A MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR MARK COOPER

Dear GOHSEP Partner:

A New Year has arrived with many new challenges and opportunities for our great State and GOHSEP. As an all-hazards agency, we try to prepare for every scenario, but never know what the next day will bring as demonstrated by the recent winter weather and continued preparedness for H1N1. As we look forward to the upcoming hurricane season and the potential for rivers rising, we can only hope that 2010 is a quiet year as we attempt to prepare for every scenario that may come our way.

This year has already brought some new challenges as the State faces a continued fiscal crisis, and nonexempt, we labor to do more with less while working diligently to achieve our mission for the citizens of Louisiana. This includes new initiatives that are strategic for our State and will assist us in being better prepared with a vision of becoming the center of excellence for emergency management and homeland security. With this issue of the newsletter, we announce a new preparedness campaign for kids with the goal of establishing a “culture of preparedness” as they grow up and become adults. Recently, we engaged the Stephenson Disaster Management Institute to partner with LSU’s senior marketing class to assist us in developing ideas for this campaign. Their ideas were very impressive and many will be implemented as we move forward with “Get A Game Plan for Kids.” This is just one of the new initiatives that will be unveiled this year that will assist us in achieving our mission and vision for the State.

Here’s to another exciting and productive year for Louisiana and emergency management.

Sincerely,
Mark A. Cooper, Director

GOHSEP, along with other state agencies, sent resources to support the local officials during this time of need.
GET A GAME PLAN: KIDS CAMPAIGN

GOHSEP got a little help from some students over at LSU. LSU’s senior marketing class worked on advancing the Kids’ Get a Game Plan campaign as their senior class project. From board games to rap songs to public service announcements, the students had a well thought out campaign that was both entertaining and educational for kids. The campaign was so impressive, GOHSEP Director Mark Cooper invited the students to testify before the Homeland Security Committee members on December 17, 2009.

Currently, the kids’ campaign features an all-hazards activity book created by GOHSEP’s Michael Verrett, the “Get a Game Plan” gator mascot, and a public service announcement with local characters Hollywood Hal and Rhinestone Al. “Hal and Al” have a kids’ show that runs on Cox Cable in several Louisiana markets including Baton Rouge, Lafayette and New Orleans.

DIRECTOR COOPER SIGNS IERSP COMPACT

By: Jim Ballow

In October 2009, Emergency Management Directors from the five states comprising FEMA Region VI met in Austin, Texas to discuss the newly conceived Interstate Emergency Response Support Plan (IERSP). Following discussions of the draft plan, the directors agreed to support its continued development.

Background: In the spring of 2009, an initiative was undertaken to facilitate enhancement of the Region VI states’ abilities to assist one another in a rapid and effective manner during times of emergency. A working group was formed to address this task. Louisiana hosted the first meeting of this working group in the summer of 2009 in which GOHSEP personnel assisted in the concept development and outline for the new compact which eventually became known as the Interstate Emergency Response Support Plan (IERSP). Subsequent working group meetings, hosted by other Region VI states, yielded considerable progress toward developing the plan. The October meeting in Austin brought together the five state directors for their approval and ultimate signatures agreeing to support the plan’s further development. Additional meetings of the working group are currently scheduled to finalize the finer details of the plan and discuss opportunities to integrate it into the states’ exercise schedules.

National FEMA leadership has lauded the IERSP as a model compact and discussed prompting the other FEMA regions to carry out similar initiatives.

While much work remains ahead for the IERSP to become a fully effective tool, the states’ working group continues to direct the compact on a path toward success. GOHSEP is proud to have been a charter member of this effort and will continue to ensure Louisiana’s continued participation.
SPOTLIGHT: COLONEL JIM BRIDGES

GOHSEP is saying good-bye and best of luck to Col. Jim Bridges who officially retired on January 8, 2010. Colonel Bridges served the State of Louisiana in various positions for more than 10 years following his retirement from the Mississippi Air Guard in 1998. He came to work for “LOEP” – Louisiana Office of Emergency Preparedness in May of 1999 as the Division Chief for Plans, Training and Exercise. In 2003, he was selected by the Adjutant General to serve as the Director of The Southern Antiterrorist Regional Training Academy (SARTA) at the Gillis W. Long Center in Carville, LA. After successfully launching the Academy, in January of 2008, SARTA officially moved over to the GOHSEP Training Section and Col. Bridges took on the dual role as SARTA Director and Training Branch Manager in the Preparedness Section. “It was a rewarding experience to be part of the team responsible for standing up SARTA and providing counter terrorism training for law enforcement officers and other first responders,” says Bridges.

