

# 2013 HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

## PARISH GOVERNMENT

1

ALERT St. Tammany, the Parish-wide telephone emergency alert system has been implemented by the St. Tammany Parish Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. Alert St. Tammany allows us to inform residents, by phone, based on their geographical location in the Parish, when their safety or well-being is at risk. Evacuation orders, security issues and health threats are among some of the reasons we would feel it necessary to use the ALERT system.

2

All departments have reviewed emergency plans and assigned roles to employees, to ensure the continuing operation of Parish Government activities in the event of an emergency. Employees have been apprised of each threat level, as well as pre and post-event logistics and relative tasks which will follow. The Parish has also reviewed in detail the need for personnel to have their own personal evacuation plan in place for their families.

3

All Parish facilities and properties have been fully assessed, in order to reduce the potential for loss during a storm event. This includes, but is not limited to, the potential removal of dead or diseased trees prior to a storm, and ensuring that all physical property is properly stored during a storm.

4

The Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (HSEP) has designated and assigned essential responsibilities to Parish employees. HSEP has met with all Parish Department Directors and their Deputy Directors, to review standard operating procedures and implement necessary changes.

5

The Parish's Department of Health and Human Services staff has reached out to special needs residents that have completed the Special Needs Survey, and inquired about their transportation needs. All special needs residents in need of transportation have had their addresses mapped out by the Parish's Technology Department. This map will be used for planning purposes during an event. Staff has trained the goSTAT contractor to ensure that they are in complete understanding of what the company's role is during, before and in the aftermath of a storm event.

### Homeland Security and Preparedness

- Reviewed and updated evacuation and reentry plans with law enforcement.
- ALERT St. Tammany sign-up drive.-

### Health and Human Services

- Met with home health, hospice and assisted living facilities to coordinate patient planning.

### Department of Development

- Coordinated with the School Board and Red Cross for the general population shelters.

### Tammany Utilities

- Coordinated Parish fuel plan routes and tested all generators utilized in post-storm tasks.

### Finance

- Prepared for the documenting of the debris removal program through FEMA.
- Coordinated pre-positioned contracts for services and equipment for storm response.

### Engineering

- Updated vehicle and boat inventory for pre-storm staging.
- Checked stream gauges to ensure they are operational.

### Animal Services

- Organized and inventoried hurricane supply trailers.
- Put in place emergency pet evacuation plans.

### Facilities Management

- Inspected all mobile generator packages and assigned them to locations.
- Inspected and tested all fuel trailers and trucks.
- Updated our pre/ post-storm building secure plan.

### Technology

- Set up, updated and exercised backup network communication systems.
- Update all event preparedness maps.

### Fire Services

- Made a plan for the fire liaisons that work in the EOC Liaison Center in the event of emergency activation.

# PARISH PRESIDENT PAT BRISTER



Above: Parish President Pat Brister working alongside Parish employees to fill sand bags in preparation for Hurricane Isaac. Below Right: Liaisons from other agencies and municipalities operating at the Emergency Operations Center during Hurricane Isaac.

Preparations within St. Tammany Parish government are set in place for the upcoming 2013 hurricane season. Every department within the Parish is tasked with certain duties to complete in advance of storm season. "We ask our citizens to be prepared," says St. Tammany Parish President Pat Brister, "We want them to know that we are preparing also. We are all in it together when it comes to hurricane season, and though we cannot anticipate every outcome of any given storm, we can do our best to have systems in place to be prepared to address those issues."

The Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (HSEP) met with the departments who will play a role in emergency operations during a storm. "It is crucial that we are speaking the same language as the departments with whom we work," notes Dexter Accardo, Director of HSEP. "All of us may perform different duties throughout the year, but during a storm that is an immediate threat to our area, we incorporate those duties into emergency operations working together as one team."

In anticipation of the June 1st kickoff of hurricane season, the Parish launched a self-registration effort for the Parish-wide emergency telephone alert system, ALERT St. Tammany. This effort is ongoing and the Parish continues to encourage citizens to sign up if you have not done so. Citizens can visit the Parish website (stpgov.org) to sign up so that they get essential information about evacuations or other lifesaving communications.

Among a long list of updates, exercises and revising staffing plans, every department within the Parish has reviewed and updated their emergency procedures. Parish Government re-evaluated its staffing plans, as well as created a plan for each employee's designation in an emergency.

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

- STP KOOP DRIVE ..... 985-898-2700
- EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER..... 985-898-2359
- AUTOMATED STORM INFORMATION..... 800-809-2300
- ANIMAL SERVICES..... 985-809-0183
- ST. TAMMANY PARISH SHERIFF..... 985-898-2338
- SLIDELL POLICE DEPARTMENT..... 985-643-3131
- COVINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT..... 985-892-8500
- MANDEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT..... 985-626-9711
- MADISONVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT..... 985-845-3393

PLEASE DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES

