



# The 2008 LEPA/GOHSEP Workshop will be held at the Holiday Inn Select Baton Rouge June 2-5, 2008.

The Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Association and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness invite you to attend the 2008 Workshop. The Workshop begins on Monday, June 2 and will end Thursday, June 5 with HazMat training. When not attending educational courses, Workshop attendees will have many opportunities for networking and socializing. The Workshop will feature a President's Reception, Evening Social with Vendors and a Membership Banquet.



**Hotel reservations:** You may reserve your room by calling the hotel directly at (800) 678-4065. You must identify yourself as a member of LEPA in order to receive the group rate of \$90.00. You may also make reservations through the Holiday Inn Select Executive Center's website at [www.hiselect.com/execenterbtr](http://www.hiselect.com/execenterbtr). The promotion code for making reservations online is k36. All reservations must be guaranteed and accompanied by a first night room deposit or guaranteed with a major credit card.

For additional information or updates, please visit the LEPA website at [www.lepa.org](http://www.lepa.org) or call the LEPA office at (225) 408-4757.

## LEPA Membership

**It's time to renew your LEPA membership!**



**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:

I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season.

As we begin a new era in state government, I would like to welcome Mr. Mark Cooper who has been appointed by Governor Bobby Jindal to be the director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. Mr. Cooper was a Deputy Fire Chief for Los Angeles County Fire Department. He is a native of Louisiana and a graduate of Louisiana State University. I look forward to meeting with Mr. Cooper in the very near future to discuss emergency management in this state, especially some much needed legislation that this organization has been working toward.

I would also like to welcome all newly elected public officials from the state and local levels of government as well as any new emergency managers who have been recently appointed. I encourage all these new individuals to become a member of LEPA. The board of directors has been working on a seminar for newly appointed directors; this seminar should be completed by the annual workshop.

As we forge ahead in 2008, please pay special note to the fact that the federal government is working on trying to eliminate several key grant funds which assist the local emergency management, local fire and local law enforcement agencies.

The Workshop Committee is working hard to put together the 2008 Annual LEPA/GOHSEP Workshop to be held at the Holiday Inn Select in Baton Rouge from June 2 through June 5, 2008. A reminder that if you have anyone you would like to nominate for an award, the deadline is fast approaching.

Association dues renewals have gone out and it is time to renew your membership in this fine association. We also welcome new members. You can visit our website, [www.lepa.org](http://www.lepa.org), for more information.

In closing, I would be remiss if I would not congratulate Coach Les Miles and the LSU Fighting Tigers on the victory in the BCS Championship game. They represented the State of Louisiana proudly and they further proved that with not giving up and working as a team, a lot can be accomplished.

Sincerely,



Michael Deroche  
President



## 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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Web: [www.lepa.org](http://www.lepa.org)

### LEPA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS:

- **MICHAEL DEROCHE, PRESIDENT**  
TERREBONE PARISH OEP/HOUMA
- **ANDREW MOSHER, PRESIDENT ELECT**  
DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY/PLAQUEMINE
- **SHARLOT EDWARDS, PAST PRESIDENT**  
WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH OEP/PORT ALLEN
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LERC CHAIRMAN/BATON ROUGE
- **DICK GREMILLION**  
REGIONAL COORDINATOR CHAIR/LAKE CHARLES
- **JOHN PORTER**  
HAZMAT ALLIANCE CO-CHAIR/LAKE CHARLES
- **DAVE BROWN**  
HAZMAT ALLIANCE CO-CHAIR/WESTLAKE

## MESSAGE FROM GOHSEP'S DIRECTOR

As the new Director of Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), I wish to express how happy and enthused I am to be in the great state of Louisiana and be part of the emergency management family.



After almost 19 years with the Los Angeles County government including sixteen years in emergency management and public safety, I am looking forward to learning from and working with the Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Association (LEPA). Together with other emergency management stakeholders, we can make our State even better prepared for the next natural or man-made disaster.

