



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



October 2019 Issue Number: 93

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Discover DEQ

Louisiana Recycles – but can we do it better?

Louisiana, are you ready to recycle? What? We are recycling, you say? Louisiana Recycles – but do we do it right? And can we do it better and more efficiently? What happens to what we put in our recycle bins?

Many cities and communities in Louisiana have curbside recycling, and many Louisianans make an effort to recycle. Some cities do not have curbside pickup but do have drop off points where the public can take recyclable material, sometimes for money (like St. Landry Parish) and sometimes just for disposal or recycling.

And then there are those who simply throw their trash, illegally, on the roads, in the rivers and fields.

We can do better! To help you understand more about the process, how it works and what the end result is, we will use the curbside recycling process in place in East Baton Rouge Parish. EBR has single-stream recycling, which means that all of the materials are put into one bin and sorted at their destination.

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ACCEPTED MATERIALS

PLEASE EMPTY AND RINSE



PAPER & CARDBOARD

CARDBOARD, PAPER BAGS, TELEPHONE BOOKS, MAGAZINES, CATALOGS, NEWSPAPER, JUNK MAIL, AND OFFICE PAPER

FLATTEN



METAL CANS

ALUMINUM, TIN OR STEEL CANS, FOIL, AND PIE TINS

RINSE OUT



PLASTIC CONTAINERS

KITCHEN, LAUNDRY, BATH BOTTLES, AND CONTAINERS

RINSE OUT



GLASS

GLASS JARS AND BOTTLES (CAPS REMOVED)

RINSE OUT

NOT ACCEPTED IN RECYCLING CART



NO BIG ITEMS (WOOD, PLASTIC, FURNITURE, OR METAL)



NO PLASTIC BAGS OR PLASTIC WRAP (RETURN TO RETAIL)



NO CLOTHING OR LINENS (USE DONATION PROGRAMS)



NO TANGLES (NO HOSES, WIRES, CHAINS, OR ELECTRONICS)



NO FOOD OR LIQUID (EMPTY ALL CONTAINERS)

For more information, call (225) 389-5194 or visit brla.gov/recycle



DO NOT BAG RECYCLABLES





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Have you wondered where your recyclable material goes when the truck takes it away from your home on your recycling day? Let's put on our hard hats and follow the recyclables. In EBR, they go to what is known as an MRF facility. An MRF is a Materials Recovery Facility or a materials recycling facility. A tour of this facility answers many questions and poses even more. It is an eye-opening experience.

The facility in Baton Rouge processes 120 tons of material a day. It receives loads of recyclable material from Baton Rouge, Lafayette, New Orleans and Slidell. The main function of the MRF is to maximize the quantity of recyclables processed while producing materials that will generate the highest possible revenues in the market. MRFs can also function to process wastes into a feedstock for biological conversion or into a fuel source for the production of energy. The MRF in Baton Rouge sells its products primarily to domestic sources.

When the trucks pull into the tipping floor – the area where the loads are deposited before they are sorted – you will see a huge pile of paper, cardboard, cans, plastic and many things that shouldn't be in the load because they contaminate the material. If a load has more than 15% of these contaminants in it, the entire load is considered contaminated.

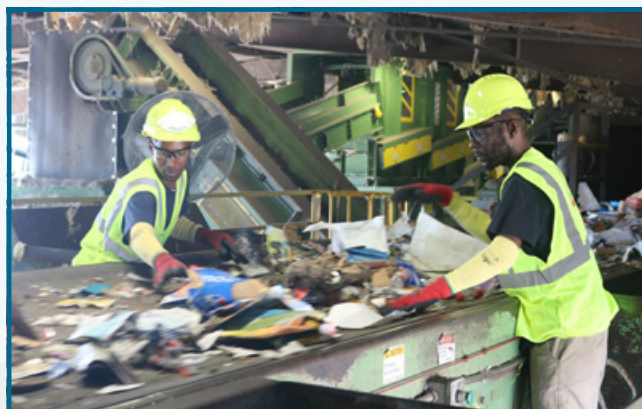
On average, 25 to 30% of what goes to the tipping floor is contaminated. How can this be prevented?

This is how you can help, and it is simple: When you are putting plastics and cans into your recycle bin, the containers should be rinsed and dried. One un-rinsed catsup bottle can contaminate a whole load of paper and good recyclables when it goes down the line. Fold your cardboard. The most common contaminants that are placed in bins are greasy pizza boxes, yard waste, food waste, flexible packaging (plastic wrap, plastic bags) diapers, phones, toys, other electronics, plastic foam and juice boxes. Many of these items can damage the machines and cause a shutdown. Anything that cannot be recycled goes to the landfill.

Large loading machines then put the material onto conveyor belts where the material is sorted and moved to different areas and bins. At this point, the employees sort through the material on the conveyor belt, pulling out plastic bags and other material that is not recyclable or that can damage the material or the



Tipping floor of EBR MRF



Employees of the EBR MRF sort material on the conveyor belt.



Recycling machine sorts out paper from the material.

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machines. If there is glass in the recycle bins, it goes to a separate area where it is crushed. The EBR MRF employees work on the lines and presort and sort the material. Magnets and optical sorters are also used.

Cardboard and mixed paper go to one area where they are baled and made ready for resale. One bale of mixed paper weighs one ton, and the MRF bales between 30 and 50 bales a day.

Aluminum cans, like your soft drink cans, are separated from tin cans and baled. “The aluminum can you recycled can be reused and back in your refrigerator in a week,” Andres Harris, Republic’s operation manager of the MRF, said. Tin cans are baled separately.

“If in doubt throw it in the trash,” Harris said. “One of the main issues the recycling plants are having is the amount of trash contamination we receive. One of our main problems with the trash received is the “Tanglers”-- WIRES, ROPES, HOSES, PLASTIC BAGS. This material gets in our equipment, and it takes hours of manpower to remove them once it gets tangled.”

The goal is to have 100% of what goes into the recycling bins be viable material to be recycled. The home or business is the beginning. So if it is done correctly, the end product will be better, and all that can be recycled, reused or repurposed.

For more information on recycling done right, go to recyclingsimplified.com.



Mixed paper bale that weighs a ton to be reused.



Recycled plastics baled and ready.



Many large retail stores offer bins to collect film plastic grocery bags which can be recycled – but not in home recycling bins.



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Message from the Secretary *Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.*

On Oct. 8, I handed out service awards to 102 people in the Oliver Pollock Room in the LDEQ Galvez Building Conference Center. Cumulatively, this gathering of employees was being honored for 1,760 years of service. Think of that. That's nearly two millennia of environmental experience gathered in one room. As humbling as that is, consider this: that's not all the honorees for 2019. I will be giving out more service awards as I travel around to the regional offices on my annual tour.

It makes me so proud to see these people who have been with the agency 5, 10 or 15 years. Twenty-two people, the largest group, have been here for 20 years. Another 17 have been here 25 years, and 13 have been here 30 years. Herman Robinson, general counsel, topped them all. He has spent 35 years at LDEQ.



Dr. Brown and service awards recipients from LDEQ Headquarters

I was so honored to give out these service awards to these people who are role models for all of us at the agency. They give us stability and leadership on our staff and ensure institutional knowledge is passed down to the next group. I want to say again, thank you to each and every one of you.

One of the big news stories of the year occurred Oct. 12 when the Hard Rock Hotel, under construction in New Orleans, suddenly collapsed. Tragically, three people died, and more than a dozen were injured. The hotel was to have been 18 stories tall, and 10 stories had been partially completed when the incident occurred. The initial collapse generated a cloud of dust and debris that sprayed out onto Canal Street. When the city decided the construction cranes looming over the crippled structure needed to come down, and that could best be achieved by using explosives to implode them, they turned to LDEQ for air quality monitoring.

We had the Mobile Air Monitoring Laboratory (MAML) on-site late Thursday, Oct. 17. The MAML stayed through the process of bringing down the cranes on Sunday, Oct. 19. No dust – particulate matter – was recorded. Our efforts were lauded by the City of New Orleans on their social media sites, and I personally received several messages thanking me for sending our staff and MAML.

I am really proud of the job our employees did in New Orleans. We got the MAML ready (it was in the shop for service) and deployed it in one day. We provided an essential service during a crisis situation. Good job to all who participated, whether in a response role or by providing support. The last weekend of October brought another surprise: a tropical storm. Olga turned out to be more of a problem than we anticipated. Some wind gusts in the Mandeville area were measured at 72 mph. Thousands lost power in the New Orleans area, and the airport had flight cancellations, long lines and stranded passengers. Coastal impacts are still being assessed.

The lesson in all this is to be ready. We have a tendency to relax after the first cool weather hits, but hurricane season isn't over until the end of November. There have been tropical systems in December, although they are rare. Don't let your guard down yet.



Waste Collection Centers make recycling easy, quick and convenient



LDEQ Environmental Scientist Jason Roy (right) confers with a facility representative as they examine the center's waste tire intake container.

The solid waste collection center in Lake Charles provides an innovative, stress-free way in which Calcasieu Parish residents can gather up certain waste and bring it in for proper disposal.

The center is an organized model of efficiency and an excellent prototype of how recycling can be made easy. It's an example of what every parish can do to drastically cut down on illegal dumping while minimizing the burden on our landfills, roadways and environment in general.

The waste collection center is for parish residents only. As residents drive up the entrance ramp, they stop at a gate where an attendant requests their driver's license, inspects their load and checks their license plate to verify residency in Calcasieu Parish.

A radiation monitor affixed to a post at the entrance ramp alerts workers to any presence of radioactive, or Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) waste in the incoming load. Radioactive material must be handled by a facility licensed to take it, so it must be turned away.

The attendant inspects the debris load to ensure it meets the facility's intake requirements for amount and type. If the resident is dropping off waste tires, that resident's name is added to a manifest, as only five tires per customer (per day) are accepted.

After the load is inspected, the resident drives up to the appropriate bay and discards his materials. Each bay is outfitted with a roll-off box labeled by waste type. Waste accepted at the center includes metal, vegetative debris, waste tires, paper/cardboard, batteries, white goods, plastic, aluminum, wood waste and construction and demolition (C&D) debris.

Most of the items are recycled. Steel and tin waste are sent to a scrapyard, where the metals are removed and recycled. Waste Management picks up materials that are not recycled and takes them to the appropriate landfill for proper disposal.



At the Calcasieu solid waste collection center, waste is labeled and categorized accordingly by type, thereby streamlining the drop-off process.

"LDEQ visits facilities such as this every five to six years to review the waste tire logs and inspect the tire storage area to ensure they are appropriately contained and covered," explained Jason Roy, LDEQ environmental scientist based in the Southwest Regional Office in Lake Charles. "We also look at the facility's waste tire logs which show the tire manifests, which the facility must maintain and keep up to date."

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Facilities such as these make it easier for people to do the right thing, and not dispose of debris illegally. Almost everything can be reused, recycled or even refashioned into something new. “Since the facility opened, we’ve seen a decrease in roadside dumping in Calcasieu,” Roy added.

Calcasieu’s facility, actually identified as a “Residential Solid Waste Convenience Center,” puts the emphasis on convenience. It makes for a great one-stop-shop for discarding any residential debris that falls within the acceptable categories.

Since solid waste and recycling operations vary from parish to parish, check your local city or parish government to see what you can do to promote a sustainable environment by reducing litter and taking some of the burden off our landfills. You can also check for a Household Hazardous Materials Day in your area, where you may drop off certain goods for recycling and/or reuse.

For more information on recycling centers in your city or parish, please visit deq.louisiana.gov/page/recycling-resources-and-recyclers.

LDEQ hosts MS4 conference

In late October, LDEQ Water Permits Division held its first Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) conference in Baton Rouge.

What is an MS4? (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) The term “MS4” is commonly used to describe both the infrastructure used to convey stormwater runoff and the owner/operator of the infrastructure that is permitted to discharge this runoff information. MS4s must be owned or operated by the U.S., a state, city, town, borough, county, parish, district or other public bodies.

More than 130 participants from around the state attended the two-day conference. On the first day, they learned about successful programs, funding resources for MS4 programs, as well as modeling, permit and reporting issues, watershed studies and inspections and construction management. Day two imparted information about public outreach, inspection findings and more. An optional tour of the LSU Center for River Studies was available at the end of the day.

For more information on MS4, go to deq.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/About_LDEQ/enviroschool/MS4-for-web.pdf



Assistant Secretary for the Office of Environmental Services Elliot Vega welcomes participants to the 2019 MS4 Conference hosted by LDEQ.



Linda Piper and Marissa Jimenez, LDEQ environmental scientists, welcome participants to the MS4 Conference.



