kind environment that allows you to network with top professionals in the field of emergency management.

LEPA supports many activities and training programs throughout the year, most notable is the annual workshop. The 2008 LEPA/GOHSEP Workshop will be held June 2 - 5 in Baton Rouge. You will be inspired, educated and motivated!

LEPA's membership is strong, but we need your support. In November, the first round of membership dues renewal forms will be mailed to current members. Non-members will receive a membership application.

### WHAT IS LEPA?

The Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Association is a non-profit statewide organization of emergency preparedness and response practitioners with the common goal of improving public safety in emergencies. LEPA was formed in 1980 by a group of local civil defense directors who recognized the need to expand and incorporate, as much as possible, everyone in emergency service into a cohesive and productive organization.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO JOIN LEPA?

Membership is open to anyone involved in emergency preparedness or response. All local, parish, state, and federal departments of government, business, and industry and volunteer organizations are eligible to join. Our strength lies in the broad base of our membership and their roles in emergency preparedness.

### WHY JOIN LEPA?

The most effective medium for continued progress in emergency preparedness is membership in the Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Association.

- ◆ LEPA provides a forum for its members to work together in addressing common issues.
- ◆ LEPA HAZMAT Alliance improves communications, coordination, and cooperation in managing hazardous materials incidents.
- ◆ LEPA offers unique training opportunities to its members.
- ◆ LEPA provides its members with exposure to a broad cross-section of emergency preparedness professions.
- ◆ LEPA provides its members information on resources for planning, training, and response.
- ◆ LEPA keeps its members abreast of new technologies, laws, and regulations.
- ◆ As a member, you will receive an informative newsletter quarterly to keep you up to date on emergency preparedness matters.
- ◆ LEPA offers Louisiana Emergency Management (LEM) Certification.

To download a Membership application visit the website at [www.lepa.org](http://www.lepa.org) and click on "join LEPA."



## LEPA Membership

**It's time to renew your LEPA membership! Dues notices will be mailed this month. If you are unsure of your membership status, please contact the LEPA office toll free at (877) 405-5372 or (225) 408-4757 or via e-mail at [office@lepa.org](mailto:office@lepa.org).**



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## MESSAGE FROM LEPA'S PRESIDENT

Dear LEPA Members:

With the end of 2007 Hurricane Season quickly coming to an end, I take great pleasure in saying we had very few scares. We had a few dry runs this season, which gave everyone the opportunity to exercise their plans. All plans have room for improvement and hopefully with the practice we all had this year those plans will reflect lessons learned. All residents of our respective parishes depend on us for guidance, protection and safety during natural and manmade disasters.

A new committee has been formed to revamp the makeup of the board. This committee is made up of board and non board members to provide new ideas from all concerned parties.

Mark your calendars. The 2008 LEPA-GOHSEP Workshop will be held in Baton Rouge at the Holiday Inn Select June 2 – 5. Please contact the LEPA Office with suggestions for speakers or other educational sessions you would like to have at the workshop.

Award nominations will be open until February 29, 2008. The LEPA Award Program is to recognize annually those individuals who have performed exceptionally well in their positions to protect the citizens of the state through prevention of accidents, emergency response and effective management of emergency situations. The criteria for individuals whom you believe are deserving of such an award are on the LEPA website at [www.lepa.org](http://www.lepa.org).

In closing, I would like to wish all of you a happy and safe holiday season.



Michael Deroche



## LEPA/GOHSEP/LERC NEWSLETTER

Official publication of the Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Association, Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness, and the Louisiana Emergency Response Commission.

### LEPA—Mailing Address

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### LEPA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS:

- **MICHAEL DEROCHE, PRESIDENT**  
TERREBONE PARISH OEP/HOUMA
- **ANDREW MOSHER, PRESIDENT ELECT**  
DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY/PLAQUEMINE
- **SHARLOT EDWARDS, PAST PRESIDENT**  
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HAZMAT ALLIANCE CO-CHAIR/LAKE CHARLES
- **DAVE BROWN**  
HAZMAT ALLIANCE CO-CHAIR/WESTLAKE

Submit articles to the LEPA Office  
by the following dates:

Winter Issue	December 15th
Spring Issue	March 15th
Summer Issue	June 15th
Fall Issue	September 15th

## City of Baton Rouge StormReady Community

The City of Baton Rouge, Parish of East Baton Rouge was recently certified by the National Weather Service as a StormReady Community. This certification defines those communities that are "better prepared to save lives from the onslaught of severe weather through better planning, education, and awareness." Baton Rouge is now one of 5 StormReady sites throughout the state of Louisiana. To be eligible for this certification, standards required by the National Weather Service must be proven. These standards consist of the promotion of the principles and guidelines of the StormReady Program and the incorporation of these into the Emergency Operations Plan. The Parish will be nationally recognized by the National Weather Service for this accomplishment.