He has served in various roles throughout a number of historical storms, to include Tropical Storm Allison, Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike. “The response to Katrina and Rita was the most memorable experience. I think the people here at GOHSEP worked as hard as they could and gave their best for months,” he added.

Those who’ve worked with him say they will miss his quick wit and humor, his dedication to the GOHSEP mission and his love for Louisiana…even if he is a true Ole Miss Rebel at heart! As for the Colonel, he says he looks forward to resting, relaxing, visiting with friends and family and attending lots of ballgames!

COMMUNICATIONS DESK

By Travis Johnson

The GOHSEP Communications Desk recently completed a major remodeling project. With the addition of two new Motorola Dispatch Consoles the Communications Desk increased radio monitoring capacity, allowing GOHSEP greater ability to communicate throughout the state in an emergency. In order to accommodate emergency communications needs on short notice, the remodeled Communications Desk increased the communications call taker capacity from 3 to 8 permanent positions, with the ability to activate additional positions at a moment’s notice. In addition, through a cooperative partnership with the JFO, volunteer call takers have been identified ahead of time and have been trained in advance to take over these duties when the need arises, significantly reducing the time required to react to expanding operations.

The newly remodeled Communications Desk incorporates state of the art communications equipment with constantly improving training programs and procedures that are setting new standards and attracting attention nationwide for innovation and excellence.
The Thibodaux Regional Medical Center hosted a mass decontamination training on Tuesday, November 17, 2009. Instruction was provided by the Louisiana Army National Guard’s 62\(^{nd}\) Civil Support Team (62\(^{nd}\)CST) specializing in Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). Special thanks and a shout out to Major Leon “Doc” Wright, PA-C; and SFC Bradley O’Rourke of the 62\(^{nd}\) CST for teaching the class. The purpose of the training is to ensure proper handling of victims of any Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) contamination are managed as a medical emergency at Thibodaux Regional Medical Center. Participants included personnel from the Region 3 parishes: Assumption Community Hospital, Thibodaux Regional Medical Center, Ochsner/St Anne General, St. James Parish hospital, Franklin Foundation Hospital, Touro Infirmary.

A regional approach to this type of training is an excellent opportunity for responders and hospital personnel to meet and train together as natural and/or man-made disasters have no jurisdictional boundaries.

Following a lesson on the different types of detection and the proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to be used, it was time to try it on! Yes, that’s right, this turned out to be an inter-active training that many of the participants wearing these suits won’t soon forget.

Next came the drill. Participants headed outside to the decontamination staging area where they were instructed on everything from how build a simplistic decontamination station, to properly instructing victims on how to proceed through the decon areas and then how to properly decontaminate patients before entering the emergency room for additional medical care.

Many thanks to all the participants and Eric DeGravelle with Thibodaux Regional Medical Center who spear-headed this training for Region 3.
Training was held at the Bossier City Civic Center and included a media day and press conference where local TV, radio, and newspapers personnel were briefed by state and local officials on the training and Louisiana’s ongoing commitment to improving interoperable communications throughout the state.

The communications section is continuing its efforts to improve communications interoperability statewide with an ambitious schedule in the first quarter of this year, providing week long training and exercise events to both Region 9 and Region 1 in the next few months.

By Travis Johnson

The Communications Section held one of its ongoing Regional Communications Events last month in Region 7. December 7th – 11th First Responders and Emergency Managers from Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, Desoto, Red River, and Webster parishes were provided extensive communications interoperability training. Classes included COML, TERT, Radio Operation, Radio Programming, and gateway Device operation. The training events continue to grow as classes are developed to meet the specific needs of the regions. In Region 7, a new course, Spanish Language instructions for Public Safety Answering Point Dispatchers was added to the training roster. This class was designed to speed response time for PSAP dispatchers in assisting the area’s growing Spanish speaking population.

C A N  Y O U  G U E S S

This individual has been employed at GOHSEP approximately two years.

He worked in law enforcement for 20 years.

In 1970, this two year-old began his preparations for his later role in Homeland Security.

To find out who he is, check out page 9.

G O H S E P  G I V E S  B A C K

GOHSEP employees participated in an agency-wide food and toy drive this holiday season.

Congratulations!

We are pleased to announce the following recent birth.

Requel Compton is the proud mother of baby boy Landon

Born on 10-21-09 Weight - 6 lbs. 8 oz. Length – 20”
In December 2009, Arianne Deruise received the Professional Certificate through the Comprehensive Public Training Program for management development. To receive the certificate, she completed a series of classes designed to improve professional performance and then successfully completed an assessment consisting of case study exercises.

DRESS CODE FASHION SHOW

Forget New York or Milan! The fashionistas in the Public Assistance section over at the JFO held a fashion show a few months back to demonstrate how to dress appropriately in the workplace. Several volunteers showed the audience both appropriate and inappropriate attire according to the new dress code policy. P.A. Disaster Recovery Specialist Salienier Alexander was the MC of the show, giving vibrant descriptions of the outfits and humorous commentary. The audience really enjoyed the show. After the show, Lynne Browning (P.A. Section Chief) and Andreas Hansen (Human Resources) answered questions from the audience. A big thanks goes out to all of the models, our host Salienier Alexander, and the P.A. Group Leads (Dianna Bennett, Christen Chasson, Lisa Jones, Iris Porter-Hardy, and Gail Rhines) for making this such a successful event!

Models included: Cameron Bass, Butch Johnson, Shaletha Smith, Earl Henderson, Lynda Merrill, Robin Wilson, Jamie Wilson, Justin Montague, Annette Taylor, Glenda Bocking, Amanda Mays, Latonya Johnson, Myeisha Wade, Mark Heidenthal, Montrell Dukes, Rose Bayne, Roy Collins, Raven Charles-Houston, Sean Wyatt, Darielle “Nikki” Rhines

FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate stands with newly sworn in Region VI Regional Administrator Tony Russell as Russell receives a commendation for his continuing efforts in helping with Louisiana’s hurricane recovery. Presenting the award on behalf of the Governor are Louisiana Recovery Authority Director Paul Rainwater and Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Director Mark Cooper.

Plaquemines Parish Sheriff “Jiff” Hingle, accepts the symbolic giant check for over $56 Million from Louisiana Recovery Authority’s Paul Rainwater, Governors Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness’s Mark DeBosier and Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Tony Russell. The $56 Million is obligated for the construction of a new detention center to replace one destroyed in Hurricane Katrina.
The Second Annual GOHSEP/State Police Tailgate Cook-Off was a tremendous success. More than $12,300 was raised for the United Way. The funds were dedicated to the Cancer Services of Greater Baton Rouge in memory of Col. Kirkpatrick.
The Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) and the Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Association (LEPA) celebrated this holiday season in early December.

The Holiday Party was full of food, fun and fellowship with more than 200 attendees. A special visit was made by Santa Clause and the Get-A-Game-Plan Gator.
REQUEST FOR ARTICLES

If you would like to include your information/article in future issues of the GOHSEP Newsletter, the next edition will be published in April. For questions, please contact:

Veronica Mosgrove  
(225) 358-5667  
veronica.mosgrove@la.gov

FOR QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

Veronica Mosgrove  
(225) 358-5667/veronica.mosgrove@la.gov  

Stephanie McKenzie  
(225) 358-5617/stephanie.mckeznie@la.gov

CAN YOU GUESS - ANSWER

The answer to “Can You Guess” on page 5 is Clay Rives. Clay serves GOHSEP as the Deputy Director of Homeland Security.
Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Association

WINTER EDITION
A MESSAGE FROM THE LEPA PRESIDENT

Dear LEPA Members,

I hope this edition of the GOHSEP/LEPA Newsletter finds you in good health and spirits as we enter 2010. The first decade of this Century has challenged our State and the profession of emergency preparedness. The turn of the century began with many months of preparedness efforts for Y2K. In 2001, our lives and profession were changed forever following the September 11 attacks and anthrax events. In 2005, the Louisiana Emergency Preparedness community responded to one of the most catastrophic events in American History. In 2008, our profession proved that we had learned from our past experiences as we successfully responded to Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. Finally, our decade ended with a year of H1N1 and flooding.