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LDEQ wants to recognize your environmental stewardship efforts



2019 Award Recipient - The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation's Derelict Crab Trap Removal project removed 3,138 traps from the Pontchartrain Basin in 2019. At least 2,502 of those traps were recycled.



2019 Award Recipient - Southeastern Louisiana University's newest residence halls, Ascension Hall and Twelve Oaks Hall, draw from 220 geothermal wells situated 300 feet underground to heat and cool 556 rooms.

Are you committed to improving the environment, your community and the quality of life in Louisiana? Do you have some voluntary environmental programs within your business, school or community that have been successful, innovative and have decreased emissions, pollution and damage to the environment? Then you might be one of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's (LDEQ) next Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) award recipients.

Now is the time to join LDEQ's Environmental Leadership Program and consider submitting your project for the ELP annual leadership awards. Projects must conclude within the 2019 calendar year or have benefits realized in 2019 to be eligible.

The awards are for outstanding achievement in Pollution Prevention, Community Environmental Outreach, Outstanding Environmental Ordinance & Enforcement and Environmental Management Systems. Awardees in these categories are recognized annually by the LDEQ secretary at the award ceremony, included in the DiscoverDEQ newsletter and the LDEQ Annual Report. The ceremony will take place in the spring of 2020.

There are many benefits to membership in the ELP. The most important is that you will be contributing to the betterment of our environment. By joining the program, you are recognized by your community as an organization committed to maintaining and improving the quality of Louisiana's environment. Any organization committed to improving the quality of Louisiana's environment through pollution prevention, waste reduction and other environmental improvements is eligible to join the program as a participating member. This includes small, medium and large businesses, federal facilities, non-governmental organizations, schools and universities.

ELP members participate in periodic meetings, conferences and seminars/workshops sponsored by the Environmental Leadership Program. Members can obtain information and resources on various pollution prevention opportunities and other environmental management and conservation topics. They can network with other leaders around the state who are implementing projects and share their knowledge.

For more information about ELP or to join, please go to deq.louisiana.gov/elp.



Solar Sipper is the latest tool in tackling remediation

DEQ's environmental oversight has always had the goal of removing contaminants and environmentally intrusive elements from the ground. Ever-changing technology provides new ways to do that correctly, quickly, efficiently and inexpensively without harming the environment. One project in DeSoto Parish is an example of using new technology that is really ageless: solar energy.

A 2011 well blowout in DeSoto Parish caused a rupture along a portion of Louisiana's first interstate saltwater disposal line, which services more than 300 gas wells and runs underground from DeSoto Parish to Shelby County, Texas. A subsequent investigation revealed poor engineering designs in the line, including faulty poly welds in the piping components that ultimately compromised the structural integrity of the system. Approximately 36 sections of the ruptured line have since been remediated and closed, and monitoring stations with collection tanks are situated along the 30-mile route to ensure that no other problems arise.



Astride an ATV, LDEQ Environmental Scientist Stephen Brown reviews a chart indicating current monitoring data at the site.

One active site remains. It consists of a part of the line that's located in a wetland 36 feet beneath the surface. The site in rural DeSoto Parish has the last active remaining monitoring well that continues to show ongoing exceedances relative to the saltwater contamination in the groundwater, along with the presence of dissolved chlorides and sodium.

To address the problem, access to the site and a remediation plan had to be formulated.

To visit the site, located in a remote area of dense vegetation, requires a 15-minute ride via ATV from the nearest access point. Since the heavily wooded location presents a challenge, the plan includes preparation of an access path, along with a fairly mobile saltwater extraction system that suits the remediation requirements.

LDEQ Environmental Scientist Stephen Brown, based in the Northeast Regional Office in West Monroe, is overseeing the work, which is being performed by an environmental consultant who was hired by the landowner. At Brown's suggestion, the contractor installed a recovery system last June that could be effectively managed. That system is the "Solar Sipper."

Using solar panels that charge a battery that runs a sipping mechanism, the Solar Sipper unit "sips," or extracts, product out of the well at predetermined times through a tube that deposits the product into a holding tank. A float in the tank signals when it's full, at which point the contractor will return to pump out the product, sending it into a mobile container attached to the back of a Marooka IC30 tracked vehicle. The product is then delivered to an offsite staging area and, ultimately, transported by 18-wheeler to one of the control points for proper disposal. The company that owns the saltwater disposal line is responsible for transportation and disposal and reimburses the contractor for their work.

