



**For Immediate Release**  
**Aug. 31, 2016**

**Contact:** Greg Langley  
**Phone:** (225) 219-3964

## **LDEQ speeds up flood debris removal process**

The debris staging site at North Sherwood Forest Boulevard has had an immediate impact on the pace of the debris removal in East Baton Rouge Parish. According to officials with DRC (the company contracting to manage the removal), since the staging site was activated, haul efficiency increased by 66 percent, resulting in an increase in volume of debris removed from 17,000 cubic yards per day to 60,000 cubic yards per day. The site is authorized by LDEQ. An additional staging site on Joor Road is authorized by LDEQ for the city of Central; however, this site has not yet begun operation.

LDEQ Secretary Chuck Carr Brown said the agency is modifying the debris removal plan to get more debris off the streets faster. There is absolutely no disposal at the North Sherwood Boulevard site, he said. The debris is being separated and compacted there. “The contractors expect the addition of the staging site will cut the total removal time in half – from the original estimate of 120 days to something like 60 days,” Brown said.

The secretary acknowledged that some concerns were raised about the site’s proximity to a school bus transfer site but said that problem has been addressed. “We at LDEQ and the contractors are in constant contact with school officials. We will suspend operations for the period when the bus transfers are done, both in the morning and the evening.”

The temporary staging sites will be used only during the duration of the declared emergency, Brown said. The debris brought to the site is sorted so that waste material prohibited in landfills, like white goods and electronics, can be removed. The remaining waste is compacted and sent to the appropriate solid waste disposal facility which has the correct LDEQ permit to handle those waste streams. “Compacting and sorting the waste reduces three truckloads to one truckload,” Brown said.

The white good will be staged and sent to a proper facility for processing. The electronics waste will be recycled, Brown said.

**Follow DEQ on social media:**

