

August 15, 2022

LA BEOC

LOUISIANA BUSINESS EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

Supporting business during a disaster



Welcome to the inaugural LABEOC newsletter. We are excited to provide this document to you monthly. Let's continue to hope that the 2022 season remains quiet, but hope is not a method. Preparation is key.

Content for this newsletter will follow the [READY.GOV](https://www.ready.gov) calendar, which makes the focus for August, Back to School Preparedness, and Extreme Heat Safety Month. September's newsletter will be Fall Safety and National Preparedness Month and will contain tips and content supporting those awareness topics.

We are heading into the heart of the active period of the hurricane season, so please do not let your guard down. We will strive to improve communications with our private sector partners before, during, and after any event (this newsletter is one improvement).

Last month, we welcomed a new director for the National Incident Management System and Advanced Technologies (NIMSAT) director here at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Dr. Shannon Strother. She is no stranger to the LABEOC; she worked with NIMSAT when the LABEOC started. The NIMSAT director will provide a monthly article in the newsletter giving updates on initiatives and research being conducted at the university.

Monitor critical supplies and services needed to stay resilient this season. Just a reminder that the guidance has changed, businesses and homeowners should be prepared to be self-sufficient for 5-7 days post storm for small to medium-sized events and ten days or more if the storm was catastrophic.

While hurricanes remain a threat, it is always cyber season. It is never too late to discuss your company's cyber posture with your employees. Case history has proven that the vast majority of attacks result from people letting the hackers in by clicking on links in emails. Take the time to discuss this with employees. With your IT department (or person in some cases), ensure your antivirus software is updated, and your spam filters are active.

Stay safe.

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[Get A Game Plan for Business](#)

Has your small business analyzed its vulnerabilities and the potential impacts of a disaster? Plan before a disaster strikes.



Greetings from the NIMSAT Institute at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

As we continue through the 2022 Hurricane Season, we know we can feel the impacts of a storm beyond our coastal communities. As we look ahead with anticipation, I would like to reaffirm NIMSAT's commitment to serving the State of Louisiana and our private sector partners throughout the State. To be ready for hurricane season, we know it requires a multi-agency, interdisciplinary approach that engages the whole community—individuals, families, non-profit organizations, private sector partners, and government at all levels.

As outlined by the US National Preparedness Goal, a resilient community is a prepared community—a community that can “prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to and recover from the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk”. I encourage you to [Get A Game Plan](#).

Business continuity planning must account for all hazards. Plan to manage any emergency. Assess the situation and use common sense and resources to take care of yourself, your co-workers, and your business's recovery. Carefully evaluate internal and external operations to determine which staff members, materials, procedures, and equipment are absolutely necessary to keep the business operating. For more information on devising a business emergency plan, please visit [ready.gov/business](https://www.ready.gov/business).

Since 2010, the LABEOC stands ready to provide up-to-date information and alerts as well as support impacted businesses to return to normal operations in close collaboration with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness and Louisiana Economic Development as well as other state and federal partners. Jim Williams and I remain available if you have any questions or need additional information.

Stay Safe and Geaux Louisiana!

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Did you know the LABEOC at UL Lafayette is the only university-led business emergency operations center in the nation?

The NIMSAT Institute focuses on enriching public-private partnerships and advanced information technologies to enhance the national resiliency for a full range of potential disasters.

As an R1 Carnegie research university, UL Lafayette specializes in applied research that solves real-world problems. Our motto is **Research for a Reason!**



[Hurricane Toolkit](#)

Do you have an emergency plan in place for your business? Learn how your business can prepare at ready.gov/business

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The LABEOC is managed by the **National Incident Management Systems and Advanced Technologies Institute** at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in partnership with the **Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness** and **Louisiana Economic Development**.

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