

Emergency Disaster Plan:

East Baton Rouge Parish

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What aspects of the local climate would make this community conducive for a disaster?

Determine the actual and potential disaster threats (Ex. explosions, mass accidents, hurricanes, tornados, floods, hazardous materials incidents, terrorism (including explosion, biological, chemical, nuclear and radiological hazards).

- a. The potential threats that the community of East Baton Rouge Parish can experience range from natural hazards such as severe weather, tornadoes, hurricanes, flooding, and winter weather to a chemical emergency and the possibility of an act of terrorism. Located along the Mississippi River, the community has an immediate threat of flooding. The number of chemical plants located in and around the community raises the potential for chemical hazards.
- b. Actual threats that can occur annually include Hurricane Season, the time in which the community is most likely to experience the threats of Hurricane and Tropical Storm activity. This period begins on June 1, and continues until November 30, every year.

What disasters or emergencies have occurred in the community for the past 10 years?

Federally declared disaster history of the East Baton Rouge parish is listed below by year and type:

- Hurricane Lili (10/03/02)
- Hurricane Katrina (08/29/05): On Monday, August 29, 2005 Hurricane Katrina made landfall as a Category 4 storm with winds up to 160 miles per hour. Due to the mandatory evacuation, Baton Rouge and the 70809 area experienced a wave of migration overnight. The population in the

Baton Rouge area went from 225,000 to 500,000 overnight. With this new population movement the area faced new crises that were forced to be resolved overnight. Some of the issues the area faced were increased traffic, crime, and health care needs.

- Hurricane Rita (09/25/05)
- Hurricane Gustav (09/02/08)
- On August 28-29, 2012, Hurricane Isaac made landfall. Hurricane Isaac caused damage to many homes in the New Orleans and some in the Baton Rouge area. Additionally, many individuals left New Orleans to seek safety in Baton Rouge for the storm.
- The H1N1 flu (swine flu) pandemic was first detected in the United States in April 2009. This virus was a unique combination of influenza virus genes never previously identified in neither animals nor people.

Though this was not considered a federal disaster, The Essen Incident was considered a potential disaster that occurred on Interstate 10 and Essen Lane on the outskirts of the 70809 zip code area.

- Interstate 10 and Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70809
- Latitude: 30.4089920
- Longitude: -91.1033080
- Site Contact: Greg Fife OSC

In the early morning of August 22, a tanker truck hauling iso-butane was rear ended by an 18-wheeler hauling beer on eastbound I-10, just after the split with I-12. Two other vehicles were also involved. All traffic on I-10 and Essen lane was shut down. The butane was leaking

from the damaged valves. The Louisiana State Police investigated, secured the situation, and began directing the response. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was requested to assist in the air monitoring.

State Police conducted an assessment of the butane tanker. They determined that the tanker could not be moved safely, either under its own power or any other method. All the valves were located at the rear, where the damage occurred and were damaged and unusable. Several response organizations assessed the possibility of tapping the tanker and offloading the butane. Due to the age of the tanker, built 1965, and the construction, tapping was not advisable. The State Police and the owners of the truck determined there was no other alternative but to vent and burn in place.

State police prepared the highway with metal plates, berming, and dirt pads to protect the roadway. The owners of the truck agreed that the only feasible method to mitigate the situation was to vent and burn, but would not hire the contractor to do so. EPA hired an explosive contractor to execute the plan.

Shortly before 11:00 pm, shape charges were set off and the tank vented quickly and completely. Within about 20 minutes, almost all of the butane was consumed. EPA and LDEQ conducted air monitoring. The burning was complete enough that all the readings were considered non-detect. By 2:00 am on August 23, cleanup and removal operations recommenced and I-10 was reopened at 6:45 am. Reconstruction of the area on August 23, showed very little evidence that the fire occurred. No scalding of the concrete, little burn marks, no debris were noted.

What are the available community disaster plans and resources for your assigned community? How can you determine this?

The available community disaster plans and resources assigned for the 70809 communities are established in the Emergency Operations Plan for the East Baton Rouge Parish. This plan is located on the <http://www.brgov.com/dept/oepp/plan.asp> website. The plan was found on the website and determined after contacting William L. White, Emergency Preparedness Specialist for the Mayor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency preparedness.

Who in your community is responsible for disaster/emergency preparedness?

William L. White, Emergency Preparedness Specialist, and staff is responsible for the disaster/emergency preparedness plan and putting it into action when the need arises (W. White, Personal Communication, July 22, 2013).

How are community members notified when the disaster/emergency plans are activated in your community?

The following two systems are activated throughout the East Baton Rouge area as a means of communication for community members during notification of the implementation of disaster/emergency plans. The Community Alert System (CAL) is a state-of-the-art warning system that can reach you at home, work, or school during an emergency. It consists of a pre-recorded message in any emergency. CAL communicates with community members through both telephone and media hotlines. CAL will automatically dial each members telephone number in the 70809 area and play the pre-recorded message which will tell you what to do in terms of the plan for the disaster at hand. Secondly, CAL will inform the media and community members will be notified over the radio or television. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) uses local commercial radio and television broadcast in the event of an emergency or potential emergency. The EAS interrupts radio and television broadcasts that are currently in progress. The following

3 categories are the levels of the EAS: *Emerge-Alert*, *Mobile Sirens*, and *Door-to-Door*. The *Emerge-Alert* network provides the activating of agency direct voice communications to the viewing public over the cable television system. *Mobile Sirens* are governmental vehicles equipped with sirens or loudspeakers can provide emergency information in the parish where there are no fixed sirens. *Door-to-Door* is an Emergency response in which public safety personnel can deliver emergency warnings by going door-to-door, if necessary.

Who are the personnel available in the community for the disaster plans and management?

Mayor-President, Kip Holden is first notified of any advisory of potential or actual disasters in East Baton Rouge Parish. He is in charge of calling the first meeting with all department heads, weather bureau, and other agencies involved, including media in order to provide the community with disaster plans and management. Most importantly, the community is to contact, William L. White, Emergency Preparedness Specialist at the East Baton Rouge Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness, (225) 389-3035. He is responsible for the disaster/emergency preparedness plan and putting it into action when the need arises. (W. White, Personal Communication, July 22, 2013). The Department of Public Works, [(225) 389-3158], can also be contacted for information on disaster plans and management

In regards to schools in the community:

In the event of a major hurricane or any other emergency, the superintendent of the school system, in consultation with parish emergency management officials, will make the final determination on school closures. This will be done in accordance with the East Baton Parish School System Standard Operations Procedures. For more information, the community can contact the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board, (225) 922-5400; www.ebrpss.k12.la.us

What local agencies and organizations are involved in the disaster management activities?

The East Baton Rouge Parish Mayor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness (MOHSEP) is the coordinating agency for emergency and disaster activities. The MOHSEP is located at Emergency Operations Center, 3773 Harding Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70807. Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness is responsible for developing programs and emergency operation capabilities to prevent disasters if possible.

What health care facilities are available in the community to assist in a disaster?

According to ANNEX O: Appendix 3 of the Emergency Disaster Plan, Acadian Ambulance and Air Med Services' mission is to provide back up support to MOHSEP and back up personnel, equipment, and technical assistance to EMS to meet the need for pre-hospital care of the sick and injured, both during a natural or man-made disaster and the post disaster phase, so as to reduce the mortalities and the severity of morbidity.

- The following is the execution plan from the ANNEX O: Appendix 3
- A. Acadian Ambulance Communications Center will:
 1. Receive request from EMS Communications and immediately dispatch requested resources.
 2. Notify Acadian Ambulance Manager and Supervisors for East Baton Rouge Parish.
 3. Dispatch on-duty Paramedic Field Supervisor to scene to coordinate Acadian's response with EMS officials in charge of the scene.
 4. Dispatch helicopter support from other areas, if requested.

