



# *Parish of Ascension*

OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT

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## **Ascension Parish Emergency Preparedness Guide, Website Contain Valuable Information**

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GONZALES – With hurricane season now beginning, parish officials are reminding residents to make emergency preparations, and to read and use the Ascension Parish Emergency Preparedness Guide.

The guide is located in the first 16 pages of the EATEL Sunshine Pages phone book, or may be obtained by downloading it from the Ascension Parish website's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness page. After launching the homepage at [ascensionparish.net](http://ascensionparish.net), OHSEP's link is under the Departments tab.

“Residents can prepare themselves with useful information about hurricane supplies kits, as well as have access to step by step instructions for evacuation routes and more,” said Ascension Parish President Tommy Martinez. “Every year our OHSEP staff trains and prepares for emergency scenarios. This guide that they’ve prepared contains necessary and relevant information and should be studied and saved as a valuable resource material for all families in Ascension Parish.”

Parish OHSEP Director Richard Webre said the guide not only contains information about hurricane preparedness, but also information about tornadoes, fire safety, sheltering in place, flooding and more.

“There’s also information about the Ascension Parish Community Information Line in the guide and on our website,” Webre said. “That number is activated only when there is a declared state of emergency. Residents can call and obtain emergency information such as

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sand and bags locations, road closures and major flooding areas. When activated, that number is 1-866-380-2303.”

Webre said the parish website also contains information on the First Call Emergency Alert Notification System, and the department’s Medical Special Needs registry.

By registering for the First Call Emergency Alert Notification System, residents may receive emergency weather and event information by voice, email and/ or text when away from their home. Webre said residents may register by clicking on the link and filling out the form, or by calling his office at (225) 621-8360 and a staff member will assist with the registration.

Residents with medical special needs are encouraged to sign up by filling out the web form or by calling his office for staff assistance with registering.

“The Medical Special Needs Registry is a voluntary program for those individuals in Ascension Parish who may need specific disability related assistance and/or accommodations in the event of a major disaster,” Webre said. “Enrolling in the registry should **never** be considered as the only action necessary to prepare for disasters, nor does it ensure a prompt and thorough response after a disaster strikes.

During a hurricane, or any other incident that may cause the loss of electrical power for an extended period of time, Ascension Parish residents may have their medical oxygen cylinders refilled free of charge from the medical oxygen trailer. The Oxygen 2 Ascension trailer is 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.

“The past has taught us that prudence, foresight and preparedness are essential for all of our residents to be ready in the event of a disaster situation,” Webre said. “By reviewing the guide and following the steps, residents will be more prepared.

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