



December 16, 2024



Happy Holidays,

Like many of you, we review this year's events and count our many blessings. For us here at the LABEOC, it has been a year full of tremendous accomplishments. We want to thank everyone who has been with us on this incredible ride, and we look forward to what 2025 has in store for us.

2024 Overview

- Change in administration in the Governor and the majority of the cabinet
- New GOHSEP director and staff
- Supported response to numerous severe weather events
 - Hurricane Beryl Response, Hurricane Francine Response, Saltwater Intrusion in NOLA, and Winter Weather
- Hosted a Private Sector Tabletop Exercise
- Relunched the LABEOC business database to support emergency managers with vetted vendors during the 2024 LEPA conference
- Presented Business Preparedness at LEPA Midwinter Conference and other meetings throughout the state
- Launched the GOHSEP Training Academy at UL Lafayette to provide training in weather interpretation, cybersecurity, and school safety.
- Completed training to be a FEMA Basic course instructor (Jim)
- Hosted a GOHSEP exercise in the LABEOC facility
- Completed HURREVAC training with GOHSEP and the National Weather Service.
- Participated in the Long-Term Recovery subcommittee
- Completed upgrades to the LABEOC facility
- Participated in Cybersecurity Awareness Month in October with a social media campaign and hosted a "Cybersecurity Trends Impacting Business & Industry." webinar.

It's been a dynamic year for the LABEOC, and 2025 looks even better.

- The GOHSEP Training Academy at UL Lafayette offerings will expand in 2025. The spring semester schedule is on the GOHSEP STEMS website.
- Host in-person ICS 300 and 400 courses in the spring semester.
- Launch the Business 360 podcast in the spring of 2025, focusing on topics relating to the emergency management industry in Louisiana.
- Finalized planning for a FEMA basic academy in late 2025.
- Continue to support the Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Association (LEPA) and GOHSEP in their efforts to develop Artificial Intelligence tools for emergency management.
- Host an exercise mobilizing the Alternate state EOC site

Finally, thank you to all our LABEOC supporters and followers. We enjoy building relationships and providing education opportunities during blue skies so that your gray skies are not that dark.

If you want to learn more about these initiatives and programs, don't hesitate to get in touch with me at james.williams@louisiana.edu.



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Greetings from the NIMSAT Institute!

Finally, after a blistering summer and warmer-than-usual fall, Louisiana is gearing up for winter, usually from December to February. With temperatures set to dip in the low 30s this week, it's time to review how we can be #WinterReady.

Did you know that 63% of temperature-related deaths are related to cold exposure or that home heating is the second leading cause of home fires, primarily in the winter? In addition, travel in the winter months has specific risks, especially if you or your family or friends are traveling by car.

To be #WinterReady, FEMA advises that it is critical to

- Know what to do before, during, and after a winter storm.
- Listen to local officials.
- Have emergency supplies at home, work, and in the car.
- Stay off the road during and after a winter storm.
- Use a carbon monoxide alarm, especially if using alternative heating devices.
- Use heating devices safely.

Specifically, to prepare for the risks present during the Winter, FEMA urges you to:

- Learn the signs of [frostbite](#) and [hypothermia](#) and how to respond
- [Prevent Carbon Monoxide \(CO\) poisoning](#). Install a CO detector and check that it has a working battery. Have your heating system checked by a qualified professional. Never use a gas range or oven to heat your home.
- [Get your car ready for cold weather](#). Service the radiator and maintain the antifreeze level; ensure your tires are in good condition. Keep an emergency kit in your car, including blankets, food, water, first aid, and [other items](#) you may need if you are stranded.
- Home heating is the second leading cause of home fires, and most fires occur in winter. Download the free [Home Fire Safety Guide](#) from the U.S. Fire Administration to keep your home safe from fires.

By understanding the risks associated with winter, you, your family, and your employees can take proactive steps to ensure better safety and preparedness.

For more information on how to be #WinterReady, I encourage you to visit <https://www.ready.gov/winter-ready>.

