



## LA National Guard Emergency Management Bulletin

March 2023  
Volume FY23 Issue 6



### Purpose

The National Guard (NG) Emergency Management (EM) program is responsible for all activities and operations related to preparing for, mitigating the potential effect of, preventing, responding to, and recovering from all multi-agency and/or multi-jurisdictional emergencies on or impacting NG installations nationwide. The NG EM Program functions within an all-hazards environment consisting of all natural, technological (man-made), and terrorism hazards.

### Vision

To provide the NG EM services when and where they are needed with the joint and interagency capacity necessary to effectively and efficiently protect the NG community and mission capabilities from all hazards.

### Mission

To provide integrated and comprehensive NG EM services necessary to protect our community and mission capabilities from all hazards in a cost effective, implementable, and sustainable manner through resiliency.

LANG EM WEB PAGE:

<http://geauxguard.la.gov/resources/emergency-management/>



### IMPORTANT NUMBERS TO KNOW

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911**

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LA National Guard Joint Operation  
Center 888-278-8748

GOHSEP 225-925-7500

American Red Cross  
1-800-RED-CROSS

Federal Emergency Management  
Agency 1-800-621-FEMA

National Poison Control Center  
1-800-222-1222

National Domestic Violence Hotline  
1-800-799-7233



### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

This month is dedicated to the American Red Cross. We will also discuss Louisiana Spring Severe Weather Preparedness.

Every eight minutes, the American Red Cross brings help and hope to people in need, thanks to heroes like you. Whether you donate funds, donate blood or volunteer, we depend on your support to make a difference in communities across the country.



No one else does this: not the government, not other charities. From small house fires to multi-state natural disasters, the American Red Cross goes wherever they are needed, so people can have clean water, safe shelter and hot meals when they need them most!

I hope you find this information useful. Always Remember "Be Prepared".

Michael Green  
Emergency Manager Program  
Coordinator  
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**Nearly  
64,000**  
disaster responses annually



# MARCH 2018 ...is Red Cross Month

Each year, the president of the United States proclaims March “Red Cross Month”. The Red Cross’ commitment to the military never waivers. It helps members of the military, veterans and their Families prepare for, cope with, and respond to, the challenges of military service and has served more than 1 million military Families since 9/11.

Its volunteers provide home comforts and critical services on bases and in military hospitals around the world: support military Families during deployments and emergencies; and continue serving our nation’s veterans after their service ends.

Every March is your chance to be a hero and help the Red Cross fulfill their mission,. This March, uncover your inner hero. Choose one of more of the options below. Be a hero today.

Every Year Your Donation to the  
**American Red Cross**  
Helps us respond to about  
**58,941 people**

**90% of  
Disasters**  
that the Red Cross Responds  
To are home fires

**-Donate.** Your donation impacts lives. Your donation powers the Red Cross response to nearly 70,000 disasters a year nationwide, providing shelter, food, emotional support and other necessities to those affected.

**-Give Blood.** Your donation matters! There is a serious need for all blood types. Please schedule an appointment to donate blood or platelets today.

**-Take a Class.** 10 million people learn emergency skills such as CPR through the Red Cross every year. Consider taking a class so you are prepared in the event of an emergency. Classes are available near you.

- **First Aid.** Prepare for the unexpected with first aid training from the American Red Cross. Classes give you the information and the skills you need to help adults and children during many emergency situations.

- **CPR Training.** American Red Cross CPR training classes give you the information and the skills you need to help adults, children and infants during breathing and cardiac emergencies.

- **AED Certification.** Sudden cardiac arrest can happen to anyone, at any time. With Red Cross AED and CPR training, you can learn when – and how – to use an automated external defibrillator (AED).

**- Volunteer.** Volunteers carry out 90% of the humanitarian work of the Red Cross. Your time and talent can make a real difference in peoples lives.



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### HERE TO HELP

Each disaster is different but the American Red Cross adapt their resources to the needs of the people they serve.