The past decade has truly challenged the Louisiana Spirit and our profession. Few states have faced the challenges that we have over the past decade. History will prove that the past decade has significantly influenced the profession of emergency management. Our profession has not only been impacted by the events of the past decade, but has been influenced by government oversight such as the 9/11 Commission and the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006. As we entered the decade, many of us used simple terms such as the Incident Command System, Crisis Management and Consequence Management. As we left the decade, our terminology has grown to include terms such as the National Incident Management System, Homeland Security Presidential Directives, National Response Plan, National Response Framework, Target Capabilities, and Universal Task List. The field of emergency management and homeland security is an emerging science. Another significant achievement has been the creation of various academic programs in Emergency Management and Homeland Security. I encourage our membership to reach out to these academic institutions and share your knowledge and experiences with their students and faculty. As professionals, it is our responsibility to share our knowledge and experience with the next generation of emergency management professionals.

I have mentioned on several occasions that the strength of the Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Association lies within our membership. Our members have varying backgrounds in emergency management, homeland security, fire services, law enforcement, military, public health, emergency medical services, education, private industry and others. The diversity of our membership truly represents the strength of Louisiana’s Emergency Preparedness Community. The strength of this community has supported the State of Louisiana and our residents through one of the most challenging decades in history. The strength of Louisiana’s emergency preparedness community will be the backbone to our success in managing and responding to the challenges that await us in this new decade.

Best wishes for a safe and enjoyable new year,

Jerry T. Monier, Jr., LEM
President
Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Association
The Louisiana Emergency Manager (LEM) certification is an indicator of experience, hard work, continuing education, dedication to integrity and creativity. It is also an assurance that an individual is dedicated to the field of emergency management. Obtaining certification as a LEM proves that you can effectively accomplish the goals and objectives of comprehensive emergency management in Louisiana.

The Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Association (LEPA) developed, sponsors, and administers this certification program. You do not have to be a member of the LEPA organization in order to become certified as a LEM. However, LEPA members receive a discount on the application fees.

LEPA is dedicated to promoting the goals of saving lives and protecting property through the application of the four phases of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The goal is to increase professionalism and recognize the individual who possesses the knowledge, skills, abilities and experience to effectively manage a comprehensive emergency management program through a rigorous certification program. The certification for LEM is just such a program.

The LEM certification program is a modification of the International Association of Emergency Managers' Certified Emergency Manager (CEM®) program. It is different from the CEM® because the LEM has Louisiana-unique requirements and does not require a college degree. The LEPA Certification Committee recognizes that many emergency managers never had the opportunity to attend college, yet possess the knowledge, skills and abilities to effectively manage a comprehensive emergency management program. Thus, the LEM program addresses that situation.

For more information visit our website: www.lepa.org

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.

2009-2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Jerry Monier, LEM
President Elect: Dawson Primes, LEM
Past President: Andy Mosher, LEM
Treasurer: Eric S. Deroche, LEM
HazMat Alliance Co-Chair: John Porter
GOHSEP Director: Mark Cooper
HazMat Alliance Co-Chair: Dave Brown
LERC Chairman: Ralph Mitchell
Regional Co-Coordinator: Tommy Thiebaud
Board Member: John Boudreaux, LEM
Board Member: Dexter Accardo
Board Member: Tab Troxler, LEM
Board Member: Tuesday Mills, LEM
Board Member: Obie Cambre
Board Member: Cindy Montz, LEM
Board Member: Robert Jump, LEM
Board Member: Michael Murphy, LEM
Board Member: Jeffrey P. Meyers, LEM
Board Member: Rick Webre
Board Member: Pat Santos, LEM
Board Member: Karen Price, LEM
Board Member: Jim Polk
Board Member: Sonya Wiley-Gremillion, LEM
Executive Director: H. Bland O'Connor, Jr.

