



Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness

JOINT INFORMATION CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 20, 2011

State of Louisiana News Desk #: 225.358.5361

State Continues Flood Fighting Efforts

BATON ROUGE -- State agencies continue their efforts to fight and prepare for flooding in communities across Louisiana. Updates from individual agencies are below.

FLOOD FIGHTING EFFORTS

To date, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development has delivered 149,861 sandbags, 29,664 cubic yards of sand and 33,050 linear feet of HESCO baskets across the state in support of flood protection efforts.

DOTD, working with the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, closed a portion of River Road in East Baton Rouge Parish yesterday in order to allow crews to place additional sand bags on the levee, install seepage monitors and perform levee survey work. This work is being performed as a precautionary measure and to collect survey data. The CPRA is working with the levee district, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Baton Rouge on this effort.

The Louisiana National Guard has approximately 1,150 Guardsmen mobilized for this emergency. Yesterday, Louisiana Guardsmen assisted in the identification of two new sand or pin boils in northeast Louisiana. Guardsmen have now located and flagged 181 Sand or pin boils to date: 73 in East Carroll, 3 in Madison, 35 in Tensas, and 70 in Concordia.

St. Mary Parish

- LA 317 in St. Mary Parish is closed 13 miles South of US 90 until further notice due to high water;
- DOTD utilized 4 excavators to complete construction of approximately 2 miles of a levee along Avocca Island Road in St. Mary Parish;
- In support of St. Mary Parish, the National Guard continues construction of approximately 25,500 feet of HESCO barrier in order to fortify and elevate levees to prevent backwater flooding in Morgan City and Amelia. Today, LANG will continue construction and installation while working 24-hour operations.
- Morgan City HESCO worksite: National Guard teams continue to improve and fortify the existing 8,064 LF of HESCO barrier.
- Amelia HESCO worksite: National Guard teams continue to improve and fortify the existing 10,000 LF of HESCO barrier. Today, Guard crews are installing visqueen over the existing HESCO wall and also installing HESCOs perpendicular to the existing wall for additional protection and fortification.
- Siracusaville (near Morgan City) HESCO worksite: The initial installation of 7,500 LF of HESCO barrier is complete. Today, the Guard will continue improving this site by installing HESCOs perpendicular to the existing wall for additional protection and fortification.
- In support of an additional request by the parish, Guard crews are also installing visqueen over an existing levee near Avoca Road in Amelia. Thus far, the Guard has installed 3,900 LF of the required 5,500 LF.
- In support of parish law enforcement, the Guard continues to provide 30 personnel with six vehicles to establish and maintain traffic control points at six boat rams along the levee.

East/West Baton Rouge Parish

- To date, DOTD has hauled 1,498 cubic yards of sand to help fight the seepage that is starting to occur in this area.
- DOTD hauled 72 cubic yards of sand to the West Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office for sandbagging operations.

Assumption Parish

- DOTD filled and placed approximately 540 linear feet of Hesco baskets along La. 663 in Assumption Parish to create additional flood protection.
- In order to raise the height of levees in the vicinity of Pierre Part and Bayou L'ourse, parish officials identified two additional Tiger Dam worksites. Yesterday, National Guard crews constructed 700 LF of Tiger Dam to complete the first

worksite and will construct 300 LF of Tiger Dam today to complete the second worksite. To date, the Guard has completed 10,050 LF of Tiger Dam in support of Assumption Parish. Guard crews continue to maintain and repair existing Tiger Dams as required.

Tensas Parish

- DOTD hauled 5,500 cubic yards of sand to be bagged and then hauled to Tensas Parish for placement at multiple sand boil sites.

St. Martin Parish

- DOTD is installing approximately 1.8 miles of HESCO baskets along La. 70, north of Stephenville, in an effort to keep the roadway open during the pending flood event.
- DOTD placed the baskets on one side of the roadway, to date, and will continue fortification efforts on the other side of La. 70 in St. Martin Parish.

Terrebonne Parish

- Today, in Houma, National Guard crews will continue providing overwatch security of the completed Tiger Tube installation around Greenwood Middle School and Bayou Black Elementary School.
- Yesterday, at the Bayou Black worksite, National Guard crews installed 2,450 LF of Tiger Dam in the North Bayou Black area in order to complete the original scope of the project. Due to the terrain, an additional 1,400 LF will be added to this project, which Guard crews will complete today. To date, LANG completed 10,450 LF of the 11,450 LF project.

Pointe Coupee

- Yesterday, National Guard teams began supporting the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries by providing 24 hour static security at a checkpoint to prevent unauthorized access to the levee near the Point Coupee/Iberville Parish line.
- Today, National Guard teams will begin assisting the Point Coupee Sheriff's Office by providing 15 Security officers and seven vehicles. LANG teams will conduct security patrols covering the Morganza Spillway guide levees and the Mississippi and Atchafalaya River levees.

West Baton Rouge

- Yesterday, the LANG provided an all-terrain forklift vehicle to assist the West

Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office's sandbagging operation. This forklift will remain on site until mission completion.

Louisiana State Police

- LSP Troop I Troopers began to assist St Martin Parish Sheriff's Office with checkpoints into the Butte LaRose area at exit 121 at I-10 (Butte LaRose exit), and at the Pontoon Bridge, south of Butte LaRose.
- LSP is coordinating and planning with St. Landry and St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Offices for potential checkpoints as the flood water continues to flow south in the predicted inundated areas.
- LSP Air Support Unit will continue evening Mississippi River Survey flights at the Morganza Spillway, Krotz Springs, and Butte LaRose.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

- LDWF enforcement is operating a mobile command unit in Krotz Springs 24 hours a day and also has 205 agents, 103 ATVs and two amphibious airplanes responding. In addition, 25 staff from LDWF's wildlife office are on duty. Four wildlife management areas remain closed (Attakapas, Grassy Lake, Sherburne, Three Rivers) and there have been eight bear sightings to date.

Department of Children and Family Services

- DCFS is coordinating the delivery of 23,040 MRE's (Meals Ready to Eat) to the Baton Rouge Food Bank, which will distribute the food in the areas impacted by flooding.

Department of Corrections

- DOC offenders, working in various parishes, have filled 241,440 sandbags to date.
- Iberville Parish: Sandbagging operations will continue Friday (Elayn Hunt Correctional Center supporting with 12 offenders and two officers).
- Tensas Parish (Newellton): J. Levy Dabadie Correctional Center continues sandbagging/sandboil operations near Lake Bruin with 20 offenders and 3 officers.
- Assumption Parish: Dixon Correctional Institute will have 34 offenders and 3 officers working in two different locations Friday in Pierre Part. Probation and Parole officers continue providing assistance to the Assumption Parish Sheriff's Office with community policing efforts.
- West Baton Rouge, Pointe Coupee and Terrebonne parishes: 137 DOC offenders from Transitional Work Programs will participate in sandbagging operations on Friday.

- East/West Feliciana Parishes: Probation and Parole agents are providing perimeter security for Dixon Correctional Institute and assisting with levee patrols (by boat) at the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola.

For emergency updates from the State of Louisiana, visit emergency.louisiana.gov or follow along on Twitter at @GOHSEP and Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/gohsep>.

###

Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness | 7667 Independence Blvd. | Baton Rouge, LA 70806 | 225.925.7500

[Subscribe](#) | To unsubscribe, click "Update Profile" below