#### Distribution of Emergency Supplies

Emergency supplies help people in the immediate aftermath of a disaster and in the days and weeks that follow. Our comfort kits contain basic personal supplies needed in the aftermath of a disaster, such as a toothbrush, deodorant and shampoo. Other emergency supplies could include tarps, rakes, shovels, and trash bags to help people clean up their homes and return to normalcy. Emergency supplies can be handed out at convenient distribution centers or from an emergency response vehicle in affected areas.

#### Overnight Shelter Stays

The Red Cross opens shelters to make sure people have a safe place to stay, a hot meal and access to other support from trained volunteers. Every night a person stays in a shelter counts as one overnight stay; for example, a family of four staying in a shelter for three nights would total 12 overnight stays.



#### Meals and Snacks

After a disaster, the Red Cross works with community partners to provide hot meals, snacks and water served as shelters or from Red Cross emergency response vehicles in affected neighborhoods.



#### Workers

Trained Red Cross volunteers and employees are ready to deploy within hours of a disaster to help. Ninety-five percent of our disaster workers are volunteers from across the country.



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## American Red Cross Facts

### Did you Know?

An average of 91 cents of every dollar the American Red Cross spends is invested in humanitarian services and programs. Everything we do depends on the needs of people that we serve.



### Did you Know?

The American Red Cross is part of the world's largest volunteer network found in 187 countries.

“I request that during that month (March) our people rededicate themselves to the splendid aims and activities of the Red Cross.”

### Did you Know?

10 million people learn emergency skills such as CPR through the Red Cross every year. Consider taking a class so you are prepared in the event of an emergency.

### Did you Know?

The American Red Cross is a charitable organization, not a government agency. It depends on volunteers and the generosity of people like you to perform our mission.

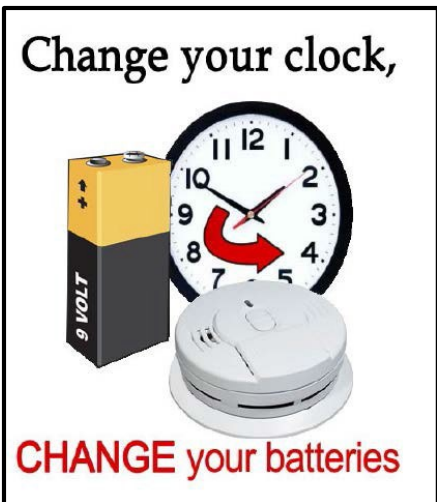
*--President Franklin D. Roosevelt, first Presidential Proclamation of March as Red Cross Month, 1943*



## Replace Your Batteries & Update Disaster Kit

Daylight Savings Time starts on March 12, 2023. We will spring ahead and lose an hour of sleep this time of year. Did you know that you should change the batteries in your smoke detectors and weather radio twice a year? If you make a habit of doing this when the time changes you will always remember. It is very important to have fresh batteries in these devices in case of a power outage when you would need them to work during a storm or a fire.

It is also a good time to refresh your family disaster kit. Change out stored food and water supplies every six months. Re-think your needs every year update your kit as your family's need





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### Severe Thunderstorms



#### What is a Severe Thunderstorm?

A severe thunderstorm is a thunderstorm that produces one or more of the following: hail that has a diameter of one inch (quarter-size) or larger, winds greater than or equal to 58 mph, and tornadoes. About 10% of all thunderstorms in the United States meet severe criteria.

Severe thunderstorms can occur at any time of the year, although the most common time of occurrence is during the spring months of March, April and May. In addition, pulse-type thunderstorms that occur during the summer months can produce high winds, frequent lightning, and torrential downpours.

A secondary season of organized severe weather occurs during the fall in November and December.

#### What is the Difference between a Watch and a Warning?

A severe thunderstorm/tornado watch means that **conditions are favorable for severe thunderstorms/tornadoes to develop**. These are issued by the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, OK, typically before severe weather develops. When under a watch, pay attention to rapidly changing weather conditions.