B. Acadian Ambulance Operations

1. Acadian Paramedic Field Supervisor will report to the Triage Officer and establish communications between Acadian Communications Center, responding ambulances, responding helicopters and EMS.
2. East Baton Rouge Parish EMS Triage Officer will direct all activities of Acadian Ambulance Service ambulances and helicopter at the disaster scene.
3. An Acadian Ambulance Supervisor will report to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to coordinate overall management of Acadian operations with EMS officials.

Those seeking medical care during a disaster in the 70809 area have access to the following:

- Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center located on 5000 Hennessy Blvd: 679 beds
- Baton Rouge General Medical Center – Bluebonnet-8585 Picardy Avenue: 105 beds
- Baton Rouge General Medical Center – Mid City 3600 Florida Boulevard: 343 beds
- Greater Baton Rouge Surgical Hospital--7855 Howell Blvd.
- Oschners Medical Center of Baton Rouge -- 17000 Medical Center Dr. Baton Rouge, LA 70816
- Surgical Specialty Centre-- 8080 Bluebonnet, Baton Rouge, LA 70810

Which HP2020 objectives are related to disaster/emergency preparedness?

- PREP 1: (Developmental) Reduce the time necessary to issue official information to the public about a public health emergency
- PREP-2: Reduce the time necessary to activate designated personnel in response to a public health emergency

- PREP-4: Reduce the time for State public health agencies to establish after action reports and improvement plans following responses to public health emergencies and exercises

Determine the preparedness of the community members for an emergency/disaster. What preparedness planning has been done for an emergency/disaster? What resources are available to prepare for an emergency/disaster?

The MOHSEP has provided a detailed emergency/disaster plan to prepare for an imminent hurricane season. This information is detailed under Annex S of the EOP (Emergency Operations Plan) <http://brgov.com/dept/oep/plan/annexd/Appendix9.pdf>. Annex D: Appendix 12 includes instruction for citizens during an evacuation. The community members are recommended not to delay during an evacuation and to pack only what you need. These items include prescription medications, eyeglasses, dentures, baby supplies, portable radio, etc. The community members are instructed to turn off the lights, appliances, heating and air conditioners; however, you may leave your refrigerator and freezer on. If evacuation begins and you have no transportation, contact a neighbor or a friend. If that is not possible, then call 9-1-1 and someone will see to your evacuation. In the event of any evacuation, please listen carefully to instructions. Community members will be directed to a street and direction in which to travel or you may be given specific evacuation instructions. This is important in regards to your children. The plans advise that parents do not go to their children's school to pick them up or try to call the school. This could delay their move to a safer place. School officials will take special care of your children. If a designated shelter has been assigned, the radio and/or law enforcement officers will inform you along your route. If members need a place to stay, go to an American

Red Cross shelter. Local officials will inform the shelter and the media of any changes or when it is safe to return.

The following tips are provided to community members to prepare family members for imminent or future disasters that may occur.

- a. Have a meeting with the members of your household to discuss the possible emergencies that exist and how to respond to each.
- b. Identify the safe areas in your home for each type of emergency.
- c. Explain what to do about power outages and personal injuries.
- d. Draw a floor plan of your home and identify two escape routes from each room.
- e. Show household members how to turn off the electricity, water, and gas at the main switches when necessary.
- f. Identify emergency phone numbers and post near telephones.
- g. Teach your children how and when to call 911.
- h. Identify one out-of-state and one local contact (relative or friend) for family members to call if separated during an emergency.
- i. Teach your children the phone numbers for your contacts.
- j. Identify two emergency meeting places: near your home in case of a fire & outside your neighborhood in case you cannot return home after an emergency.
- k. Take courses for CPR and First Aid.
- l. Family records should be kept in a water and fireproof container.
- m. Instruct family members to monitor local radio and television stations for emergency information.

