



**State of Louisiana**  
Governor's Office of Homeland Security  
and  
Emergency Preparedness

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## **GOHSEP Deploying Emergency Management Teams to New York, New Jersey to Assist with Response to Hurricane Sandy**

**BATON ROUGE, La.** – A team of five Louisiana emergency managers, including the head of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, deployed to New York state Tuesday evening to assist local officials there responding to Hurricane Sandy.

In addition, two GOHSEP staffers who had been working in Pennsylvania travelled to New Jersey on November 3 to assist emergency managers there.

GOHSEP Director Kevin Davis said, "In Louisiana, we have benefitted from the support and assistance of emergency managers and responders from all over the country following a series of devastating hurricanes. This is a chance for us not only to share our expertise in responding to disasters but also to return the favor to those communities that once helped us."

The Louisiana team travelling to New York included Davis and another GOHSEP employee, as well as two emergency managers from Calcasieu parish and one from St. Tammany parish.

Louisiana is assisting New York and Pennsylvania through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, which is a formal agreement between states to provide assistance to each other during a disaster. EMAC was established in 1996 to allow states that are not in a declared disaster area to aid states in need.

In recent years, GOHSEP's highly trained EMAC team has been called upon to assist in past emergencies such as Hurricane Irene in Maryland and Vermont, flooding in Tennessee and North Dakota, the 2011 tornado in Alabama, winter weather in Maryland and an ice storm in Kentucky.

In 2005, New York provided Louisiana with more than 1,300 personnel including law enforcement, Search and Rescue teams, National Guard troops, EMAC A-Teams along with local and State Police in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In 2008, the state sent 60 National Guard and New York Fire Department Incident Management teams to support Louisiana following Hurricane Gustav.

In 2005, New Jersey provided Louisiana with more than 900 personnel, including search and rescue teams, state police, hazmat teams, fire support, veterinarians, National Guard members and an EMAC "A team" to help with the response from hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In 2008, the state sent 37 personnel, including a Swift Water Task Force and an EMAC "A team."

## **UPDATE ON PREVIOUS DEPLOYMENTS**

On October 27, GOHSEP deployed four employees to assist the state of Pennsylvania. Two of those employees returned home later that week as Pennsylvania saw a decreased need for assistance. The other two employees travelled to New Jersey to assist that state on November 3.

A team that had been scheduled to assist Maryland was unable to travel because of the weather and remains on standby to assist that state in the coming weeks, as needed.

The Atlantic hurricane season runs until November 30. For information and tips about how to stay safe from hurricanes and other hazards, visit [www.getagameplan.org](http://www.getagameplan.org).

*The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) is charged with leading and supporting Louisiana and its Citizens in the preparation for, response to and recovery from all emergencies and disasters. For more information, visit <http://gohsep.la.gov> or follow the agency on Twitter as @GOHSEP and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/gohsep](http://www.facebook.com/gohsep).*

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