



LA National Guard Emergency Management Bulletin

November 2023
Volume FY24 Issue 2



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 terroristic 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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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

November is Military Family Month. With that idea in mind, I would like to focus on things this month that will enhance the resilience of the Military Family.

One way to become more resilient is to make and practice a plan. Protect your Family and property by developing an emergency plan. Everyone in the Family should understand what to do, where to go, and what to take in the event of an emergency. Ensure all Family members know how to contact friends or relatives in case they are separated and need to contact you. Ask about plans at the places where you Family spends the most time: work, school and other places you frequent. If none exist, consider volunteering to help develop one. You will be better prepared to safely reunite your Family and loved ones during an emergency if you think ahead and communicate with others in advance. Always Remember, "Be Prepared".

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Emergency Management Bulletin

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Making a plan is simple.....think of the 5 W's!

Who: Creating an emergency plan is a family activity. Open a Family dialogue about preparedness and include all members in your preparedness planning, Consider special needs and pets. If you require medical assistance or special transportation for your Family or pets, contact your local emergency manager prior to an emergency for advice.

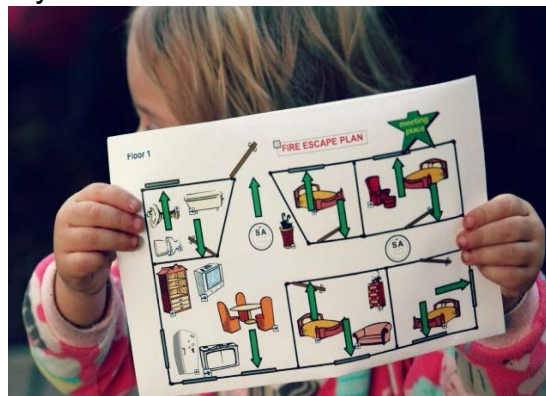
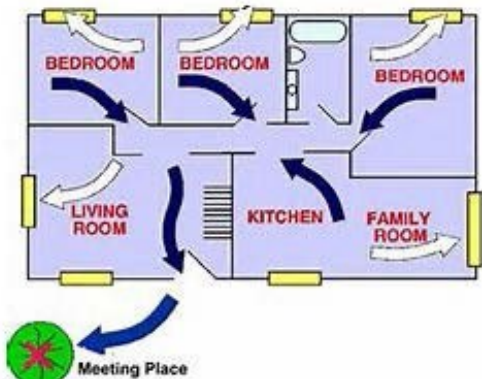
Choose a contact person living elsewhere, whom you and your Family can contact if an emergency strikes when you are separated. Keep all contact information up to date and keep a written copy of phone numbers in your wallet or purse.

What: Plan for all hazards that can affect your Family. Consider regional weather patterns and local industrial facilities. Think through each possible emergency situation and determine how your Family will respond.

Where: Think about all the places you and your Family may be throughout the day, such as home, office, school, installation, and in transit. Establish plans for evacuation and meeting places. Discuss when to employ your plans.

When: Emergencies can happen anywhere, at anytime. Make your Family emergency plan immediately. Use the Family emergency plan template at this link: [Family Emergency Plan](#) Review you plan biannually and whenever there are major changes in your Family situation, schedule or activities.

Why: Establish and practicing a Family emergency plan will strengthen your Family and give you a piece of mind that you have a designated procedure. Having a plan will enable your Family to respond to an emergency more quickly.



For more information visit www.ready.gov/make-a-plan



We are leaving Hurricane Season and Re-Entering Tornado Season!

30 November officially ends Hurricane Season for Louisiana but November is also the second worst month for Tornadoes in Louisiana.

Residents of Louisiana are no strangers to the many different forms of hazardous weather. Tornadoes, damaging winds, large hail, lightning, flooding, and even winter weather are all common weather phenomena that occur in Louisiana. When looking at statistics for the number of tornadoes, and tornado fatalities, Louisiana ranks near or at the top in every category. These statistics show a long history of tornado impacts across the state.