A severe thunderstorm/tornado warning means that a **severe thunderstorm/tornado has either been indicated on radar or witnessed by storm spotters**. Your local NWS office issues severe thunderstorm warnings when severe weather is developing or occurring. Warnings tend to be less than an hour and cover a smaller area than a watch (i.e. 1-2 parishes or less). During a warning, activate your severe weather safety plan.



New Orleans, Louisiana  
Severe Thunderstorm producing Tornado  
February, 2017

#### Safety Tips

- **Have a Plan.** Prepare ahead of time so you and your family know what actions to take when severe weather occurs.
- **Get indoors!** There is no safe place outdoors during a thunderstorm.
- **Stay informed!** When severe weather threatens, stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio, local television and radio stations, or the NWS homepage online at [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov) for updated weather information. Click on the office that serves your area.
- **Know what county you are in.** When a warning is issued, the threatened areas will be identified by the counties that contain the warned thunderstorm.
- **Have a NOAA Weather Radio.** This is the best way to receive information concerning the latest watches and warnings directly from the National Weather Service, especially at night when TV's and radios are turned off.



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### Damaging Winds: Not all Wind is a Tornado

A common misconception regarding severe weather is that if there was strong wind that did damage, it must have been a tornado. Not all wind damage occurs from tornados. In fact, some of the worst damage is not associated with tornados at all. There are several types of damaging windstorms that can occur in Louisiana.

Damaging wind, often also referred to as straight line winds, tends to be more common than tornadoes. Damage from these winds account for half of all severe reports in the continental United States. Wind speeds can reach up to 100 mph and produce a damage path extending for hundreds of miles, in association with both squall lines and supercell thunderstorms. While these winds can occur any time of the year, climatologically the number of damaging wind reports increases during the spring months and peaks during the summer months in Louisiana. In addition, for significant wind reports of 75 mph or greater, the trend is for these to occur more frequently during the spring months of March through May. One notable significant wind event was April 4, 2011. In this event, over 1300 damaging wind reports occurred across the southeastern United States as a squall line raced across the region. Meteorologists can determine if the cause of the damage was from straight line winds or a tornado simply by looking at the direction of damage is laid out in. Straight line wind damage will push debris in the same direction the wind is blowing (hence the term straight line). Tornado damage will scatter the debris in a variety of different directions since the winds of a tornado are rotating violently. To reduce damage from straight line winds, it is important to secure objects that can be blown by the wind and to keep trees well pruned. Tree branches falling on cars or houses produce a significant amount of damage in high wind events. Make sure you are in a safe place, such as in the interior of a brick home, when straight line winds strike.

Another type of straight-line wind event that occurs is called a derecho. Derechos are created by the merging of many thunderstorm cells into a cluster, or solid line, extending for many miles. These tend to be fairly fast-moving line of thunderstorms that may travel 500 to 600 miles. Derechos typically occur in the summer months when thunderstorms complexes form over the Great Plains, and quickly travel towards the Deep South. These complexes are particularly dangerous due to their producing intense, and often damaging, winds over a large area. One such event occurred in June 2012, when a derecho, packing 80 mph winds, plowed through the Mid-South causing widespread wind damage over portions of the Louisiana.

A third type of damaging wind that can occur are microbursts. While straight line winds tend to occur in weather systems that are widespread, microbursts are fairly localized. A microburst is a small, concentrated downburst that produces an outward spread of damaging winds at the surface. Microbursts are generally small (less than two and a half miles wide) and short-lived, lasting only five to ten minutes, with maximum wind speeds up to 100 mph. There are two kinds of microbursts: wet and dry. A wet microburst is accompanied by heavy precipitation at the surface, whereas dry microbursts occur with little or no precipitation at the ground. Microbursts tends to be a little more common during the spring and summer months in Louisiana.