## State Demonstrates Readiness to Handle Health Emergency

What would happen if Louisiana were ever faced with a bioterrorism attack, or an outbreak? Could the state provide critical medications to its citizens?

On October 25, 2007 the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals-Office of Public Health, DHH-OPH, found out just how it would react to such a crisis. The agency gave out free flu shots. As part of a drill designed to test the health department's ability to alert people to an emergency situation, identify and prepare a Point of Dispensing site, where medicines can be given to the general public, recruit medical volunteers and record and track the number of people served. The exercise is a requirement of a federal grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. DHH-OPH and its volunteers vaccinated close to 26,000 people in just five and a half hours, demonstrating the state's ability to respond to a crisis. Unofficial totals put the number of vaccinations at 25,955 statewide.

"We are very pleased with the turnout today," said Dr. Roxanne Townsend, DHH secretary. "By participating, citizens will be better prepared for the upcoming flu season, and our agency will be better prepared to respond if an emergency ever requires us to open up sites to dispense medications."

Long but fast moving lines formed quickly at the nine regional flu vaccination clinics called Point of Dispensing sites, or PODS. Many people were in and out in less than ten minutes. The state's Office of Public Health had hoped to vaccinate as many as 200 people per hour, but instead handled more than 550 an hour during peak times. People from ten states and two countries showed up for the free flu shots.

The Department of Health and Hospitals-Office of Public Health Immunization Medical Director, Dr. Frank Welch called the exercise a complete success, "This proves the state's ability to respond to a public health emergency, to set up PODs to send large numbers of people through during a crisis."

753 DHH-OPH employees and 185 volunteers staffed the nine regional sites.

## Boise, BPSO ink disaster agreement

A unique agreement signed Tuesday between Boise Cascade and the Beauregard Parish Sheriff's Office will allow the parish to be better prepared in declared emergency or disaster situations, officials said. The agreement calls for Boise Cascade to provide a warehouse and surrounding area at the DeRidder Mill for a parish Emergency Preparedness and Response Resource and Distribution Center. The purpose of the RDC is to assist in providing services for warehousing and with the distribution of emergency/disaster resources and supplies to the citizens of Beauregard Parish, in coordination with the BPSO's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

The agreement also calls for Boise to have personnel designated and available in case of an emergency or disaster situation requiring the RDC to be activated. In signing the agreement with Bob Strenge, vice president of Boise Packaging and Newsprint and DeRidder Mill manager, Sheriff Bolivar Bishop commended the company for stepping forward and making the commitment. "I consider Boise to be an extension of the community," Strenge replied. "This furthers the working relationship we have," referring to the assistance Boise provided to emergency responders in the aftermath of Hurricane Rita.

The concept of the RDC developed from "lessons learned" from the 2005 storm season, according to Deputy Glen Mears Sr., parish OHSEP director. For six months, a committee studied the project and worked out details for the agreement, a first in the state between government and industry for emergency preparedness, he added. Members included: co-chair Blaine Butaud, Theresa Tilley, John McMillian and David Ludolph of Boise; Norman Bourdeau of the Calcasieu Parish OHSEP; Clifton Hebert of the Cameron Parish OHSEP; Doug Zettlemyer of the Louisiana OHSEP; Chad Theunissen and Joanie Farque of the Southwest Chapter of the American Red Cross; Perry Vincent of Louisiana Radio; Chad Hurst of the Louisiana Sheriff's Association; Capt. Russell Haman, commander of Louisiana State Police Troop D; Joe Hill and David Conner of the Federal Emergency Management Agency; BPSO Chief Deputy Robert McCullough; and co-chair Mears.

"The hard work that has been accomplished by this group will benefit the Parish of Beauregard, Southwest Louisiana Region 5 area and, hopefully, other areas of the state as well," Mears said. "I hope we never have to use this RDC to its fullest, but it is comforting to know that it is there with hard-working people to support it."