"A great energy savings aspect is that the sipper unit runs solely on a set of solar panels – perfect for very remote sites where electricity is unavailable and generator use is impractical," Brown noted. This is an environmentally friendly remediation unit and a fine example of proper sampling protocol, he added. In fact, 90% of the wells in the area run off of solar power – an alternative to gas/diesel-burning engines, which would add noise and potentially harmful air releases into the environment.

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The logistical and cost benefits of solar power are also an added bonus since it's a self-sufficient tool that can be set up with a fair amount of ease with minimal impact to the surrounding aesthetic.

In addition to ensuring the unit runs properly, the consultant conducts groundwater sampling quarterly, which is submitted to a lab for analysis. Once four consecutive quarters of sampling indicate that the constituents of concern are below the regulatory standards and saltwater is no longer present, the site will then be designated for sampling once a year. Once the well meets compliance based on special standards, it will be closed out with documentation denoting "no further action."

While there's no fixed timeline for when the project will be complete, the team is confident that sampling results will eventually present favorable numbers that indicate that the site meets environmental and health regulations.

All in all, it's a unique project that's being run smoothly and efficiently. "I am very pleased with the recovery effort at this site," Brown said.



As solar panels power the sipping unit, the product is extracted from the well (indicated by the yellow pipes in the background) and sent via a tube into a holding tank (foreground) at the site. A regulator on the tank triggers when it's full. Once full, the product in the tank is emptied into a mobile container unit affixed to a Marooka IC30 tracked vehicle (right), which transports the product offsite to a staging point where it's shipped to Texas for proper disposal. The process repeats and will continue until sampling results indicate compliance with health and environmental standards.

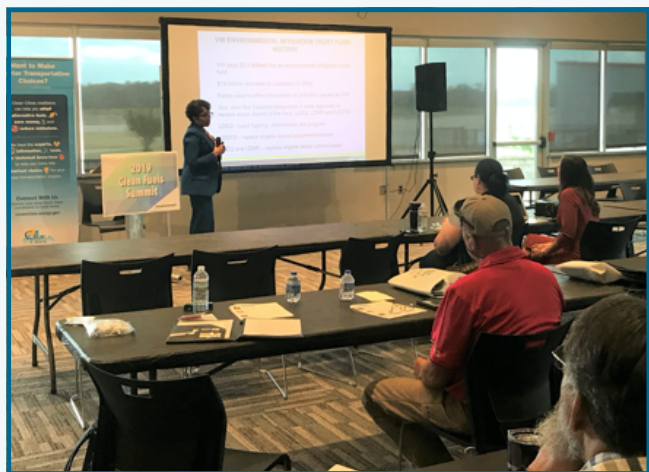


Clean Fuels Summit Conference and Expo 2019

The Clean Fuels Summit Conference and Expo 2019 was held at NOLA Motorsports Park in Avondale. Co-sponsored by the Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuels Partnership, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Clean Cities and Louisiana Clean Fuels, the summit presented information on varied topics such as the Future of Transportation, Propane Auto Gas overview, funding availabilities, the VW settlement and much more.

LDEQ Deputy Secretary Denise Bennett gave the attendees an overview on the current status of the VW Settlement funds.

Dr. Chuck Carr Brown received an award for his leadership in public service.



LDEQ Deputy Secretary Denise Bennett talks about the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Fund.



LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown received an Award for 2019 Leadership in Public Service, presented by Ann Vail, executive director of Louisiana Clean Fuels.

Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response refresher course imparts safety info

The safety of LDEQ employees is a top priority, so continuing education and training are important to the mission of protecting the environment and also the employees.

LDEQ employees who complete the 48-hour HAZWOPER (Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response) course must attend and complete an 8-hour refresher class each year in order to maintain their credentials and to learn new equipment and techniques. Refresher courses are held at various locations around the state for LDEQ staff holding the certification. Environmental Scientist Jim Pate provides the instruction.

Annual certification is a requirement set by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) as a standard that certifies and protects employees who may perform tasks at sites where hazardous materials are or may be present.