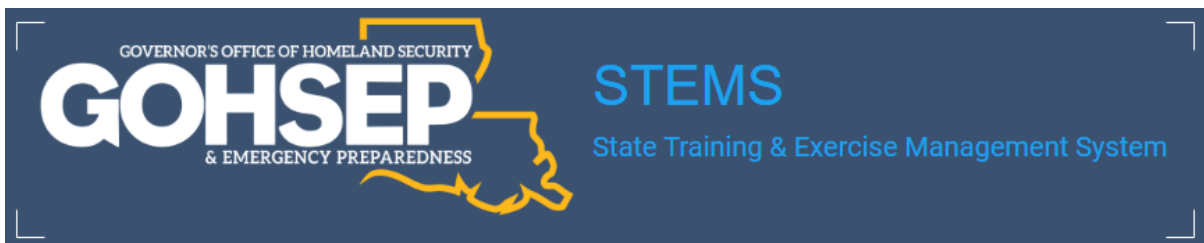
Ready #Cold # Winter #WinterStorm #Preparedness

As always, stay prepared and stay safe!

Shannon

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Latest News & Events



Did you know that GOHSEP provides training opportunities?

Dates	Title	
Dec 16 - 17, 2024	ICS-300	Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents
Dec 17, 2024	INS NFIP	PA Insurance/National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
Jan 6, 2025	PA 101	PA PA 101
Jan 6 - 10, 2025	L-0101	Foundations of Emergency Management
Jan 7 - 8, 2025	ICS-300	Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents
Jan 8, 2025	LAPA	PA Louisiana Public Assistance (LouisianaPA.com) Overview
Jan 9, 2025	GP	PA Grants Portal
Jan 9, 2025	Stop-the-Bleed	STOP-THE-BLEED
Jan 9, 2025	Stop-the-Bleed	STOP-THE-BLEED
Jan 13 - 17, 2025	L-0101	Foundations of Emergency Management
Jan 14, 2025	EXCEL	PA EXCEL
Jan 14, 2025	MGT-452	Physical and Cybersecurity for Critical Infrastructure (TEEX)
Jan 15 - 16, 2025	ICS-400	Advanced Incident Command System
Jan 16, 2025	Stop-the-Bleed	STOP-THE-BLEED

[View full training schedule](#)

Shop SAFELY this Holiday Season

During the holiday season, criminals will try to scam us with too-good-to-be-true deals or even fake charities. The good news is that Secure Our World has tips to protect you from these scams.

How big of a problem are holiday shopping scams?


\$73M
in TOTAL LOSSES


12k
VICTIMS

FBI Stats 2022

cisa.gov/SecureOurWorld

Protect Your Devices & Accounts Against Scammers

Take these steps before making any online purchases to help protect your devices, information, and accounts.



Update software

Software updates protect your devices against known threats—but only if you install them!



Use strong passwords

Strong passwords are long (16+ characters), random and unique for each account.



Use a password manager

A password manager can generate, save and fill in strong passwords for you.



Turn on MFA

Multifactor Authentication (MFA) is a second step when logging in, like using your fingerprint or entering a code.

Recognize Phishing Attempts

Scammers are getting better and better at their schemes—and they make even more attempts during the holiday season. Don't click on that "great deal" without pausing to consider these tips.



Beware of phishing messages

Criminals often send messages that look legitimate but that have malicious links or ask you for sensitive information.



Don't click any links

If you're unsure if it's legit, use a search engine to look up the company's contact info. Don't use any info in the message.



Don't provide information

Common scams include asking you to verify your delivery address or confirm your purchase or account.



Report scams

Report suspicious messages, then delete them. Don't reply or click any link, including "unsubscribe." Just delete.

Purchase with Confidence

Before providing any information, check the website's privacy policy. Make sure you understand how your information will be stored and used, and keep the following tips in mind.



Check for encryption

Look for https (not just http) in the browser's location bar. Ensure the padlock icon is locked.



Choose reputable vendors

Review a company's public profiles before giving them info. Search for customer reviews or complaints.



Consider using credit, not debit

Laws limit liability for fraudulent credit card charges, but you may not have the same protection for debit cards.



Check your accounts

Check credit card and bank accounts frequently. Tell the financial institution immediately if you see any unauthorized charges.

[Learn more](#)

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Helpful Links



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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](#).