ASCENSION PARISH

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

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Helping our citizens learn how to be prepared for emergencies is a priority. The Ascension Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (AP OHSEP) has produced the all-hazards preparedness guide to generate public awareness and encourage you to develop your own readiness initiatives for your family. We hope this guide will prepare you and your family to be self-sufficient following a major disaster.

Ascension Parish residents will find this all-hazards guide to be a convenient and useful resource for emergency awareness and preparedness information.

This publication is made possible by the financial support of the

Ascension Parish Chemical Industry's CAER Committee

www.caer.memberclicks.net

WWW.ASCENSIONPARISH.NET/OHSEP

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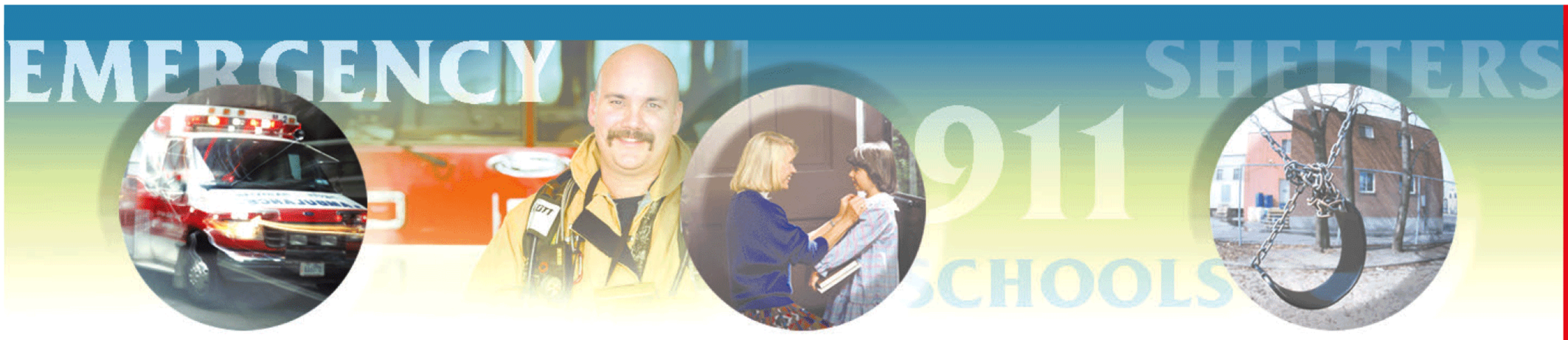
Mission Statement

The mission of the Ascension Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness is to serve the citizens of the Parish through effective planning for natural and man-made disasters. Our goal is to save lives and to protect property through the coordination of an integrated emergency management system with all emergency response organizations, support services and volunteers. We will be an advocate for greater community efforts, including educating the general public to mitigate and prepare for potential emergencies. We will support efforts to train and exercise emergency responders in both the public and private sectors. We will manage and coordinate efforts toward a rapid recovery from disasters with an effective disaster assistance program. This office will be the point of distribution of Homeland Security information and intelligence to agencies throughout the parish. We are committed to effective actions designed to prevent some disasters and to reduce the impact of those over which we have no control.



Calling 9-1-1

During a disaster, 911 will be inundated with calls. You may even receive a busy signal due to a system overload. This is why it is very important that you follow these simple steps.

DO NOT CALL 911 UNLESS YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY TO REPORT

For non-emergency information, call the Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office at 225-621-8300 or you can visit www.ascensionsheriff.com

To Obtain Emergency Information Call The Ascension Parish Community Information Line At 1-866-380-2303

- If you need to report power, phone, water or other utility outages notify the appropriate utility company. Note: Keep these important phone numbers with your Disaster Supplies Kit.
- Keep a phone that does not require a power source to use during times of power outages.
- Listen to local radio and television stations for instructions and information.
- In the event of a phone outage, go to the closest Fire Station to report all emergencies.
- Remember to remain calm when speaking to a 911 operator and do not hang up until they instruct you to do so.

IMPORTANT!!

Any Person Using 9-1-1 Falsely Can Be Sentenced To 6 Months In Jail And A Maximum Fine Of $500. Parents Are Held Liable For Juvenile Offenders.

Emergency Information Notification & Alerting

How to stay informed during an emergency

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.ascensionparish.net/ohsep
www.twitter.com/ascensionohsep
www.apsb.org
www.facebook.com/apohsep
www.twitter.com/ascensionparish

Facebook Pages: Ascension Parish Homeland Security, Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office & Ascension Parish Schools.

TELEVISION

Ascension Parish CH 21	WVLA (NBC Channel 33)
WAFB (CBS Channel 9)	WGMB (FOX 44 Channel 6)
WBRZ (ABC Channel 2)	Gonzales & 12 (Donaldsonville)

ALERT/NOTIFICATIONS

CodeRED™

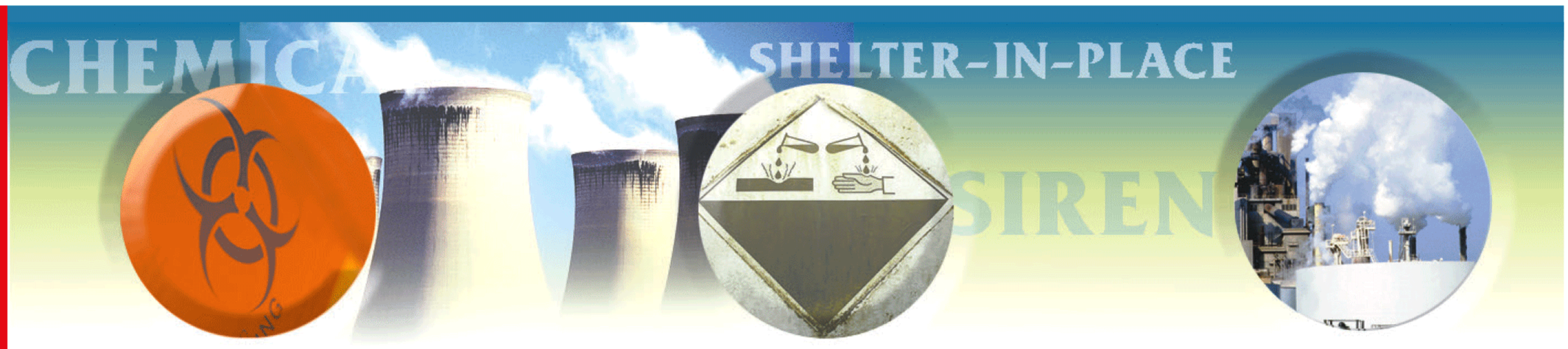
Sign up with www.tinyurl.com/ascensiongov to receive alerts by phone, app, text and email.
Community Information Line: 1-866-380-2303

RADIO

KKAY	AM	1590
WYNK	FM	101.5
WFMF	FM	102.5
KQXL	FM	106.5
WNXX	FM	104.9

Information regarding schools during an emergency visit the Ascension Parish School Board website at www.apsb.org or call the school board offices at 225-391-7000 or 225-257-2000 . Please do not call individual school offices.

Information regarding the opening of shelters will be announced on Parish cable TV CH 21 and KKAY AM 1590 radio station.
Also visit our facebook page for continuous updates.