{This news article is being used with permission of the Beauregard Daily News and Reporter Julie Roberts.}



## Jena, Louisiana September 20, 2007

Many agencies and officers from around the state arrived in Jena to help assist local officials as 20,000—25,000 marched in support of the “Jena 6.” La. State Police headed the effort as nearly 400 officers from the agencies of the US Marshall's, FBI, La. Sheriff Association Task Force, La. Chief of Police Association, and officers from Ascension, Avoyelles, Caddo, Calcasieu, Caldwell, DeSoto, East Baton Rouge, Franklin, Jefferson, Madison, Natchitoches, Quachita, Rapides, Richland, Union and Winn parishes assisted them. There were three command centers set up about a mile from the courthouse. The Red Cross set up ten cooling stations and provided water. The only incidents were medical emergencies of overheating and dehydration. There were 300 medical calls which resulted in 15 people going to the hospital. There were six ambulance services stationed throughout the town.



## **Baton Rouge Community College offers Certificate in Emergency Management**

Baton Rouge Community College has developed a Certificate in Emergency Management. The program is designed for those students who wish credentialing for their emergency management careers and for students entering the emergency management career field. The Certificate in Emergency Management requires 30 hours for completion. Students earning the Certificate in Emergency Management may apply the credit toward other relevant degrees and may use these as transfer credits to local four-year institutions. Baton Rouge Community College is currently offering 11 courses in Emergency Management. These courses are:

- ◆ Emergency Management Leadership
- ◆ Emergency Response to Terrorism
- ◆ Principles of Emergency Management
- ◆ Technology and Emergency Management
- ◆ Introduction to Emergency Management
- ◆ Public Safety Critical Incident Management
- ◆ Introduction to Hazards, Disasters and the Environment
- ◆ Emergency Response to Planning
- ◆ Emergency Management Internship
- ◆ Public Information Officer Basic Course
- ◆ Basic Incident Command System

Questions about the program can be directed to Amy Pinero at [pineroa@mybrcc.edu](mailto:pineroa@mybrcc.edu) or 225-216-8022

## **St. Martin Parish Opens New Public Safety Complex**

St. Martin Parish recently opened the new St. Martin Parish Public Safety Complex in order to better serve the residents of the parish. This facility is centrally located in St. Martin Parish and houses key assets of the St. Martin Parish Sheriff's Office and the 911 Communications District.

The SMPPSC houses the St. Martin Parish Sheriff's Office Patrol Bureau, St. Martin Parish 911 Dispatch Center, St. Martin Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, 911 Addressing Office, and the Sheriff's Office Fleet Maintenance Center. The facility consists of 14,000 square feet of facility structures situated on 5 acres of land.

The facility utilizes some of the latest in technological advances in computer and radio communications equipment available. The dispatch center is equipped with P25 radios which operate on the state's new 700 MHz radio system and will allow for interoperability within the parish and the state. The dispatch center has also acquired 911 Phase II compliant equipment with GPS mapping which will provide GPS coordinates to assist in locating a person who calls 911 from any telephone. This will also assist in locating callers who do not know their location.

The Emergency Operations Center located in this facility is equipped with the latest in audiovisual equipment linked by computer to the latest storm mapping and forecast programs as well as radar and other data which is critical in times of emergency. The EOC is large enough to house all parish leaders and responders who take part in the decision making process during storms and other emergencies.

The facility's computer network is directly linked to all other St. Martin Parish Sheriff's Office Facilities though the use of a fiber optic link. All facilities' telephones utilize a Voice over Internet Protocol telephone which combines all facilities phone systems into a single system.

This facility was constructed by a cooperative effort between the St. Martin Parish Sheriff's Office, St. Martin Parish Government, St. Martin Parish 911 Communications District, and the St. Martin Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. The total cost of this facility amounted to \$1.2 million.

## LEPA Board of Directors Meetings

The meetings of the LEPA Board of Directors, unless otherwise noted, are held at 8550 United Plaza Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA, 70809 in the 1st floor Training Center. The following meetings have been scheduled:

December 7, 2007

January 18, 2008

March 7, 2008

May 2, 2007 Holiday Inn Select Baton Rouge

June 2, 2007 Holiday Inn Select Baton Rouge

\*If you plan to attend a Board meeting, please contact the LEPA office at (877) 405-5372 or (225) 408-4757 or via e-mail at [office@lepa.org](mailto:office@lepa.org).