This presents a preparedness challenge to the residents of Louisiana. Unlike the traditional tornado alley of the Great Plains, tornadoes are difficult to spot in Louisiana. Some of the reasons for this are poor visibility in the form of numerous trees in the state, the fact that many tornadoes in Louisiana are rain-wrapped, and that many Louisiana tornadoes occur at night. In addition, many homes and other structures are not built as strong as buildings in other parts of the country.

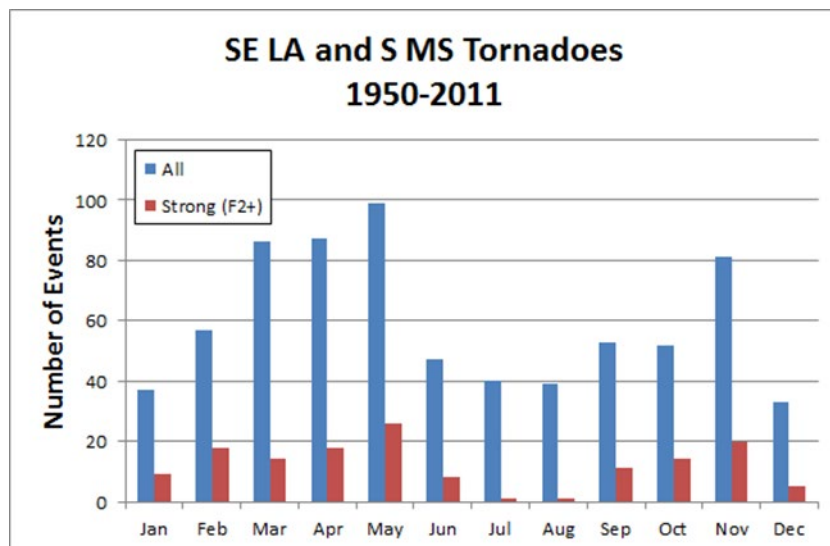
All of these factors make it very important for residents of the Pelican State to have multiple ways of receiving weather warnings, have a shelter plan in place ahead of time, and take outlooks, watches and warnings seriously. These actions contribute to reducing injuries and fatalities. Situational awareness and proper planning are essential to safety. Make your plans now for each type of hazardous weather phenomenon we encounter in Louisiana during the fall and winter months so you and your family will be prepared.

One of the strongest tornadoes ever recorded in southeast Louisiana occurred during the early morning hours of Dec 6, 1983 when a violent (F4) tornado touched down near LaPlace. The tornado tracked 7 miles and destroyed 30 houses, damaged another 125 homes and injured 25 people, 5 with serious injuries.

November 21, 1997 - a strong tornado moved across St Tammany Parish, Louisiana, and continued into Pearl River County, Mississippi. Covington, Louisiana, and surrounding areas were particularly hard hit with nearly 70 homes damaged and 4 downtown buildings damaged. 47 people suffered mainly minor injuries.

November 24, 2004 - damaging straight-line winds and several tornadoes were reported during the early morning hours in an area from near Baton Rouge eastward into coastal Mississippi. A strong tornado touched near the Slidell airport damaging 152 homes in a nearby subdivision. The same storm system produced another strong tornado that touched down around sunrise just north of Gulfport. The tornado damaged homes and businesses. Fortunately only a few relatively minor injuries were reported. Straight-line wind damage occurred in other areas of southeast Louisiana and south Mississippi.

November 15, 2006 - Severe thunderstorms produced tornadoes as they tracked across areas north of Lake Pontchartrain into southwest Mississippi during the early morning hours. Several strong tornadoes touched down from east of Greensburg, Louisiana, across northern Washington Parish to east of Tylertown, Mississippi. Unfortunately, one fatality occurred near Montpelier in St Helena Parish when a strong tornado struck a house and adjacent trailer.





NOAA Weather Radio / Emergency Alert System / Wireless Emergency Alerts

The National Weather Service (NWS) utilizes NOAA Weather Radio All-Hazards to broadcast continuous weather information 24 hours a day, every day of the year. This is your direct link in receiving watches and warnings from the NWS. When properly programmed, with options for single or multiple counties, the NOAA weather radio will alert you of a warning for your area, day or night. With battery back-up, the radio will still be able to deliver life-saving information even if the power goes out due to the storms. The state of Louisiana is served by 11 NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) transmitters with several more surrounding transmitters in neighboring states covering additional counties.

