



State of Louisiana

BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY
AND
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

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PRESS RELEASE

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GOHSEP ASSISTS STATE OF ALABAMA

BATON ROUGE (May 2, 2011) – Today, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) is sending additional personnel and its mobile command post to the tornado stricken region of Alabama to provide a coordination and communication platform for the two Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams deploying to the area. The USAR teams were equipped, trained and are supported by GOHSEP through State Homeland Security Program and Urban Area Security Initiative grant funding. GOHSEP has previously deployed personnel in support of Alabama's response efforts and has coordinated the deployment of a Louisiana State Police representative to assess first responder requirements.

Under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), Alabama state officials also requested two GOHSEP employees to provide technical assistance in the response and recovery process. GOHSEP Director Mark Cooper is in regular contact with Alabama's Emergency Director Art Faulkner and GOHSEP is currently coordinating other requests from Alabama for personnel and assets to support Alabama's response and recovery.

Cooper said, "Our thoughts and prayers go out to the tornado and storm victims in Alabama. We know all too well the impact of a devastating storm. During Hurricane Gustav in 2008, the State of Alabama assisted Louisiana by providing shelter space. It's our turn to give them support."

The EMAC is an agreement between states to provide assistance and mutual aid during a disaster. GOHSEP's highly trained EMAC team has been called upon to assist in past emergencies such as flooding in Tennessee and an ice storm in Kentucky. In addition to deployments in support of Alabama, GOHSEP continues to prepare for potential flooding events in Louisiana and the upcoming hurricane season. Go to www.getagameplan.org for safety tips.

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