



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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For Immediate Release
July 3, 2013

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DEQ Environmental Scientist Jeff Dauzat awarded by U.S. Coast Guard

BATON ROUGE – Jeff Dauzat, an Environmental Scientist with Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, recently received two awards from the U.S. Coast Guard at the New Orleans Area Committee Meeting.

Dauzat, based at DEQ's Southeast Regional Office in New Orleans, received the Coast Guard's Sector New Orleans Medal of Honor for his role in the Geographic Response Plan component of the Area Contingency Plan. Dauzat shared the honor with David Gisclair from the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office and Kyle Jellison of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The Area Contingency Plan outlines oil spill and natural disaster response methods and includes several tools designed to support the assessment and response phases. The Geographic Response Plan (GRP) is one component of the plan. Dauzat, who sits on the GRP sub-committee, made several visits with the sub-committee members to each parish in the affected area, meeting with state and local organizations to ensure that communication, logistics and resources were firmly established. The group also refined the plan, developing new and innovative strategies that serve to protect parishes from further damage in the event of an oil spill or environmentally-related hazard.

Dauzat also received a Public Service Commendation from the U.S. Coast Guard for his response work within the Unified Command as the State On-Scene Coordinator following the landfall of Hurricane Isaac in 2012. During the storm's aftermath, Dauzat quickly coordinated air, water and ground elements and response mechanisms to address more than 300 oil spills and various environmental hazards through deployment of containment boom, response equipment and personnel throughout the assessment and cleanup phases. With his assistance, more than 4,500 barrels of oily water and 1,200 drums containing hazardous material were collected during the course of the cleanup.

The award was signed by U.S. Coast Guard Admiral Kevin Cook, Commander of the Eighth Coast Guard District. Captain Peter Gautier, Captain of the Port of New Orleans, presented both awards.

"Jeff's devotion to emergency response planning, logistics and communications has risen above and beyond the call of duty," said DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch. "Jeff is highly versed in oil spill assessment and recovery operations, and his technical expertise and knowledge of crisis management and disaster response makes him a valuable asset to the state of Louisiana."

Coast Guard Public Service Commendation to

Mr. Jeff Dauzat

Mr. Jeff Dauzat is awarded the United States Coast Guard Public Service Commendation for his unwavering commitment and exceptional support of United States Coast Guard Sector New Orleans from August 29, 2012 to November 30, 2012 during the response leading to and following the landfall and devastation of Hurricane Isaac. Serving as the State On-Scene Coordinator (SOSC) within the Unified Command, Mr. Dauzat was vital to mission success, helping prioritize more than 300 oil spills and identifying potential releases of hazardous substances into the environment. Within the first week of response, Mr. Dauzat coordinated multiple state-owned aircraft, to rapidly identify actual and potential oil discharges in regions requiring further hazard evaluation, oversight of responsible parties and deployment of limited personnel, skimmers and containment boom. Mr. Dauzat also served as the Deputy Operations Section Chief, Environmental Unit Leader and liaison to the coastal parishes at various times throughout the response. He provided continuous and essential representation in the Unified Command and organized state equipment and personnel to work alongside Federal task forces to address widespread pollution throughout southeastern Louisiana and minimize community impacts from methyl acrylate, formic acid, and mono-dichlorobenzene from the Stolthaven Chemical facility in Braithwaite, Louisiana. His expertise as an environmental scientist in the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and his familiarity with Louisiana's sensitive marsh environment was invaluable to guiding operational planners and task forces in the right direction and ensuring the efficient collection of over 4,500 barrels of oily water and 1,200 orphan hazardous material containers. Mr. Dauzat personally oversaw and assessed multiple clean-up efforts led by various responsible parties, ensuring compliance with Unified Command directives, thoroughness of environmental clean-up tactics and accountability to stakeholders and trustees. The dedication and devotion Mr. Dauzat demonstrated throughout this incident is most heartily commended and is keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.

Encl: (1)



Jeff Dauzat of DEQ (left) receives a Public Service Commendation from U.S. Coast Guard Captain Peter Gautier