## TRAINING

### Governors Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness

<http://www.ohsep.louisiana.gov>

225-925-7500

### Louisiana State Police Emergency Response Training Center

<http://www.lsp.org>

225-777-4195 or 225-777-4104

### LSU Fire and Emergency Training Institute

<http://feti.lsu.edu>

800-256-3473 or 225-766-0600

## EVENTS CALENDAR

Hazardous Materials Transportation Training

One-Day Workshop

December 13, 2007

LSU Fire & Emergency Training Institute

Baton Rouge

(202) 366-4900

<http://hazmat.dot.gov/training/training.htm>

LEPA/GOHSEP WORKSHOP

HOLIDAY INN SELECT

BATON ROUGE

JUNE 2-5, 2008



*to our newly certified*

*Louisiana Emergency Managers*

Lisa Carmack

Mike Deroche

Jerre Hurst

Larry Mounce

Pam Roussel

GOHSEP Region 7 Coordinator

Terrebonne Parish OEP

Morehouse Parish OEP

EPR Parish Fire Department

GOHSEP Region 3 Coordinator

## **NOMINATE OUTSTANDING LEADERS FOR LEPA AWARDS**

During the LEPA 2008 Workshop, awards of recognition and hard work will be given. It's time to recognize that someone who has worked hard, contributed to the betterment of LEPA and/or Emergency Preparedness, and deserves to be recognized for their hard work. Please let us know who they are. Granted anyone that has chosen this type of profession deserves recognition just for sticking with it; however, we want to be sure to recognize those who have gone the extra mile.

I Recommend: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Award: \_\_\_\_\_

Accomplishments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Use separate sheet for additional information)

**Mail to: Sonya Wiley-Gremillion  
LEPA Award Nominations  
4216 Ellis Street  
Alexandria, LA 71302**

**DEADLINE: February 29, 2008**

## **Sign-Up to Become a Medical Volunteer!**

Louisiana is looking for a few good men and women. The Department of Health and Hospitals-Office of Public Health wants to increase the number of volunteers to help the state during a health emergency. By the end of the year, medical and non-medical volunteers will be able to sign up on the internet and become a part of the state's database of volunteers ready to spring into action.

Recent events, including Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, have increased the national attention given to public health emergency preparedness. These events underscored the need for an emergency "surge" or supplemental health care workforce that can be mobilized to respond immediately to mass casualty events. Louisiana's Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP) provides a systematic process for statewide medical volunteer coordination in the event of an emergency.

During the Department of Health and Hospitals-Office of Public Health's mass vaccination exercise, 185 volunteers helped state workers vaccinate close to 26,000 people with the flu vaccine.

ESAR-VHP establishes a pool of pre-credentialed, ready-to-deploy volunteer health professionals that could be utilized during emergencies. To date the program has over 2,800 medical volunteers registered with the program. The ESAR-VHP Program is housed in the Center for Community Preparedness within the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health.

Interested medical personnel (physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, clinical social workers, dentist, marriage and family therapists, mental health counselors, pharmacists, physician assistants, psychologists, registered nurses, respiratory therapists, licensed practical nurses, medical/clinical laboratory technicians, medical/clinical laboratory technologists, emergency medical technicians and paramedics) should contact Mardrah Starks at 225-763-3965 or [mmstarks@dhh.la.gov](mailto:mmstarks@dhh.la.gov) to become a part of the state's volunteer database. Please sign up today! Your community and state need YOU!





# JOIN LEPA NOW

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Check One:

- Individual Membership (\$75/year)     Student Membership (\$20/year)  
 Corporate Membership (see below)

### **CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP DUES**

# OF EMPLOYEES	ANNUAL DUES	ELIGIBLE MEMBERS
1-100	\$150	2
101-250	\$300	4
251-500	\$600	8
501-1000	\$900	12
Over 1000	\$1200	16

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 PARISH: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE#: \_\_\_\_\_  
 FAX#: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL#: \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
 RECRUITED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Primary Areas of Interest: (Check those that apply.)**

- Communications and Warning  
 Shelter and Evacuation  
 Law Enforcement  
 Hazardous Materials  
 Emergency Management  
 Fire Services  
 Radiological and Nuclear  
 Military  
 Public Works and Utilities  
 Public Information and Education  
 Health and Emergency Medical  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Send application to:

**LOUISIANA EMERGENCY  
 PREPAREDNESS ASSOCIATION**  
 8550 United Plaza Blvd., Suite 1001  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70809  
 Toll free: (877) 405-5372  
 Phone: (225) 408-4757  
 Fax: (225) 408-4422  
 E-mail: office@lepa.org

*If Corporate Membership, show the primary contact for invoicing and attach a list of the other eligible members giving complete information on each.*



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