Approximately 95 percent of the people in Louisiana are within range of a NWR transmitter (see list of NWR transmitter locations and frequencies in table below).

While routine programming offers the latest forecasts, hazardous weather outlooks, current weather conditions, and official climate data, the broadcast cycle is automatically updated and at times interrupted whenever a specific weather watch, warning, or advisory is issued by an NWS Forecast Office. Watches, warnings, advisories and special weather statements are given the highest priority on NWR and are frequently updated with critical weather information.

In an emergency, each station will transmit a warning alarm tone in addition to the SAME (Specific Area Message Encoding) tone. Information on the emergency situation then follows. These alert tones, especially the SAME, are capable of activating specially-designed receivers by producing a visual and/or audible alarm. For the deaf and hard of hearing, special equipment is available to purchase for NOAA Weather Radio, such as strobe lights and bed shakers. Not all weather band receivers have this capability, but all radios that receive the NWR transmission can receive the emergency broadcasts. The warning alarms and SAME tones are **tested each Wednesday, typically between 11AM and noon, weather permitting.**

Commercial radio and television stations, as well as cable television companies, are encouraged to use NOAA Weather Radio in order to rebroadcast pertinent weather information to the general public. NWR is also a major part of the Emergency Alert System (EAS), which efficiently disseminates critical weather warning information through commercial broadcast outlets in order to save your life.

Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) are another avenue for government agencies to send urgent messages directly to cell phones in an area of interest. Applications or additional software are not needed, and the messages will look similar to text messages when they arrive on your phone. Additional information on WEA can be found at:

www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/wea.html

Locations and Frequencies of NOAA Weather Radio Stations Serving Louisiana

Site Name	Transmitter Name	Call Sign	Frequency	Power	WFO
Lake Charles	Westlake	KHB42	162.400	1000	Lake Charles, LA
New Orleans	New Orleans	KHB43	162.550	1000	Slidell, LA
Baton Rouge	Baker	KHB46	162.400	1000	Slidell, LA
Morgan City	Morgan City	KIH23	162.475	1000	Slidell, LA
Bogalusa	Bogalusa	WNG521	162.525	1000	Slidell, LA
Monroe	Monroe	WXJ96	162.550	1000	Shreveport, LA
Shreveport	Lake View	WXJ97	162.400	1000	Shreveport, LA
Alexandria	Jena	WXX78	162.475	1000	Lake Charles, LA
Lafayette	Youngsville	WXX80	162.550	1000	Lake Charles, LA
Buras	Buras	WXL41	162.475	1000	Slidell, LA
Natchitoches	Natchitoches	WXN87	162.500	1000	Shreveport, LA





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 tornadoes. In fact, some of the worst damage is not associated with tornadoes at all. There are several types of damaging wind storms 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. Meteorologists can determine if the cause of the damage was from straight line winds or a tornado simply by looking at the direction the damage is laid out in. Straight line wind damage will push debris in the same direction the wind is blowing (hence the creation of 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 the 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. Also make sure you are in a safe place when straight line winds strike such as in the interior of a brick home.

Another type of straight line wind 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 lines of thunderstorms that may travel 500 to 600 miles. Derechos typically occur in the summer months when complexes of thunderstorms form over the Great Plains. They are particularly dangerous because the damaging winds can last a long time and cover a large area. One such event occurred in June 2012, when a derecho plowed through the Mid-South, bringing 80 mph winds and structural damage to portions of the Mississippi Delta.

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 burst of damaging winds at the surface. Microbursts are generally small (less than 4 km across) and short-lived, lasting only 5-10 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 reaching the ground. Microbursts tend to be a little more common during the spring and summer months in Mississippi, but can also occur in the fall and winter.



A shelf cloud over Lake Pontchartrain LA –
May 30, 2011



Wet Microburst – 1991 Photo by William Bunting