Shelf Cloud, National Geographic  
Photo by Gunjan Sinha, My Shot



Arizona Microburst

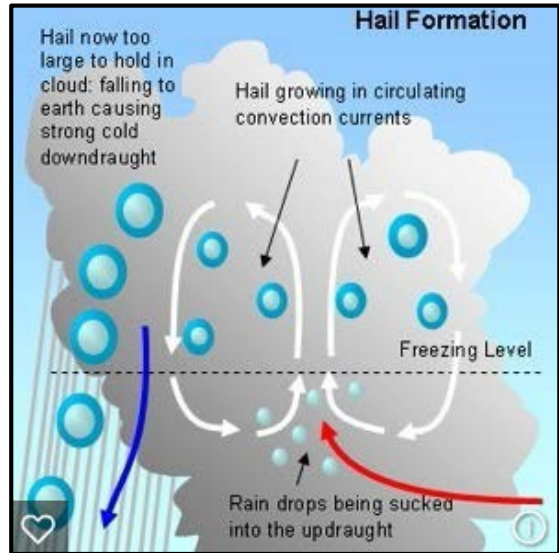


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### How Does Hail Form?

Hail is formed when water droplets are drawn into an area of strong upward moving air, known as an updraft, of a storm. Once the water droplets are transported above the freezing level, they combine with tiny airborne particles, such as dirt, salt, volcanic ash, etc. and freeze on contact, forming tiny ice particles. These ice particles are light enough that they remain suspended in the cloud, where they undergo processes that allow them to combine with other super cooled water droplets and grow into hail stones. Once the hail stones are heavy enough to overcome the upward force of the updraft, they fall out of the cloud and can inflict significant damage to automobiles, buildings, crops and even people.



### Measuring Hail

It's often difficult to get an accurate measurement of hail diameter, especially when it's falling. The table below helps observers estimate the size of hail based on average diameters of common items. When in doubt, play it safe and wait until the thunderstorm has moved away before going outside to measure the size of hail.

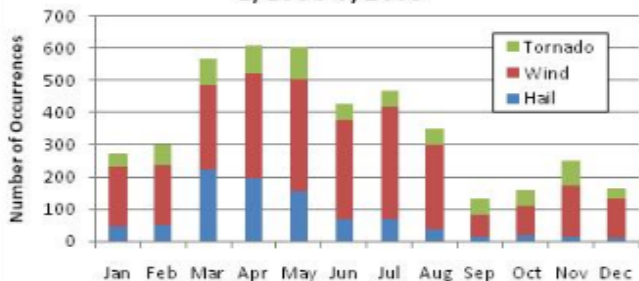


Softball-size hail in Clinton, MS  
March 18, 2013  
Photo by Stephanie Mumbower

### Hail Size Estimates

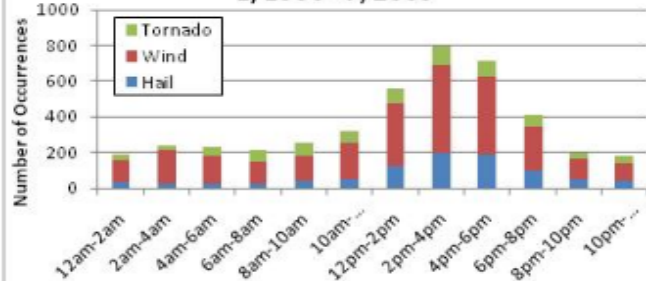
|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| Pea.....         | 1/4 inch     |
| Penny.....       | 3/4 inch     |
| Nickel.....      | 7/8 inch     |
| Quarter.....     | 1 inch       |
| Half Dollar..... | 1 1/4 inches |
| Golf Ball.....   | 1 3/4 inches |
| Tennis Ball..... | 2 1/2 inches |
| Baseball.....    | 2 3/4 inches |
| Grapefruit.....  | 4 inches     |
| Softball.....    | 4 1/2 inches |

WFO LIX Severe Weather (All)  
1/1950-7/2009



Severe weather can happen at any time of the year, but it is most common during the months of March, April, and May in Southeast Louisiana and Southern Mississippi.

WFO LIX Severe Weather (All)  
1/1950 - 7/2009



Severe weather can also happen at any time of the day, but it is most common during the afternoon hours in Southeast Louisiana and Southern Mississippi.