- n. Below is a list of items created by the Emergency Disaster Plan to help prepare the community for future disasters.

i. **Emergency Supply Kit**

1. Water, one gallon per person per day is recommended. Store in sealed, unbreakable containers. Replace the water every six months.
2. Non-Perishable packaged or canned food. Include a non-electric can opener.
3. Change of clothing, rain gear, sturdy shoes for each person.
4. Sleeping bags or blankets.
5. First aid kit and prescription medications that may be needed.
6. Extra pair of glasses.
7. Battery-powered flashlight and radio. Include extra batteries.
8. Cash and credit cards.
9. Extra set of car keys.
10. List of family physicians
11. List of important family information.
12. Items for the people with special needs, such as infants, elderly or disabled family members.
13. Supplies should be kept in a container that is easy to transport such as a duffel bag or backpack.

ii. **Emergency Car Kit**

1. Battery-powered flashlight and radio. Include extra batteries.

2. Booster cables, Fire extinguisher (5lb., A-B-C type), Bottled water
3. Water, one gallon per person per day is recommended. Store in sealed, unbreakable containers. Replace the water every six months.

What communication and information sources are available during emergencies/disasters? (Transportation, medicine, finances, food, etc.)?

- a. Media and Radio
 - a. Community members can stay up to date with topics and information on emergency management by watching “Project Prepare” on WAFB Channel 9 every Thursday morning at 6:20 a.m.
 - b. RedStick Ready TV: The Mayor's Office of Homeland Security in Baton Rouge is releasing a series of television shows. The show is themed "Red Stick Ready" and is part of an effort to enhance community outreach.

What if household pets are present and what is the pet-related evacuation plans?

Pets are not allowed at American Red Cross shelters. Sheltering of pets in East Baton Rouge Parish will be controlled by the East Baton Rouge Parish Animal Control and Rescue Center.

The following plans are implemented by the disaster preparedness plans for small animals and household pets. Evacuees will be advised of pet shelter locations at informational

points and pet owners will receive requirements for the use of these pet shelters. RARTs, consisting of local veterinarians and staff will operate these pet shelters and provide veterinary emergency care of the animals. RARTs are responsible for the initial set up of the shelter. Stations in the shelter are to include: animal and owner identification, veterinary needs, resource procurement, documentation of activities, and expenses. The pet shelters will be paired with nearby American Red Cross shelters where owners will be sheltered. The pet owner will provide daily feeding, watering, and exercising of his/her pet and help keep the shelter area clean. The East Baton Rouge Parish zoos, animal humane societies, and animal control must have disaster plans and cannot utilize public shelters.

Large animals will be sheltered in Shelter Sector C. Humans with large animals need to evacuate early and travel the shortest distance with their animals. LDAF, Office of Animal Health Services will maintain a list of facilities in Shelter Sector C that are available for sheltering of large animals. Owners are responsible for moving and caring for their animals.

Identify roles that the public health nurse would have in your community if an emergency/disaster occurred. Describe:

Roles that a public health nurse would have in a community during a disaster include need for triage, first aid/emergency care, and shelter assistance. Nurses are also needed for educational purposes in regards to those temporarily living in shelters. This education includes information about procedures that will be needed when they return home. For example, residents may need to boil their water for 5 to 10 minutes before drinking.

What are the public health interventions of delegated functions related to emergency/disaster preparedness in your community?

- Formulating action protocols in case of an emergency or disaster situation.
- Simulating emergency events to exercise the use of the action protocols, evaluate the response, and make improvements in the emergency plan.
- Develop and implement educational and training classes for the public and private sector personnel to ensure responders are competent regarding the emergency plan.
- Form and maintain relationships with partner organizations and resources to improve coordination and capabilities within the community.

How can you use this information to improve the community's disaster/emergency preparedness?

This information can be used to improve community's disaster/emergency preparedness by providing the community members with information about disaster planning way in advance in order to ensure the safety of the individuals. Most members are confused about evacuation plans and having the information prior to disastrous events can ensure that individuals will not panic and be ready for disasters common to the 70809 zip code.

What methods can you use to share this information with the community?

The methods used to share this information with community can be done through local schools and churches in the area. Prior to disastrous events, community members will be approached through handouts with lists of materials and plans that they should implement in their homes. Buying materials prior to disaster can help create clarity and readiness for a disaster. Drills and tests can be administered in schools and churches to practice disaster preparedness plans as well.

References:

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