LOUISIANA EMERGENCY MANAGER CERTIFICATION

February 19, 2010
April 9, 2010
May 3, 2010 (Lake Charles)
**LEPA AWARD NOMINATION FORM**

**NOMINATE OUTSTANDING LEADERS FOR LEPA AWARD**

Awards of recognition for hard work will be given during the 2010 LEPA Conference. It's time to nominate those who have worked hard and contributed to the betterment of LEPA /Emergency Preparedness/Public Safety and deserve to be recognized. Please let us know who they are. Anyone that has chosen this type of profession deserves recognition for their selfless commitment, however, we want to be sure to recognize those individuals who have gone the extra mile. The nominee does not have to be a member of the Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Association except for the Dedication Award.

**NOMINATION FOR LEPA AWARD**

(Use separate sheet for additional information)

I Recommend: ____________________________

Agency: ________________________________

Award (Dedication, Lifetime Achievement, Lifetime Achievement Memorial, Valor, Leadership): __________________

Accomplishment(s): __________________________

________________________________________

Nominated by: ____________________________

Mail to: Cindy Montz, LEM
1212 E. Highway Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

DEADLINE: March 1, 2010
LEPA CONFERENCE TENTATIVE AGENDA

Lauberge Du Lac, Lake Charles
777 Ave Lauberge, Lake Charles
Monday, May 3 - Thursday, May 6, 2010

Monday May 3, 2010
7:30 – 12:00 Golf Tournament
7:00 – 4:00 Registration
10:00 – 2:00 Directors Meeting
2:00 – 3:00 SERC Meeting
3:30 – 4:30 LEPA Board Meeting
6:00 – 9:00 President Reception
9:00 – 10:30 Hospitality Social

Tuesday May 4, 2010
7:30 – 4:00 Registration
7:30 – 8:15 Hot Buffet Breakfast
8:30 – 9:45 Opening Ceremony
9:45 – 10:00 Break
10:00 – 11:30 2009 LA Recap (Flooding Sandy Davis & H1N1)
11:30 – 1:00 Lunch with Vendors
1:00 – 4:30 Emergency Managers 101
5:30 – 6:30 Evening Social with Vendors
7:00 – 9:00 Membership/Award Banquet
9:00 – 10:30 Hospitality Social

Wednesday May 5, 2010
7:30 – 12:00 Registration
7:30 – 8:15 Hot Buffet Breakfast
8:30 – 3:00 Exhibits Open
8:30 – 10:00 Active Shooter (Training & Lafourche Event)
10:00 – 10:30 Break
10:30 – 11:30 QI (Funding for Overseas Flag Ships)
11:30 – 1:00 Lunch with Vendors
1:00 – 2:30 IED Consequence Management
2:30 – 3:00 Break
3:00 – 3:45 State Purchasing (Emergency Procurement & Contracts)
3:45 – 4:30 National Weather Service changing to meet the need of Emergency Management
4:30 – 7:00 Dinner on your own
7:00 – 10:00 Hospitality Social

Thursday May 6, 2010
7:00 – 8:00 Registration & Continental Breakfast
8:00 – 4:30 Haz Mat Day
8:00 – 3:00 Planning 101 Presented by GOHSEP
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 2009 LEPA/GOHSEP Workshop will be held May 4 - 7 in Lake Charles. You will be inspired, educated and motivated!

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?
♦ 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.

LEPA’s membership is strong, but we need your support. The most effective medium for continued progress in emergency preparedness is membership in the Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Association. To download a Membership application visit the website at www.lepa.org and click on “Join LEPA.”
# Join LEPA Now

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Check One:
- Individual Membership ($75/year)
- Student Membership ($20/year)
- Corporate Membership (see below)

**CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP DUES**

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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

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A Joint Publication of the

Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Association
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