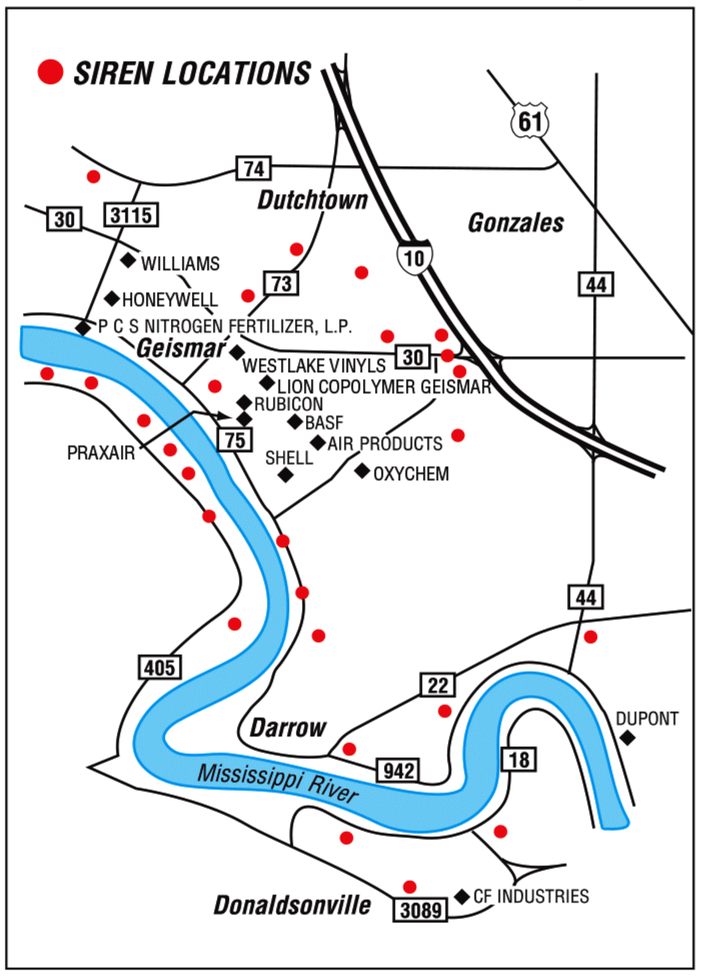
Chemical Emergencies: Shelter-in-Place

www.caer.memberclicks.net

WHAT TO DO IN A CHEMICAL EMERGENCY

Who is CAER?

Several Ascension Parish chemical companies have joined forces with the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness and the Sheriff's Office to better educate area residents about industry's role in the community. The result is the Ascension Parish Chemical Industry's Community Awareness Emergency Response Committee, or CAER. The CAER Committee's duty is to inform the community about the chemical industry, what it manufactures, and what chemicals are used.



To better inform the community of a chemical emergency, the CAER Committee has installed a Community Siren Emergency Alerting System. This system has 26 sirens located in surrounding areas of the parish where CAER member chemical facilities are located. These sirens may be activated in the event of a chemical emergency that may affect the nearby community. These sirens can normally be heard within 2.5 miles of each chemical facility. Additionally, the Ascension Parish Telephone alerting system, First Call, can be activated to alert the public.

I HEAR THE COMMUNITY EMERGENCY ALERT SIREN. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

The Community Siren Emergency Altering System is tested each Monday at noon. **IF YOU HEAR THE SIRENS AT ANY OTHER TIME**, stay calm and immediately follow the steps to **SHELTER-IN-PLACE**.

Shelter-in-place is a precaution aimed to keep you and your family safe while you remain in your house, school, or business. This is not the same thing as going to an evacuation shelter in case of a storm. Shelter-in-Place means going to an interior room inside your house, school, or business.

✓ STEP 1: GO INSIDE

Immediately, go inside a building such as your home, school, or office. If your children are at school or a daycare center, **DO NOT** attempt to pick up your children. The teachers are trained to protect your children and will follow the Shelter-in-Place procedures.

✓ STEP 2: CLOSE ALL DOORS AND WINDOWS

Make sure you close and lock all doors and windows to help seal them off. You may also cover windows with plastic sheeting and seal cracks around the doors and windows with duct tape.

✓ STEP 3: TURN OFF FANS, AIR CONDITIONERS AND HEATERS

Turn off attic and ceiling fans, heaters and air conditioners. Close all air vents and ventilation systems to prevent outside air from coming in to your home. If you have a fire place, check the damper and close it **ONLY IF** there is no fire in the fireplace.

✓ STEP 4: TURN ON A RADIO AND/OR LOCAL CABLE TV

Turn on a radio to 1590 AM and any local cable TV station for further information or instructions regarding the chemical emergency.

✓ STEP 5: STAY OFF THE PHONE

Do not use the telephone unless absolutely necessary because emergency personnel may call to give specific instructions on what to do.

✓ STEP 6: STAY INSIDE UNTIL GIVEN THE ALL CLEAR

Stay inside until the **"ALL CLEAR"** siren is sounded. Stay tuned to the radio and/or cable television until the **"ALL CLEAR"** messaged is broadcasted. After the **"ALL CLEAR"** message is given, you may resume normal activities.
You may want to open all doors and window, and turn on ventilation systems to air out your home, school, or business.

CAER Sirens

Being prepared is the key to protecting yourself, your children and co-workers. Remember to regularly review and practice the shelter-in-place steps at your home, school and business.
For more information on Shelter-in-Place, the Community Alerting Emergency Alerting System, the CAER Committee and other related information visit: **www.caer.memberclicks.net** or contact one of these CAER members.

Air Liquide 225-744-5700
Air Products and Chemicals, Inc 225-677-7007
Baker Hughes 225-673-4355
BASF Corporation 225-339-2231
CF Industries Inc 225-473-8291
Veolia 225-473-8618
Eastman Chemical Company 225-642-3346
EnLink Midstream LLC 225-673-6137
Enterprise Products Tebone Fractionation Plant 225-677-1100
Hexion Inc. 225-744-2000
Honeywell Chemicals 225-642-2715
IMTT 225-474-2514
Innophos Inc 225-673-5600
Kinder Morgan 225-677-5108
LBC Baton Rouge 225-642-8335
Lion Copolymer Geismar LLC 225-673-8871
Lone Star NGL Refinery 225-677-9399
Methanex Geismar 225-402-0300
Motiva Enterprises 225-562-7681
Occidental Chemical 225-473-5016
PCS Nitrogen Fertilizer, L.P 225-621-1500
Pipeline Technology 225-324-0606
Praxair Services, Inc 225-673-8831
REG Synthetic Fuels 225-744-1300
Rubicon, LLC 225-673-6141
Shell Chemical Company 225-201-6262
Syngenta Crop Protection, LLC 225-642-1100
Univar 225-473-1921
Westlake Vinyls Co LP 225-673-6121
Williams Olefins LLC 225-642-2100

Pipeline Safety

IF YOU LIVE OR WORK NEAR A PIPELINE

How can you tell where a pipeline is located?
Since pipelines are buried underground, line markers like the ones shown here are used to indicate their approximate location along the route. The markers can be found where a pipeline intersects a street, highway or railroad.

The markers display the material transported in the line, the name of the pipeline operator, and a telephone number where the operator can be reached in the event of an emergency.

It is a federal crime to remove or deface a pipeline marker sign.
Pipeline marker signs such as those pictured above are important to public safety. They are so important, in fact, that Congress in 1988 passed a law making it a federal crime to willfully deface, damage, remove or destroy any pipeline sign or right-of-way marker that is required by federal law.

Plastic Marker | Right-Of-Way Markers DOT Marker | Painted Metal or Plastic Post | Aerial Marker | Corrosion Test Station | Casing Vent Pipe

Are markers always placed on top of the pipeline?
Markers indicate the general location of a pipeline. They cannot be relied upon to indicate the exact position of the pipeline they mark. Also, the pipeline may not follow a straight course between markers. And, while markers are helpful in locating pipelines, they are limited in the information they provide. They provide no information, for example, on the depth or number of pipelines in the vicinity.

How can you recognize a pipeline leak?
Sight, sound and smell are helpful in detecting pipeline leaks.

Look for:
- Crude oil or liquid petroleum products on the ground.
- A dense white cloud or fog.
- A spot of dead vegetation in an otherwise green location may indicate a slow leak.
- Flames (if the leak has ignited).

Listen for:
- A roaring or hissing sound.

Smell for:
- A pungent odor, sometimes like "rotten eggs."
- A gasoline-type odor.

