

# LABEOC

LOUISIANA BUSINESS EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

May 15, 2024

## Message from the LABEOC



Here we are in May 2024, at the cusp of another hurricane season. It seems like just yesterday, we were talking about cold-weather preparations, and now it's National Hurricane Preparedness Week. With this newsletter, I want to discuss two topics: a review of the Louisiana Emergency Management Conference (LEMC) and hurricane preparedness.

It was great to see many of you at the conference, renewing acquaintances and making new ones. Many memories were made at the conference this year, including the fantastic throw-back 80s-themed gathering on Tuesday evening. Director Thibodeaux's opening at the conference excited me about what lies ahead in Louisiana emergency management. The candid talk about the wildfire response opened my eyes to how quickly those types of events can go from manageable to unmanageable in an instant. The discussion of the super-fog accident on I-55 was haunting. There were many lessons learned that we took from that discussion. My final reflection on the conference was it was exciting to hear how the [Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness \(GOHSEP\)](#) and the [Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Association \(LEPA\)](#) are partnering to reenergize interest in the [Louisiana Emergency Management \(LEM\) certification](#). I look forward to supporting GOHSEP and LEPA in any way possible.

With Hurricane season around the corner, there will be a lot of hype about how active this season will be. This season will start like many others, with a lot of talk and very little action, at least early on. So, this year's reflection at the start of hurricane season is this: Hurricane season is a long race; pace yourself. There are 183 days from June 1st to November 30th. Please take the necessary steps to prepare your business for the season. Below are what may be considered some commonsense ways to get ready.

1. **Review your insurance policy.** Most (if not all) insurance policies have a delayed start, meaning they must be in place for a minimum amount of time (usually 30 days) before they are active, so get the review started as soon as possible.
2. **Back up important data.** I recently heard a talk about data that made a lot of sense. This person advocated a 3,2,1 approach. Have three copies of your data in at least two distinct media formats (DVD, USB Drive, etc....), with one being off-site. This is especially important for any business that uses the internet a lot.

3. **Communicate with Employees.** Keep employees informed about your hurricane preparedness plan and their roles and responsibilities during a storm. Provide training on evacuation procedures, emergency contacts, and how to safely shut down equipment and secure the workplace before evacuating.
4. **Stay Informed.** In 2024 there is a variety of ways to get your extreme weather information. There are traditional NOAA weather radio broadcasts, a plethora of video formats, as well as many websites and smartphone apps that you can use. Whatever your preference, stay informed. Recent storms have proven that the danger from rapidly intensifying storms is just as great (if not greater) than those long-track storms that come off the coast of Africa.

Here's to hoping that we do not have to communicate about a pending storm this season, but as Gen Colin Powell famously said, Hope is not a strategy. Have a plan and follow it as best you can. See you next month.

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# Greetings from the NIMSAT Institute at UL Lafayette

Last year, Louisiana saw the worst wildfires in its history. Tens of thousands of acres of land were burned and structures destroyed. These wildfires are unplanned and can spread quickly and can devastate not only wildlife and natural areas but whole communities. As conditions continue to be dryer and hotter than normal, Louisiana will experience wildfires again this year.

Individuals, families, and businesses can be better prepared for this risk by observing the following, simple recommendations from FEMA:

- **Recognize Warnings and Alerts** by having several sources of information in case of wildfire. Always listen to and follow the directions of local authorities.
- **Make an Emergency Plan** so that everyone knows (family and employees) what to do in case of a wildfire.
- **Review Important Documents** such as insurance policies and personal and business documents.
- **Strengthen Your Home or Business** against wildfires by using fire-resistant materials to build, renovate, or make repairs or securing an outdoor water source in case of wildfires.
- **Know Your Evacuation Route** and practice it with your family and employees to be better prepared for evacuation which often happens quickly.
- **Gather Supplies.** Be sure to have enough supplies for your family and employees, when necessary, and keep your cell phone charged to receive updated alerts and warnings.

By following these simple steps, individuals and businesses can be better prepared to respond to and recover from wildfires. It takes each of us to mitigate the impact of devastating wildfires on our homes and businesses.

For more tips on wildfire preparation and safety, I encourage you to visit: <https://www.ready.gov/wildfires>. #Wildfire #WildfireSafety #BePrepared

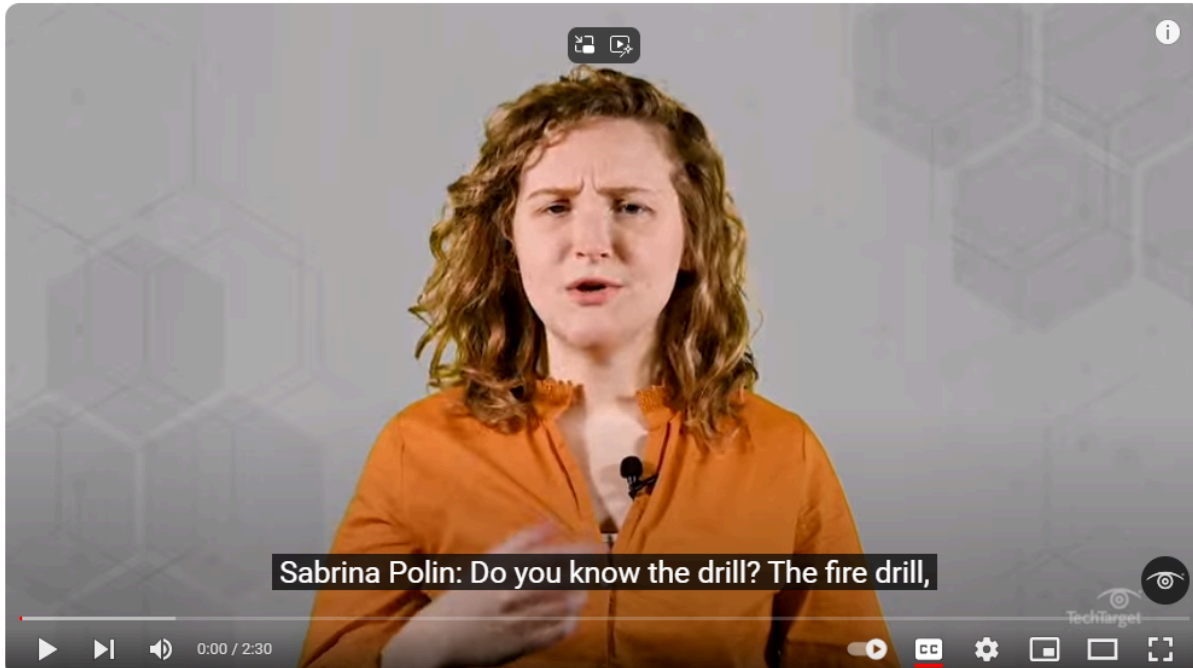
As always, stay prepared and stay safe!

Shannon



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# Getting Started with Business Continuity Planning



## What is Continuity Planning?

Watch Video

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READY.GOV

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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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