I am extremely impressed with the significant improvements that have been made in emergency preparedness since the storms of 2005. One significant outcome is the prestigious National Emergency Management Accreditation Program certification that was awarded GOHSEP. This major recognition is due to the leadership and dedication of my predecessor, Col (retired) Jeff Smith and the entire staff of GOHSEP who have worked tirelessly and selflessly with you in moving the agency forward. My goal is to continue building on this momentum by reaching out to emergency management stakeholders across Louisiana in establishing and maintaining close working relationships. GOHSEP is here to support you!

I look forward to meeting each of you and actively supporting the efforts of LEPA.

Sincerely,

Mark Cooper  
GOHSEP  
Director



*to our newly certified*

*Louisiana Emergency Managers*

**Rebecca Broussard—Vermillion Parish OHSEP**

**Barbara Dupre—Terrebonne Parish OHSEP**

**Scott Hess—St. Tammany Parish Fire District**

**Jerry Monier—LA. DHH**

**Anthony Moran—West Baton Rouge Fire District**

**Earl "Pat" Santos, Jr.—GOHSEP**

**Kevin Siegmund—GOHSEP**

## 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:

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

## Iberia Parish/Vermilion Parish Emergency Guide Honored in D.C.

The *Iberia Parish/Vermilion Parish Emergency Guide* has been honored as one of four national finalists by the PR News Nonprofit Awards Program at a ceremony at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. Jim Anderson, Iberia Parish Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, Becky Broussard, Vermilion Parish Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, and David Jewell, Vice President of AGL Resources, the company that created the emergency guides in partnership with emergency response and parish governmental leaders, were on hand for the awards luncheon Tuesday. While in the capital, Anderson, Broussard and Jewell met with U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu, Congressman Charles Boustany and the chief of staff for Congressman Charles Melancon to update them on the success of the guide and discuss issues of importance to parish and state emergency response operations.

Public relations initiatives judged as the best in the nation received awards in 18 categories with as many as ten projects in each of 18 industry areas. The *Iberia Parish/Vermilion Parish Emergency Guide* was one of three crisis planning and response projects to be recognized as honorable mention winners, along with Underwriters Laboratories and the American Veterinary Medical Association response to the 2007 Chinese Pet Food Recall. The American Zoo and Aquarium's international wildlife protection campaign, "Keeping Elephants In Our Future" was named as the national winner among the four finalists.

Entries in the annual PR News' Nonprofit Awards Program are judged by a blue chip panel of non-profit and academic executives, as well as by the staff of PR News. The judges evaluate entries based on creativity, innovation, sound planning and implementation, while making the most important criterion proven success in aligning strategic objectives with established goals.

The Iberia Parish/Vermilion Parish Emergency Guide was published earlier this year through the cooperation of ten parish governmental groups, in partnership with AGL Resources and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and over 40,000 copies have already been distributed in the two parishes. Copies of the 42-page guide, which covers every major aspect of family natural disaster planning, response, recovery and mitigation are available through the Offices of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, located in the Iberia Parish and Vermilion Parish courthouses.



Photo: Jim Anderson, Senator Mary Landrieu, David Jewell and Becky Broussard.

## Anti-terrorism training came just in time for a real event

NCBRT courses are designed to train and prepare first responders in dealing with real-world terrorist and WMD situations. These first responders walk away with valuable knowledge that they may use in the next five months or five years. In the case of the first responders in Anchorage, Alaska who took the *Public Safety WMD Response-Sampling Techniques and Guidelines* course, their training was put to the test the very next day.



The *Sampling* course is intended to prepare hazardous materials teams within local and state emergency response agencies to safely and effectively conduct public safety operations at known or suspected WMD incidents. The day after the *Sampling* course in Anchorage concluded, the city was faced with a white powder incident.

A threatening letter containing a mysterious white powder substance showed up in the attorney general's office. The same first responders, who just a day before were being trained on how to handle an incident such as this one, put their education into action. They made the decision to isolate the substance and lock the area down so there was no chance the substance could contaminate another part of the building. The people inside were not allowed out and the structure's ventilation system was shut off to prevent the substance from spreading. Firefighters wearing hazardous materials suits entered and removed the substance to test it at a state public health lab.