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Classroom instruction for the refresher course includes a series of safety discussions, supported by instructional videos. Part of the training includes a re-familiarization with safety procedures associated with emergency response situations involving a chemical release. This is done by having the students cross-check the NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health) technical information against the U.S. Department of Transportation's Emergency Response Guidebook. This gives the proper response protocol to be implemented upon arriving at a scene. For example, students learn what protective equipment to wear and evacuation procedures if there is a chlorine release involving a railcar that's on fire at night.

Pate stressed the importance of reminding your co-workers to be safe and alert for potential chemical exposure, providing three accident scenarios involving the release of three different chemicals. Students then used the reference material to quickly discern the emergency response measures to be taken regarding each scenario.

The goal is to assess how quickly and accurately each student understands how to navigate through the reference material to locate a chemical quickly and determine the set of safety measures that apply regarding the type of accident involving that chemical.

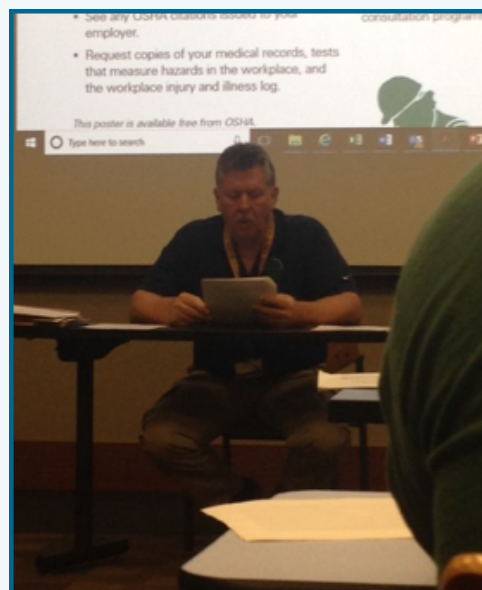
In lieu of the hard copy manuals, there is a new app for smartphones, called "ERG 2016," which is a faster, more efficient way of getting information while an emergency responder is on-scene at a spill, accident or fire. Familiarity with the reference material and the app will allow the responder to quickly determine a chemical's properties, the hazards that are associated with that chemical, and the safety measures that must be applied – such as protective action zones, evacuation distances and the protective equipment to be used.

The videos shown to the class included trip and fall hazards, the dangers of Benzene and Chlorine, awareness of potentially toxic air, the proper handling of chemicals and the Global Harmonizing System and the pictograms that identify hazards. The instruction included a discussion of workplace safety under OSHA, an overview of safety data sheets and how to properly wear and maintain personal protective equipment.

Pate mentioned the fact that with more than 70,000 chemicals in use by industry, it's important to have an awareness of safety protocols and potential hazards inherent in a particular chemical. Knowing about a chemical and its properties helps to save lives. Pate trains more than a hundred LDEQ employees every year, visiting all of the regional offices throughout the state to conduct the training.

"OSHA was created in response to the increasing number of American workers being injured or killed on the job," Pate said. "Once the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 was born, the U.S. went from approximately 11 million workers injured or killed each year, down to around a million – a significant reduction that gave recognition to the need for safe work practices." The training in HAZWOPER serves to support that endeavor as OSHA's safety guidelines continue to make an impact on reducing injuries and fatalities in the workplace.

After passing the test at the end of the instruction, students were awarded a laminated card signifying a validation of their certification for another year.



LDEQ Environmental Scientist and HAZWOPER instructor Jim Pate goes over OSHA's reporting guidelines during a recent refresher course held in Baton Rouge.



MAML monitoring in New Orleans

MAML deployed to New Orleans for Hard Rock Hotel crane demolition

The LDEQ Mobile Air Monitoring Lab was deployed to New Orleans to the site of the Hard Rock Hotel collapse on Thurs. Oct. 17 to monitor for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). The city of New Orleans planned to bring down the two teetering cranes left when the hotel partially collapsed. The demolition was rescheduled several times, but when it occurred, the MAML was there to monitor for PM_{2.5} in the air.

LDEQ is proud to support the Louisiana State Combined Charitable Campaign

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's (LDEQ) giving season begins well before December! LDEQ kicked off the Louisiana State Combined Charitable Campaign (LA SCCC) in August and will continue fundraising efforts through Dec. 2.