What should you do if you suspect a leak?
Your first concern should be for your personal safety and that of those around you.
- Leave the leak area immediately.
- Avoid driving into vapor clouds.
- Avoid direct contact with the escaping gas or liquids.
- Avoid creating sparks or other sources of heat which could cause the escaping liquids or vapor to ignite and burn. If you find yourself in an area where you suspect hydrocarbon vapors are present, do not light a match, start an engine or even switch on an electric light.
- Call 9-1-1 .
- Notify the pipeline operator.

Pipeline contents can vary greatly.
- Pipelines carry both gaseous and liquid materials.
- Many liquids form gaseous vapor clouds when released.
- Many pipelines contain colorless and odorless products.
- Some pipeline gases are lighter than air and will rise.
- Other heavier-than-air gases and liquids will stay near the ground and collect in low spots.
- All petroleum gases and liquids are flammable.
- Any pipeline leak can be potentially dangerous.

The State of Louisiana's ONE-CALL
Excavators and homeowners should use the One-Call before starting any digging projects on or near any pipelines. These projects include fences, flagpoles, landscaping, storage buildings, foundations, swimming pools, ground clearing, deep plowing, laying underground pipe or wiring, or any other "digging" projects.

Louisiana One Call before you dig.
1-800-272-3020

Family Disaster Plan

✓ **Learn more about the types of disasters most likely to happen in and around Ascension Parish**
Go to http://ready.gov to download Family Disaster Plan

- Learn about the area's warning signals.
- How will you care for your pets?
- Find out how to help your elderly or disabled neighbors.
- Make disaster plans for home, work and school.

✓ **Create a Disaster Plan**

- Discuss with your family and co-workers what to do in case of a disaster.
- Pick two places to meet:
  1. Right outside of your home, work or school in case of a sudden emergency, like a fire.
  2. Outside of your immediate area in case you cannot return home. Everyone must know the address and phone number at this location.
- Ask an out-of-state friend or relative to be your "family contact." After a disaster it's often easier to call long distance.
- Create a disaster plan for family pets. Remember: pets are not allowed in American Red Cross evacuation shelters.

✓ **Complete this Checklist**

- Post emergency telephone numbers by phones (fire, police, ambulance, etc.)
- Teach children how and when to call 911 or your local EMS number for emergency help.
- Each family member should learn how to turn off the water, gas and electricity at the main switches.
- Check for adequate insurance coverage. Do you have flood insurance?
- Each family member should learn how to use an all-purpose (ABC type fire extinguisher) and they should know where it is kept.
- Install smoke detectors on each level of your home, especially near bedrooms.
- Conduct a home hazard hunt.
  During a disaster, ordinary objects in you home can cause injury or damage. Anything that can move, fall, break or cause a fire hazard is a home hazard. Inspect your home at least once a year and fix potential hazards.
- Stock your Emergency Supplies Kit (see page 7).
- Take a first aid and CPR course.
- Determine the best routes of escape from your home, work and school. Find two ways out of every room.
- Find the safe spots in or near your home for each type of disaster.

✓ **Practice and Maintain Your Plan**

- Quiz your family every six months so they remember what to do.
- Conduct fire and emergency evacuation drills.
- Replace stored water every three months and stored food every six months.
- Test and recharge your fire extinguisher(s) according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Test your smoke detectors monthly and change the batteries at least once a year.

✓ **Home Health Patients**

- If you are under the care of a home health agency coordinate with them to ensure that you have an adequate supply of medical supplies and medication during a disaster.

EMERGENCY ALERT NOTIFICATION

sign up now for Code Red
www.tinyurl.com/ascensiongov

CodeRED™

American Red Cross
225-291-4533

United Way • AIRS
2-1-1®
Get Connected. Get Answers.

DIAL 2-1-1
to connect to more than 1,300 local organizations and agencies
or dial 225-923-2114 or 1-877-923-2114
7 days a week - 8:00 am - 8:00 pm

Emergency Supplies Kit
(At Least A 5-day Supply Per Person)

✓ **WATER**
- One gallon of water per person per day (at least 5 days supply per person)

✓ **FOOD**
- READY-TO-EAT canned foods
- Canned or powdered juices and milk
- High energy foods, such as peanut butter and granola bars
- Specialty foods for infants and special diets

✓ **FIRST AID KIT**
- Assorted bandages
- Anti-bacterial ointments and soaps
- Latex gloves
- Sunscreen
- Scissors
- Hygiene products
- Disinfectant
- Non-prescription drugs (aspirin, anti-diarrheal)

✓ **CLOTHING AND BEDDING**
- Blankets and/or sleeping bags
- Pillows
- Sturdy shoes
- Full change of clothes

✓ **IMPORTANT FAMILY DOCUMENTS**
- Insurance papers, contracts, wills and deeds
- Computer CPU or back-up disk of all records
- Bank and credit card account information
- Inventory of household valuables
- Important contact telephone numbers and addresses

✓ **SPECIALTY ITEMS**
- Baby supplies
- Prescription medications
- Extra eye glasses
- Portable weather radio
- Flashlight
- Batteries

Key Elements To Prepare Your Pet For Evacuation

✓ **MAKE A PET EMERGENCY SUPPLIES KIT:**
- Have an airline approved carrier or wire pet crate (has better air circulation)
- Identification papers (picture of your pet, contact information, shot records)

Recommend micro-chipping with your local veterinarian
- Pet food for at least 5 days and water bowls
- Medications
- Beds and toys (to help your pet feel comfortable)

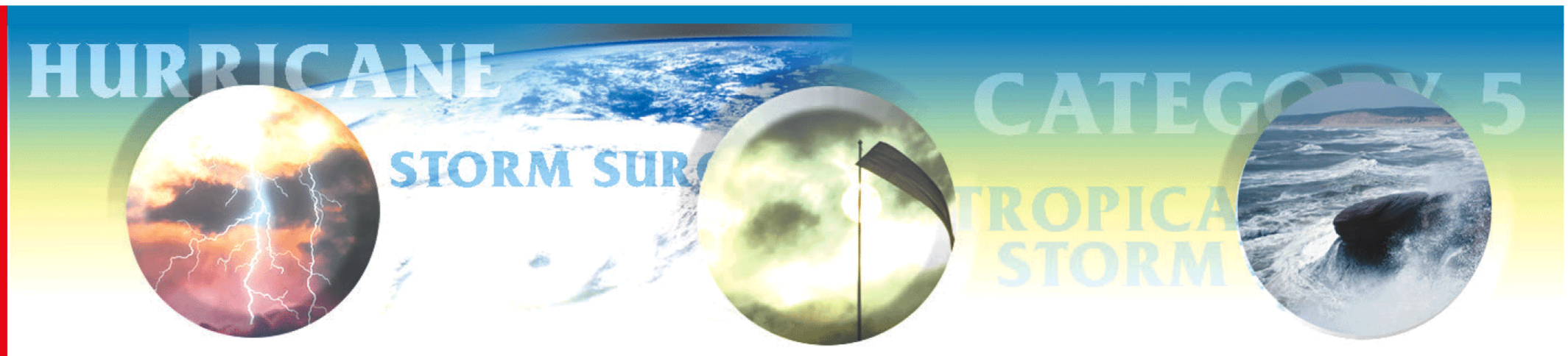
✓ **WHERE TO TAKE PETS:**
- Check with your veterinarian or local kennel to inquire about shelting services
- Contact your local Office of Emergency Preparedness center to see if there are any pet-friendly shelters in your area or surrounding areas
- Find hotels and motels that allow pets at **www.petswelcome.com**
- The Humane Society/SPCA and your Office of Emergency Preparedness Center is another good source of local information regarding evacuation and sheltering procedures and resources for pets

✓ **PET EVACUATION WEBSITES:**

Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry
http://www.ldaf.state.la.us
Louisiana Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
http://www.la-spca.org
Louisiana State University College of Veterinary Medicine
http://lsu.edu/vetmed
Louisiana State Animal Response Team (LA SART)
http://lsart.org
FEMA **http://www.fema.gov**
The Humane Society of the United States
http://www.humanesociety.org