Within hours, the situation was settled and employees were able to leave. The unidentified substance was tested and deemed harmless. Everyone involved stated that the emergency response personnel had the situation under control and everything was handled in a professional and timely manner. This incident reaffirms the importance and necessity of the NCBRT's mission and trainings.

## Louisiana Wants You!

*New web-site to help the state recruit and manage emergency volunteers.*  
[www.lava.dhh.louisiana.gov](http://www.lava.dhh.louisiana.gov)

Louisiana is looking for a few good men and women. The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals-Office of Public Health recently launched its brand new volunteer management website. LAVA, or Louisiana Volunteers in Action, is the program responsible for recruiting the Department's volunteer workforce (medical and non-medical). The LAVA website will allow individuals to register to volunteer to help the state during health emergencies and day-to-day activities. LAVA provides web-based training to volunteers and information on upcoming volunteer opportunities. It can also be used to deploy volunteers.

Louisiana learned the value of volunteers during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Office of Public Health-Center for Community Preparedness Director Doris Brown says more than 8,500 volunteers helped DHH in shelters and clinics across the state. "These volunteers helped supplement the medical work force. We couldn't have gotten through these tragedies without their help." Right now the program has 2,831 volunteers on file. Interested volunteers can sign up at [www.lava.dhh.louisiana.gov](http://www.lava.dhh.louisiana.gov).

The Federal Government requires states to have volunteer recruitment programs. LAVA is part of the federal program known as Emergency Systems for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESARVHP). For more information, please contact Mardrah Starks-Robinson, program manager at 225-763-3965.



## **Nomination for LEPA Board of Directors**

It is that time of the year where LEPA is seeking members to serve on the Board of Directors. This year we would like to poll the membership and get some feedback from you. We are asking you to nominate an expiring Board member(s) for re-election **and/or** submit names of prospective members of the Board of Directors for the **seven** positions to be filled, each for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2008.

To qualify for nomination for election to the Board of Directors, a person must have been a paid member of LEPA for the past consecutive 12 months. The LEPA Board is required to meet each quarter or whenever necessary and on the day prior to the annual Workshop of the Association. Board members must attend at least half of the Board meetings from July 1 through June 30 for each year of their respective terms.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to nominate the following out-going Board members for re-election (please mark all choices):

Lawrence Callender	Robert Jump	Jerry Monier
Andrew Mosher	Sonya Wiley-Gremillion	

I would like to nominate the following person as new Board member:

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions, please contact Andrew Mosher, Nominations Chair, at [andrew.mosher@dow.com](mailto:andrew.mosher@dow.com).

**Please submit names to:**      **LEPA BOD Nominations**  
   **8550 United Plaza Blvd., Suite 1001**  
   **Baton Rouge, LA 70809**  
   ***NOMINATION DEADLINE: February 29, 2008***

## **LEPA College Scholarship Program Information**

The LEPA Board of Directors, recognizing the importance of education and outreach in promoting safety during emergencies, established "The LEPA College Scholarship Program" in 2000. The College Scholarship Committee administers the LEPA Scholarship Program.

The committee anticipates awarding up to \$5000.00 in scholarships for the 2008-09 academic year in the following scholarship amounts: two at \$1,500 and four at \$500. Students who will be full-time students in Fall 2008 are eligible for all awards, while those who will be part-time students in Fall 2008 are only eligible for the \$500 awards. Scholarship winners will also receive a two-year student membership in LEPA, along with free registration and hotel accommodations for one night at the 2008 LEPA/GOHSEP Workshop scheduled for June 2-5, 2008 in Baton Rouge, LA. The final decision is made by a vote of the LEPA Board of Directors. Scholarship winners will be recognized at the 2008 LEPA/GOHSEP Workshop Awards Banquet on June 2, 2008.

Please see the LEPA website at [www.lepa.org](http://www.lepa.org) for guidelines and application.

**DEADLINE FOR COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION:**  
**Must be received by the LEPA office no later than close of business on**  
**March 31, 2008.**



# 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](mailto: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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 Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Association  
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 Governors Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness  
 7667 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806  
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