



Parish of Ascension

OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT

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Generators Keep Lamar-Dixon Up and Ready for Emergencies

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GONZALES – Generators purchased for Lamar-Dixon Expo Center with federal grant dollars keep the event center complex up and running as a first responder staging base for south Louisiana during times of natural and man-made disasters.

“This not only makes Lamar-Dixon a major hub for the entire parish, but one that can service all agencies, whether they are local, state or federal, while also serving multiple parishes during times of emergencies,” said Ascension Parish President Kenny Matassa.

Five diesel generators ranging in power from 800 kilowatts to 80 kilowatts were purchased with just over \$910,000 in federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) dollars following Hurricane Gustav, said Rick Webre, director of the parish’s Office of Emergency Preparedness.

Webre said the grant provided for 100 percent of the purchase of the generators while the parish paid for engineering and testing.

Webre said the generators were purchased for the Lamar-Dixon Expo Center since it is designated as a first responder staging base, “we wanted to make sure that we had auxiliary power at Lamar-Dixon.”

We didn’t want to have one single source of power because in case you lose that one single source of power, you lose the entire facility. We separated out to five different generators that control the entire facility.”

Agencies that have used the Lamar-Dixon facility during times of emergency include the Louisiana National Guard, DEMCO, Entergy, Louisiana State Police, the state Department of Agriculture, the state Bureau of EMS, state Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and others.

Entities are charged for use of space and/or buildings at Lamar-Dixon, which is paid to the parish through FEMA reimbursements.



PHOTO CUTLINE – Parish construction manager Willie Woods (right), parish project manager Mike Terry (center), and parish maintenance manager Bobby Soileau inspect an 800 kilowatt generator on the grounds of Lamar-Dixon Expo Center Monday. The generator is one of five generators purchased by the parish through the federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Lamar-Dixon has been designated as a first responder staging base for south Louisiana, and the generators provide auxiliary power.