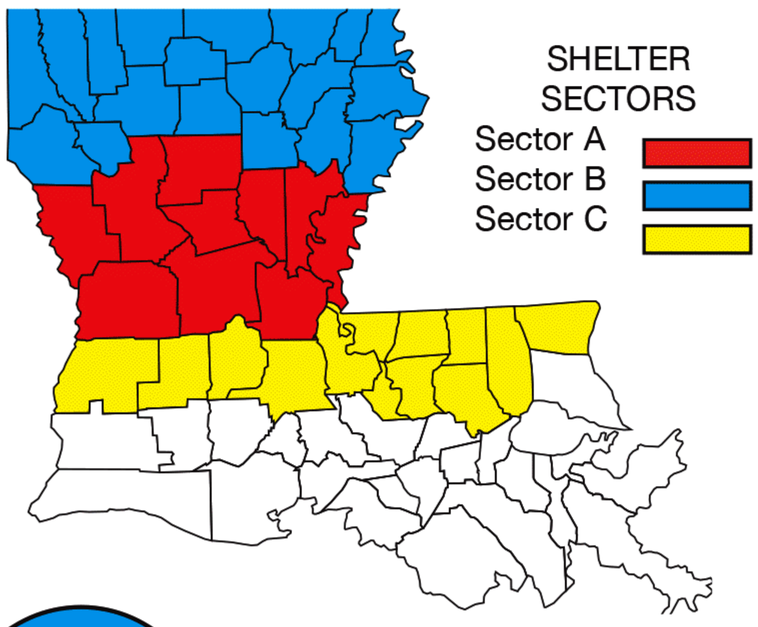
✓ **IF ALL ELSE FAILS:**

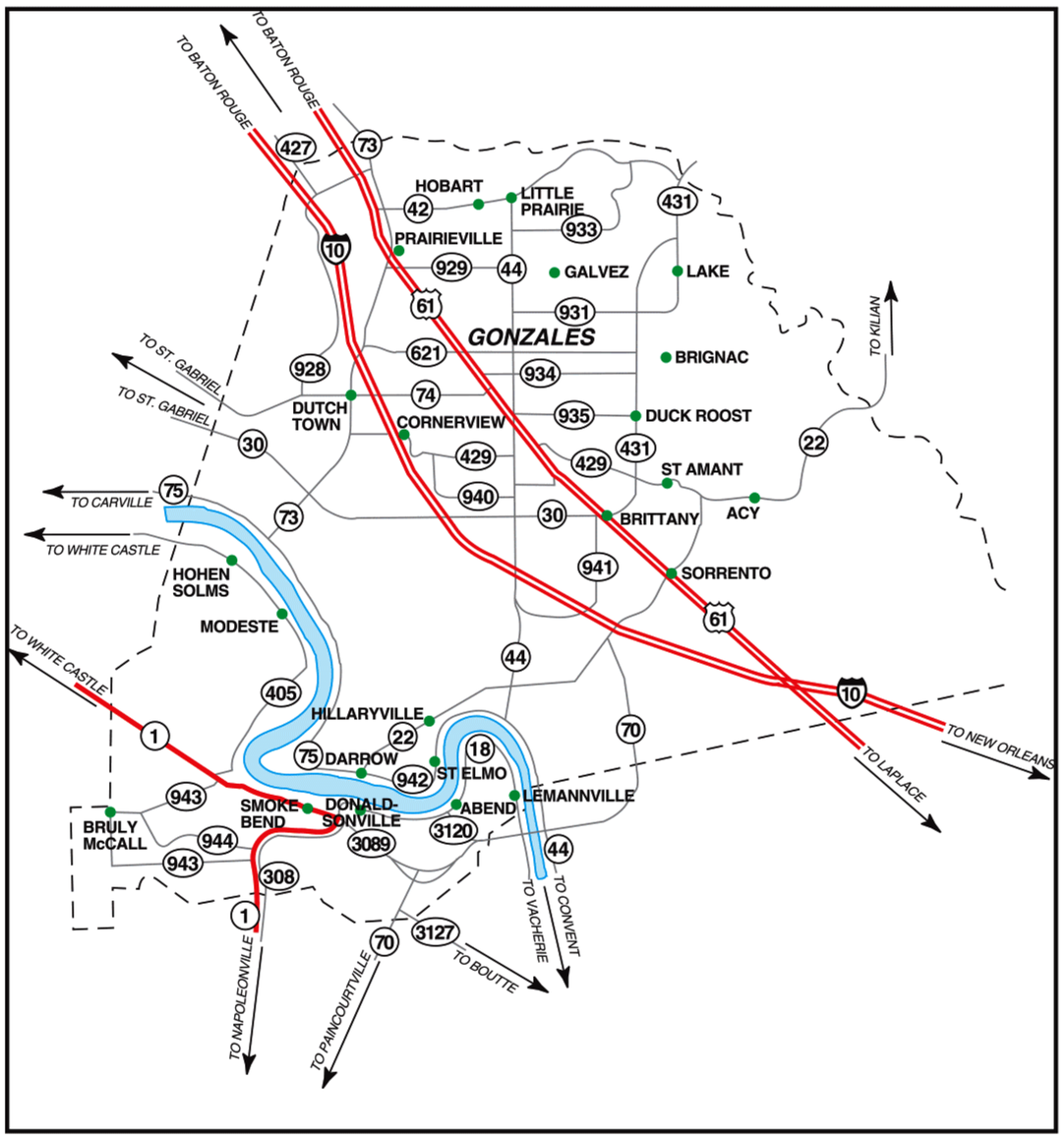
If you have to leave your pets home alone:
- Secure them in an upper-level room with food and water to last at least a week
- Post sticker or signs on doors or windows so that they are clearly visible from the outside of the building
- Specify how many animals, what kind and where they are
- Never leave your animal chained up
- ID your animal with information on a collar

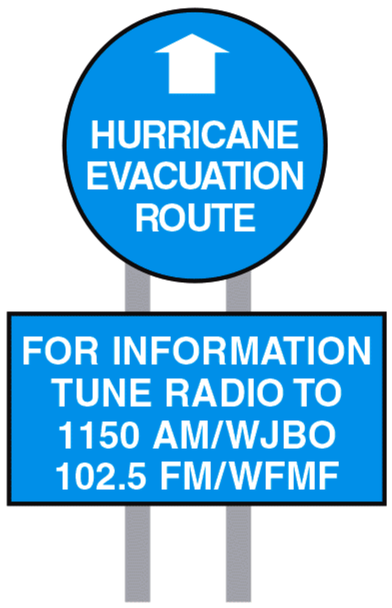


Evacuation Routes

Depending on the storm's severity, Ascension Parish residents may either be asked to "shelter-in-place," seek local shelter or evacuate the area. Shelters have been designated throughout the State for use during emergencies. The state is divided into Sectors A, B, and C (see map). Shelters in Sector A will be used first, followed by Sector B. Sector C will be reserved for the special needs population, such as nursing home, home health care agencies, and hospital patients.







Ascension Parish residents should take primary evacuation routes:

(East Bank)
Interstate 10 West & Hwy 61 North or
(West Bank)
LA Hwy 1 North

Call **LOUISIANA 511** For Current Route Status

Alternate Evacuation Considerations

In Addition To Primary Evacuation Routes For Local AP Citizens

East Bank: (1) Take Hwy 431 (North) to Hwy 447 to Hwy 190, then east to I-55 (North)-Mississippi Bound or west to I-49 -Alexandria Bound (North). Continue as appropriate to current weather advisories.

(2) Take Hwy 431 (North) to Hwy 42 to Hwy 63 (North) To I-49 (North)-Alexandria Bound or I-55 (North)- Mississippi Bound. Continue as appropriate to weather advisories.

