

# LA BEOC

LOUISIANA BUSINESS EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

April 17, 2023

## *Supporting business during a disaster*



During hazardous times, protecting your assets is a major concern for business owners.

Never forget that your employees are one of those assets as well. Springtime weather in South Louisiana can change on a dime, as we all know, so it is important to consider how you will protect your employees. The best-case scenario is purpose-built space that provides what FEMA considers near-absolute protection. Barring that, an interior room, such as a storeroom, closet, or restroom, is the next best thing. If a storeroom or closet is utilized, it must have enough space for all the employees to gather safely.

The idea sounds great but expensive; how can businesses afford it? Contact your parish hazard mitigation officer that should be with your local emergency operations center. They should be able to provide details about available hazard mitigation grants and how to apply.

If your local hazard mitigation team cannot help, contact the state mitigation officer at the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP). Visit [GOHSEP Hazard Mitigation](#) or call 225-925-7500.

### **James 'Jim' Williams**

Public-Private Partnership Operations Officer  
Informatics Research Institute  
University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
[james.williams@louisiana.edu](mailto:james.williams@louisiana.edu)  
337.482.0633



# HURRICANE SEASON BEGINS JUNE 1

- **Join our business network**
- **Update your emergency plans**
- **Follow @LABEOC for the latest updates**
- **Only follow trusted news sources**

Visit [LABEOC.ORG](http://LABEOC.ORG)



Greetings from NIMSAT!

April's newsletter theme is "Severe Weather Preparedness".

This week, we experienced a rare event, a sub-tropical, low-pressure system in the Gulf of Mexico. Essentially a hurricane in April. Luckily, for much of the State, we experienced minor impact. Our neighbors in southeast Louisiana and southern Mississippi were not so lucky. Many communities experienced intense winds, hail, and flooding.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), "severe weather can happen anytime, in any part of the country. Severe weather can include hazardous conditions produced by thunderstorms, including damaging winds, tornadoes, large hail, flooding and flash flooding, and winter storms associated with freezing rain, sleet, snow, and high winds."

Preparedness takes everyone to make a positive impact: businesses, individuals, government, and non-profits. By investing in preparedness, we can ensure that our communities are safe and ready to respond to and recover from any disaster that might strike.

FEMA proposes the following simple steps to get prepared for severe weather:

**Know your Risk** - Understand the type of hazardous weather that affects you and your family where you live: tornadoes, flooding, thunder and lightning, or winter weather.

**Take Action** - Develop an emergency plan based on your local weather hazards and practice your plan.

**Inspire Others** – share your plans with others, talk about preparedness, inspire others to understand their individual risk and make an emergency plan.

For additional information and tips on how to be prepared for severe weather, I encourage you to visit: <https://www.ready.gov/severe-weather>

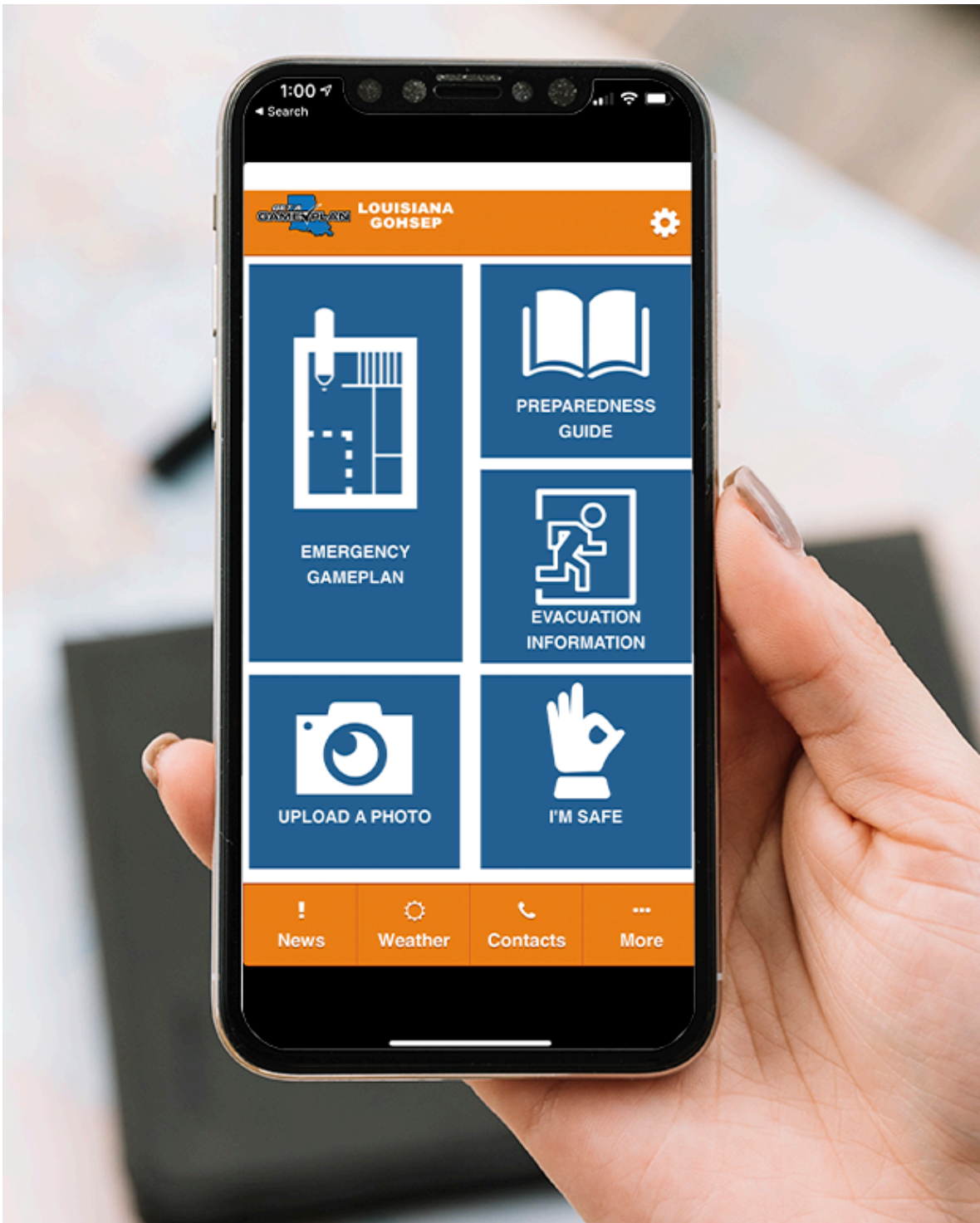
As we move through the Spring and our risks for severe weather increase, let us collectively prepare for our risks and get a plan. Let us also remember that Hurricane Season is just around the corner- please take the time now to get together your plan in case of a Hurricane this summer. Preparedness saves lives and property – let's [Get a Game Plan!](#)

As always- stay alert, stay prepared and stay safe!

Shannon



**Shannon Strother, PhD**  
Director, NIMSAT  
Informatics Research Institute  
University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
[shannon.strother@louisiana.edu](mailto:shannon.strother@louisiana.edu)  
337.482.0609



Get a Game Plan!

Latest News

## Helpful Links

Follow @LABEOC



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](#).

[Join our Email List](#)

[Preference Center](#)