West Bank: (1) Take Hwy 405 (North) to Plaquemine to Hwy 77 (North) to Hwy 405 (North) to Plaquemine to Hwy 77 (North) to Hwy 190 (West) to Opelousas to I-49 (North)-Alexandria Bound

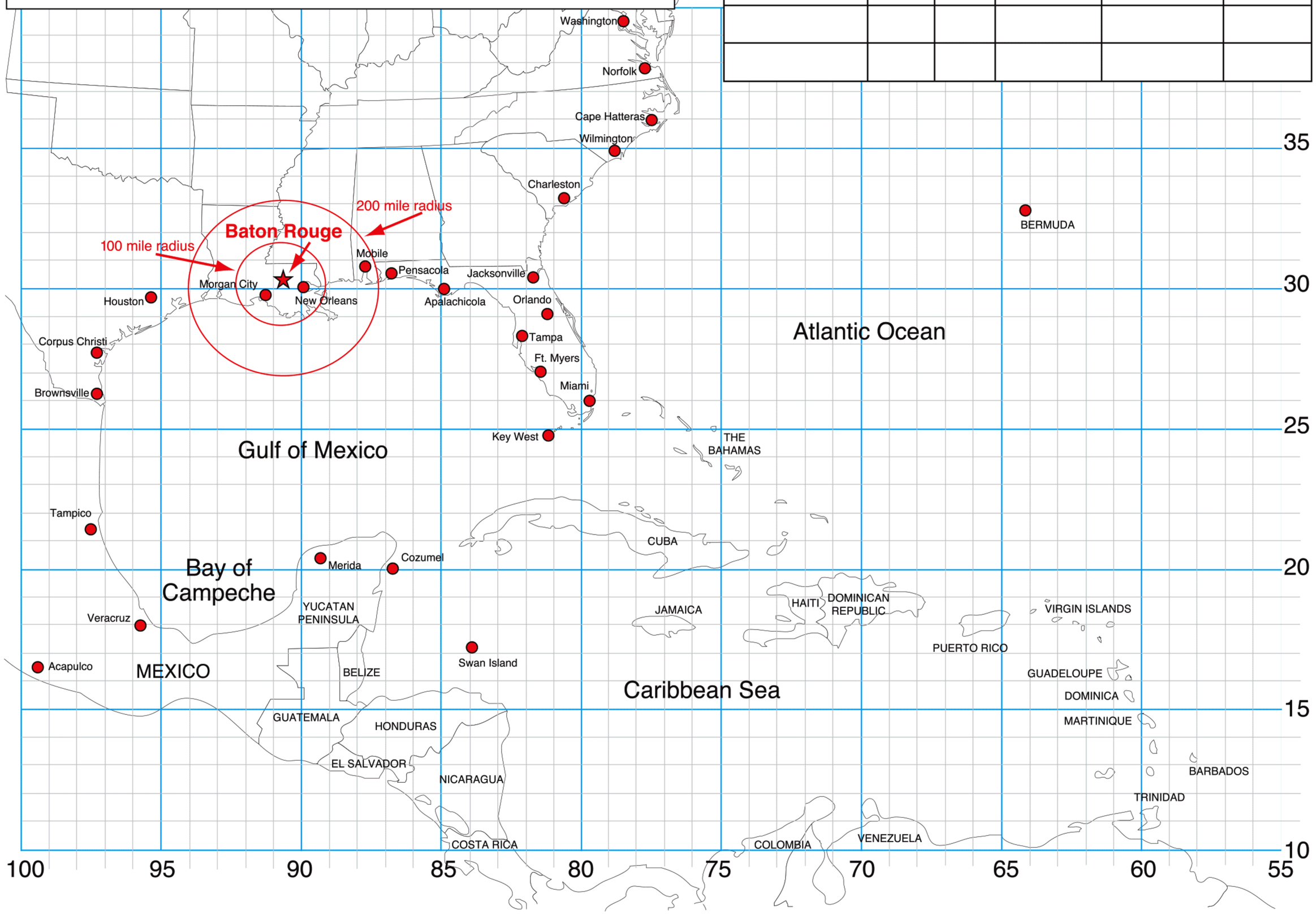
Monitor Emergency Radio Stations for weather related updates and in choosing local alternative evacuation routes.

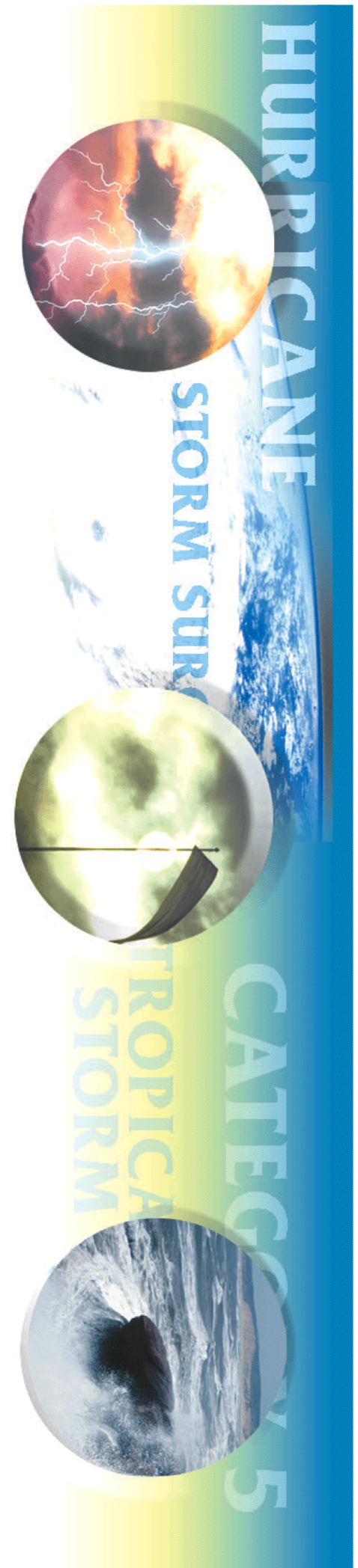
WWW.ASCENSIONPARISH.NET/OHSEP

HURRICANE WATCH: Hurricane may threaten within 36 hours.
- Be prepared to take action if a warning is issued.
- Keep informed of the storm's progress

HURRICANE WARNING: Hurricane expected to strike within 24 hours.
- Leave beach front and low-lying areas
- Leave mobile homes for more substantial shelter
- Stay in your home if it is sturdy, on high ground, and not near the beach, but if you are asked to leave by authorities–**GO**
- Stay tuned to radio, NOAA weather Radio, or television for hurricane advisories and safety information

STORM NAME	DATE	TIME	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	SPEED





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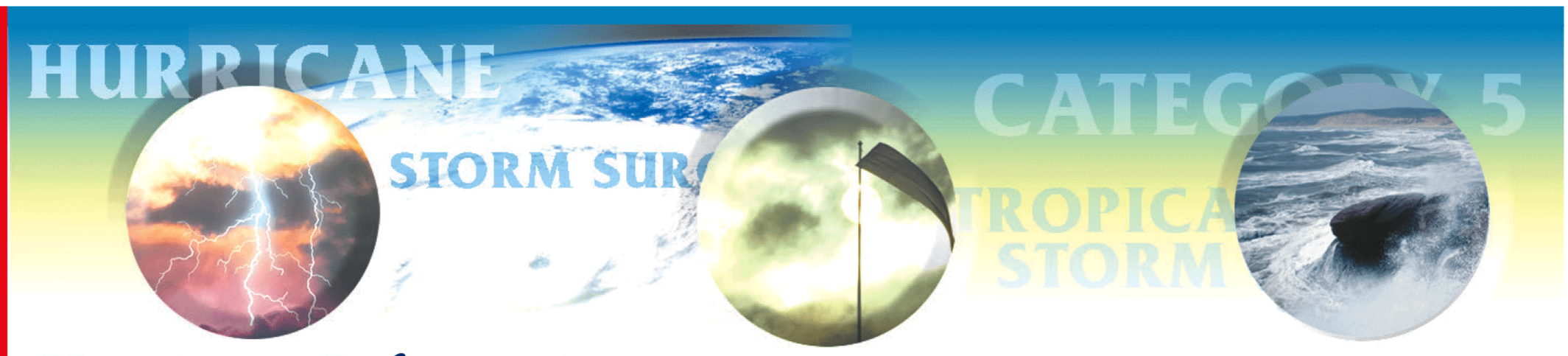


Hurricane Information

HURRICANE SEASON OFFICIALLY BEGINS ON JUNE 1 AND LASTS UNTIL NOVEMBER 30

Contact the National Weather Service or NOAA to obtain storm predictions for this year.
www.WEATHER.gov
www.NOAA.gov

SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE SCALE

Category	Pressure (millibar)	Sustained Winds (mph)	Damage
1	980 or more	74-95	Minimal
2	965-979	96-110	Moderate
3	945-964	111-130	Extensive
4	920-944	131-155	Extreme
5	less than 920	greater than 155	Catastrophic

BEFORE THE HURRICANE SEASON BEGINS

Residents of Southeast Louisiana should be prepared for tropical storms and hurricanes, no matter the general outlook for the hurricane season. Historically, the region has been impacted by hurricanes even during seasons of below normal tropical activity. Regardless of the outlook for the upcoming season, it is important for residents to have hurricane preparedness plans.

WHAT IS A HURRICANE?

A hurricane is a type of tropical cyclone. Hurricane winds rotate in a counterclockwise direction around the center of the storm, which is called the "eye" where the winds are nearly calm. Tropical cyclones are classified as follows:

Tropical Disturbance
Organized thunderstorm activity in the tropics and subtropics, not associated with a front, maintaining its identity for 24 hours or more.

Tropical Depression
An organized system of clouds and thunderstorms with a defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 38 mph (33 knots) or less.

Tropical Storm
An organized system of strong thunderstorms with a defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph (34-63 knots).

Hurricane
An intense tropical weather system with a well defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 74 mph (64 knots) or higher.

IF STAYING AT HOME

Only stay in a home if you have NOT been ordered to evacuate by local officials. Stay inside a well constructed building. In structures, such as a home, examine the building and plan in advance what you will do if winds become strong. Strong winds produce deadly missiles and structural failure.

- ✓ Know how to turn off utilities if told to do so by authorities. Post a set of instructions that can be easily followed by others in the family.
- ✓ Fill bathtub and large containers with water for sanitary purposes.
- ✓ Insure that you have a battery operated radio, flashlights, extra batteries, a supply of canned goods, and a non-electric can opener.
- ✓ Remove objects from around your home that could become dangerous wind-driven projectiles.
- ✓ Turn refrigerator to maximum cold and open only when necessary.
- ✓ Freeze water to create ice. Insure adequate supply by storing extra in large bags.
- ✓ Turn off propane tanks.
- ✓ Board up windows.

IF EVACUATING

When advised or ordered to evacuate:

- ✓ Stay calm.
- ✓ Fill your vehicle's gas tank.
- ✓ Bring a disaster supply kit for each person (3-day water supply, non-perishable food, a change of clothes and footwear, blanket or sleeping bag, and a first-aid kit including prescription medication).
- ✓ Take a battery-powered Weather Radio, portable radio, and flashlight with extra batteries.
- ✓ Make sure you have an extra set of car keys, credit cards, cash, and important papers.
- ✓ Bring special items for infants and elderly or disabled family members.
- ✓ Remember to do the following:
  - -Turn off all the lights, household appliances, gas, heating, cooling, and ventilation systems.
  - -Leave the refrigerator and freezer on.
  - -Secure your home and make arrangements for pets.
  - -Let others know when you leave and where you are planning to go.

Floods

WHEN FLOODING IS PREDICTED FOR YOUR AREA

- Check TV and radio often for official bulletins.
- Fuel car.
- Check mobile home tiedowns.
- Adjust moorings on watercraft or move to safer shelter.
- Stock up on canned provisions.
- Check supplies of special medicines and drugs.
- Check batteries for radio and flashlights.
- Secure lawn furniture and other loose material outdoors.
- Elevate lawn equipment and machinery.
- Inventory flood protection supplies and equipment.

WHEN A FLOOD WARNING IS ISSUED

- Stay tuned to TV and radio for official bulletins.
- Move valuables to upper floors or attic.
- Raise appliances above predicted flood levels.
- Bring in pets.
- Fill containers with several days' supply of drinking water.
- Use the phone only for emergencies.
- Implement a flood protection plan (sandbagging, wrapping, closing levee gaps).

STAY OR LEAVE

When a flood threatens your area, you will have to make the decision to either evacuate or stay safely at home. **IF LOCAL AUTHORITIES RECOMMEND EVACUATION, YOU SHOULD LEAVE!**

If you decide to leave, follow this advice:

- Leave early – in daylight if possible.
- Shut off water and electricity at main stations.
- Take small valuables and papers, but travel light.
- Provide for animals and pets that shelters will not take.
- Lock your house.
- Use recommended evacuation routes to carefully drive to safe shelter.
- Avoid driving through standing or flowing water.

DURING THE FLOOD EVENT

To minimize damage to property and loss of life, the National Weather Service will issue a **FLASH FLOOD WATCH**. Local flooding can be expected within 12-24 hours. **A FLOOD WARNING** is issued for the river when flood waters are expected to exceed flood stage at any point on the river. In the Amite Basin, flood warnings may be issued 24-60 hours in advance of the crest. For your own well being and that of others, please take flooding very seriously.

- Stay tuned to the TV and radio for information and official instructions.
- Stay out of disaster areas.
- Do not drink tap water until it has been determined to be safe.
- Do not attempt to travel until roads have been declared open.
- Drive carefully along debris-filled streets. Roads may be undermined and may collapse under weight.
- Stay clear of any downed or low hanging power lines, and report them to the power company.
- Report broken sewers or water mains.
- Be exceptionally careful to prevent fires.
- **DO NOT USE THE TELEPHONE, EXCEPT FOR EMERGENCIES.**
- Check with neighbors to see if help is needed.
- When cooking without gas or electricity, good ventilation is extremely important. Bottled gas burners or several candles taped together are safe and efficient for cooking. NEVER burn charcoal indoors. Always have a fire extinguisher handy.
- Always follow manufacturers recommendations for ventilation.

RETURNING TO YOUR FLOOD DAMAGED HOME

- USE EXTREME CAUTION!
- Before entering a damaged building, check for structural damage and possible imminent collapse.
- When entering a damaged building, do not use an open flame as a light source.
- Be sure children are safe and in good hands.
- Keep chemicals used for disinfecting and poisons used for insect and rodent control out of the reach of children.
- Wear protective clothing and rubber gloves when cleaning.
- Disconnect main electrical switches and circuits. Remove covers from all outlets and fuses or multi-breaker boxes. When dry, spray outlets and boxes with contact cleaner/lubricant.
- Check refrigerated foods for spoilage if power has been off during the event.

DRINKING WATER AFTER FLOODING

In case of localized flooding, please call the LDH, Louisiana Dept. of Health at 225-644-9030 for information regarding safety actions for your private water well.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Floodplain Management Available

"Basic homeowner's" insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. However, because Ascension Parish participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, federally subsidized flood insurance is available to everyone in the parish. Flood insurance is available on buildings and personal property (contents of your home or business). Remember, there is a 30-day waiting period before a policy becomes effective.

Information on the 100-Year Base Flood Elevations, Flood Zone Determinations, and Elevation Certificates for certain properties in the Special Flood Hazard Area can be from the Ascension Parish Department of Planning and Development, 615 E. Worthy St. in Gonzales. The telephone number is 225-450-1002. Residents needing this information can also access information at the Ascension Parish Library or via the website **www.ascensionparish.net** under Floodplain Management tab.

If you experience flooding, call the Department of Public Works at 225-450-1013 and someone will respond and visit the site to verify and address the issue. For advice in how to protect your property from Flooding, call 225-450-1002 and someone will assist you.

For More Information

If you would like more information please call or email the following:

National Weather Service (NWS).....985-645-0565
www.noaa.gov **www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc**
U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).....225-298-5481
www.la.water.usgs.gov/floodmaps/ascensionparishflood.html
Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District ...225-296-4900
www.amitebasin.org

Tornadoes

✓ Conduct tornado drills each tornado season. Designate an area in the home as a shelter, and practice having everyone in the family go there in response to a tornado threat.

✓ Discuss with family members the difference between a tornado watch and a tornado warning.

✓ Have emergency supplies on hand.

During a tornado, if you are:

1. In a **CAR**, do not get under an overpass or bridge. Get out of the car immediately and take shelter in a nearby building or low-lying area away from the vehicle. Be cautious seeking shelter in ditches due to flash flooding in some areas.
2. In a **MOBILE HOME**, get out and find shelter elsewhere!
3. In a **HOME:**
   Go at once to a windowless, interior room, storm cellar, or lowest level of the building.
   Go to an inner hallway or smaller inner room without windows, such as a bathroom or closet.
   Stay away from the windows.
   Go to the center of the room. Stay away from the corners because tend to attract debris.
   Get under a piece of sturdy furniture such as a heavy table or desk and hold on to it.
   Crouch down on your knees and protect your head with your arms.
4. In a **SCHOOL:**
   Every school should have a disaster plan and have frequent drills.
   Schools without basements should use interior rooms and hallways on the lowest floor away from windows.
   Crouch down on your knees and protect your head with your arms.

Fire Safety

1. Make sure all family members know what to do in the event of a fire. Draw a floor plan with at least two ways of escaping every room. Make a drawing for each floor. Dimensions do not need to be correct. Make sure the plan shows important details: stairs, hallways and windows that can be used as fire escape routes.

2. Test windows and doors—do they open easy enough? Are they wide enough, or tall enough?

3. Choose a safe meeting place outside the house.

4. Practice alerting other members. It is a good idea to keep a bell and flashlight in each bedroom.

5. Practice evacuating the building blindfolded. In a real fire situation, the amount of smoke generated by a fire most likely will make it difficult to see.

6. Practice staying low to the ground when escaping.

7. Feel all doors before opening them. If a door is hot, get out another way.

8. Learn to stop, drop to the ground, roll if clothes catch fire.

IN CASE OF FIRE: (ADULTS)

Have everyone leave the building, then call (or have someone call) the fire department (911)

Fight the fire only if it's small and not spreading – and you have a clear escape path.

WHEN IN DOUBT, GET OUT!

Louisiana State Fire Marshall
(Non-Emergency Phone Number) 1-800-256-5452
www.lasfm.org

Poisons

Louisiana Poison Control Center 1-800-222-1222

POISONS AND DRUGS

In order to save valuable time and provide life saving information, contact the Louisiana Poison Control Center located at the University of Louisiana - Monroe for information on poisons and drugs.

CHEMICALS/OTHER COMPOUNDS

The Ascension Parish Chemical Industry's CAER Committee website has information regarding chemicals used and produced at its member companies' facilities. This information can be found at www.ascension-caer.org/cguide.htm or by contacting one of the CAER member company representatives listed on page 5 of this guide.

West Nile

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF WNV?

WNV affects the central nervous system. Symptoms vary.

No Symptoms in Most People. Approximately 80 percent of people who are infected with WNV will not show any symptoms at all.
Mild Symptoms in Some People. Up to 20 percent of the people who become infected will display mild symptoms including fever, headache, and body aches, nausea and vomiting. Some will experience swollen lymph glands or a skin rash on the chest, stomach or back. Symptoms typically last a few days.
Serious Symptoms in a Few People. About one in 150 people infected with WNV will develop severe illness. The severe symptoms can include high fever, headache, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, vision loss, numbness and paralysis. These symptoms may last several weeks and neurological effects may be permanent.

WHAT CAN I DO TO PREVENT WNV?

1. The easiest and best way to avoid WNV is to prevent mosquito bites.
2. When you are outdoors, use insect repellents containing DEET (N, N-diethyl-meta-toluamide). Follow the directions on the package.
3. Many mosquitoes are most active at dusk and dawn. Consider staying indoors during these times or use insect repellent and wear long sleeves.... and pants. Light-colored clothing can help you see mosquitoes that land on you.
4. Make sure you have good screens on your windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out.
5. Get rid of mosquito breeding sites by emptying standing water from flower pots, buckets and barrels. Change the water in pet dishes and replace . the water in bird baths weekly. Drill drainage holes in tire swings so water drains out.
6. Keep children's wading pools empty and on their sides when they aren't being used.

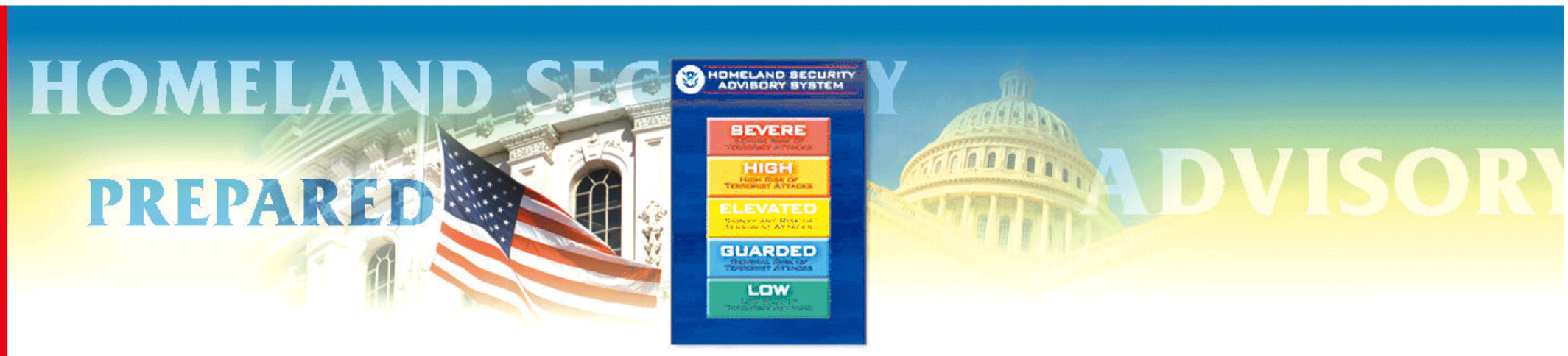
Terrorism

4 TYPES OF TERRORISM

1. **Conventional –** Such as bombings and hijackings
2. **Chemical –** Use of a poison (nerve gas, for example) to attack people.
3. **Biological –** Use of bacteria (such as anthrax), viruses or other organisms to make people seriously ill
4. **Radiological –** Use of radioactive material (such as nuclear weapons) to harm people.

TERRORISTS TARGETS:

1. Highly populated places, such as large cities, international airports, major international events or popular tourist sites
2. Business and government centers, such as financial districts, embassies or military bases.
   Other targets may include transportation systems, power plants, hospitals and schools.



See It, Suspect It, Report It!

1st Call: 911 - Local Law Enforcement
2nd Call: LA-SAFE 225.925.4192 or
LSP Hotline: 877.925.6595
3rd Call: AP-OHSEP 225.621.8360

NTAS
National Terrorism Advisory System
www.DHS.gov/alerts

The National Terrorism Advisory System Public Guide

The National Terrorism Advisory System, or NTAS, replaces the color-coded Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS). This new system will more effectively communicate information about terrorist threats by providing timely, detailed information to the public, government agencies, first responders, airports and other transportation hubs, and the private sector.

It recognizes that Americans all share responsibility for the nation's security, and should always be aware of the heightened risk of terrorist attack in the United States and what they should do.

NTAS Alerts

After reviewing the available information, the Secretary of Homeland Security will decide, in coordination with other Federal entities, whether an NTAS Alert should be issued.

NTAS Alerts will only be issued when credible information is available.

These alerts will include a clear statement that there is an **imminent threat** or **elevated threat**. Using available information, the alerts will provide a concise summary of the potential threat, information about actions being taken to ensure public safety, and recommended steps that individuals, communities, businesses and governments can take to help prevent, mitigate or respond to the threat.

Imminent Threat Alert

Warns of a credible, specific, and impending terrorist threat against the United States.

Elevated Threat Alert

Warns of a credible terrorist threat against the United States

The NTAS Alerts will be based on the nature of the threat: in some cases, alerts will be sent directly to law enforcement or affected areas of the private sector, while in others, alerts will be issued more broadly to the American people through both official and media channels.

Sunset Provision

An individual threat alert is issued for a specific time period and then automatically expires. It may be extended if new information becomes available or the threat evolves.

An individual threat alert is issued for a specific time period

NTAS Alerts contain a **sunset provision** indicating a specific date when the alert expires - there will not be a constant NTAS Alert or blanket warning that there is an overarching threat. If threat information changes for an alert, the Secretary of Homeland Security may announce an updated NTAS Alert. All changes, including the announcement that cancels an NTAS Alert, will be distributed the same way as the original alert.

First Aid Tips

BEING TRAINING IN BASIC FIRST AID AND CPR IS CRITICAL IN SAVING LIVES DURING AN EMERGENCY!

✓ **STAY CALM**

✓ **Restore breathing and circulation**

✓ **Stop bleeding:** Apply direct pressure to the wound and elevate it.

✓ **Prevent Shock:** Lay victim on his/her back. Position the head below the feet. Monitor breathing and circulation. Do not move persons with neck or spinal injuries unless it is necessary to establish or maintain vital A-B-Cs or if there is an immediate threat to life, such as fire or chemical leak.

✓ **Chest Pain:**

- Keep the conscious victim in a comfortable position with the head raised. Loosen tight clothing.
- Help victim take prescribed medications if necessary.
- If the victim loses consciousness and is not breathing, proceed with A-B-C's of rescue breathing. If there is no pulse, begin CPR if you are trained to do so.

✓ **Call 9-1-1** before starting A-B-Cs. Remember to give your location, the facts and stay on the line until the operator tells you to hang up.

A-B-C

IT'S AS EASY AS A-AIRWAY, B-BREATHING, C-CIRCULATION...

✓ **A-AIRWAY**

- Place victim flat on his/her back on a hard surface.
- Gently shake victim at the shoulders and shout "are you okay?"
- If no response, call emergency medical system- 911 then,
- **Head-tilt/chin-lift –** open victim's airway by tilting their head back with on hand while lifting up their chin with your hand.

✓ **B-BREATHING**

- Position your cheek close to the victim's nose and mouth, look toward victim's chest; AND
- Look, listen, and feel for breathing (5-10 seconds).
- If not breathing, pinch victim's nose closed and give 2 full breaths into the victim's mouth (use a micro shield).
- If breaths won't go in reposition the head and try again to give breaths. If still blocked, perform abdominal thrusts (Heimlich maneuver).

✓ **C-CIRCULATION**

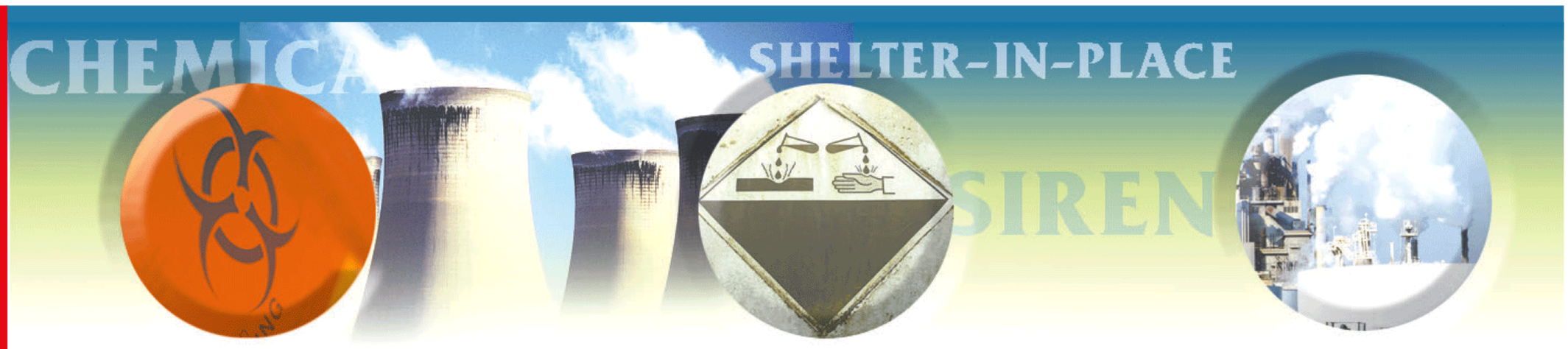
If the person is unconscious,

- Check for pulse by feeling for 5-10 seconds at the side of victim's neck.
- If there is a pulse, but the victim is not breathing, give Rescue breathing at a rate of 1 breath every 5 seconds or 12 breaths per minute.
- If there is no pulse, begin chest compressions as follows:
- Place heel of one hand on lower part of victim's sternum. With your other hand directly on top of first hand depress sternum 1.5-2 inches.
- Perform 15 compresses to every 2 breaths. (Rate: 80-100/min.)
- Check for return of pulse every minute.

Note: It is highly recommended that persons be properly trained to perform CPR.

Emergency Medical Special Needs

If you believe that you will require assistance because of a medical special need during a hurricane, please register online, at www.specialneeds.apgov.us to be placed on our Medical Special Needs Registry. Visit specialneeds.apgov.us and complete all the required fields. During a hurricane, or any other incident that may cause the loss of electrical power for an extended period of time, Ascension Parish residents can have their medical oxygen cylinders refilled free of charge form the medical oxygen trailer operated by the Ascension Parish Office of Homeland Security and Fire Protection District One. All other medical issues should be supported by home health agencies or the hospital system.



HAZMAT

FOR EMERGENCY CALL 9-1-1 NON-EMERGENCY 225-621-8300

The Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office Hazardous Materials Team was officially organized in July 1988 and continues to operate as a section of the Sheriff's Office. The team is composed of volunteers who have been specially trained in responding to emergencies involving hazardous materials. They are voluntarily on 24 hour call to respond to incidents occurring by highway, pipeline, rail, water or air.

The team serves as a model for communities throughout the country and has been recognized for its expertise in dealing with chemical emergencies.

The Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office Hazardous Materials Team's goal is to prevent or reduce human injury or death, property damage, product loss and environmental damage due to a release or potential release of hazardous materials.

Staffing, equipping, training and coordinating an emergency Haz-Mat Team is a major undertaking. Working hand in hand with our fire departments, local governments and the Ascension Parish Chemicals Industry's CAER Committee has enabled us to provide a one of a kind, professionally staffed and equipped team.

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)

1. WHAT IS CERT? A "CERT" is a group of people that is organized as a team and receives special training that enhances their ability to recognize, respond to, and recover from a major emergency or disaster situation. They are trained by emergency responders and emergency management personnel in basic emergency care in areas that will help them take care of themselves, their families, their neighbors and their community before, during, and after a major emergency. As an organized team, they can provide vital services that can augment first responders on scene. The lead organization implementing the Ascension Parish CERT Program is the Ascension Amateur Radio Club (AARC). They can be reached on their website at www.K5ARC.com.

2. VOLUNTEERS ARE TRAINED IN A VARIETY OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE SKILLS, INCLUDING:

- Disaster Awareness and Preparedness
- Disaster Psychology
- Hazardous Materials Awareness
- Light Search and Rescue
- Response Team Management
- Fire Suppression and Utilities Control
- Disaster Medical Operations
- EM Medical Needs

AP OHSEP

Ascension Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (AP OHSEP)

AP OHSEP must take immediate action to direct, mobilize, coordinate and determine utilization of available resources to support all parish agencies in conducting disaster operations, in accordance with the four phases of emergency management– mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

To contact this office please call 225-621-8360.

WWW.ASCENSIONPARISH.NET/OHSEP