2019 marks the sixth year LDEQ has participated in LA SCCC. The campaign is the only state-approved charitable activity that enables payroll-deducted gifts from employees of state agencies. This program allows LDEQ employees to designate an ongoing or one-time contribution to their choice of up to four health and human service charities participating in the LA SCCC. Fifty-seven charities are participating in 2019, all of which provide much needed health and human services throughout the state.

Annually, all health and human service non-profit agencies registered in good standing with the state are eligible to apply to be a part of this campaign. If the charity of your choice was not included, please note that it is up to the discretion of the charity to apply annually, or they may not meet all requirements. The campaign started Aug. 7, 2019, and will run through Dec. 2, 2019. All pledges are due by Oct. 31, 2019, and all other special event/fundraiser revenue is due by Dec. 2, 2019.

In an effort to raise funds at LDEQ, employees were offered the one-time donation opportunity, the ongoing pledge opportunity, casual dress days for purchase, "Give Hope Louisiana" donation jars, popcorn and soda for sale, and the purchase of a 'guess the total in the donation jars' for a chance to win half of the total. Samuel Broussard, an environmental scientist in the Acadiana Regional Office, had the winning guess for the regional offices, and Donia Gillespie, human resources director, had the closest guess for headquarters.

Thank you to everyone who has donated and participated in LDEQ's fundraising efforts to date. Please continue to show your support for 'Give HOPE Louisiana' and help LDEQ reach our goal of \$4,000, surpassing last year's donated amount of \$3,200. For more information, visit www.lasccc.org. For a one-time donation, visit www.givelasccc.org.



2019 Air and Waste management Conference held at L'Auberge

Speaking to the gathered members of the Louisiana Section of the Air and Waste Management Association on Oct. 17, LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown declined to consult his crystal ball. “We don’t know where we are going to be in four years,” he said, adding that the important question is “where do you want to be, and where do you want your company to be?”

The secretary was willing to say where LDEQ currently is: ahead of the curve. “We don’t want to play catch-up,” he said. To that end, the agency has embraced new technology and innovative ways of solving problems. The biggest of which, he said, are waste water issues and water quality issues. “We process over a billion gallons of waste water a day,” he said.

The secretary used a PowerPoint presentation to supplement his speech and dialed up images of the LDEQ’s new Mobile Air Monitoring Laboratories – two state-of-the-art vehicles equipped with the latest in air monitoring equipment and one of them also equipped to do water monitoring. Those vehicles, he said, are scheduled to be delivered to the agency in November and will supplement the existing MAML, which may be retooled to work with the agency’s other new technology – unmanned aircraft.

“You can call them drones if you want,” he said. Whatever they are called, they are fast becoming an essential part of the agency’s assessment toolbox, he said.

Brown also talked about new portable tablet computers that field personnel in the Underground Storage Tank Division will be employing to do on-site paperwork for inspections. New software will speed the process as well, he said. Enforcement letters and other notices can now be generated with a single computer click, he said.

In the end, all agency innovations are designed to facilitate LDEQ’s mission of protecting human health and the environment, the secretary said.

The 2019 Louisiana Section of the Air and Waste Management Association (AWMA) Annual Conference offered attendees an agenda with varied topics and interesting new information. The conference was held at L’Auberge Casino and Hotel in Baton Rouge Oct. 16 and 17.

Many LDEQ staff members presented information on varied topics for the conference. Bryan Johnston, the LDEQ administrator for air permits, discussed the air permitting overview. Mike Hahn, an LDEQ environmental scientist, explained the LDEQ adoption of the Hazardous Waste Generator Improvement Rule. Jason Meyers, the LDEQ administrator for air assessment,



LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown addresses participants at the AWMA Conference. Brown presented an overview of LDEQ.



L to R - Roger Gingles, LDEQ assistant secretary for Assessment; Linda Piper, Small Business Assistance manager; Marissa Jimenez, environmental scientist and Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, LDEQ secretary are ready to greet participants at the AWMA Conference.

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and Brian Fontenot, an LDEQ environmental scientist, discussed odor complaints and the deployment of the Mobile Air Quality Lab (MAML). Cheryl Nolan, the LDEQ administrator of Public Participation and Permit Support Services, discussed "Doing Business with LDEQ – The Basics."

LDEQ also had an exhibit at the conference and handed out information about many LDEQ programs and resources.

LDEQ communications staff attends public information officer quarterly committee meeting



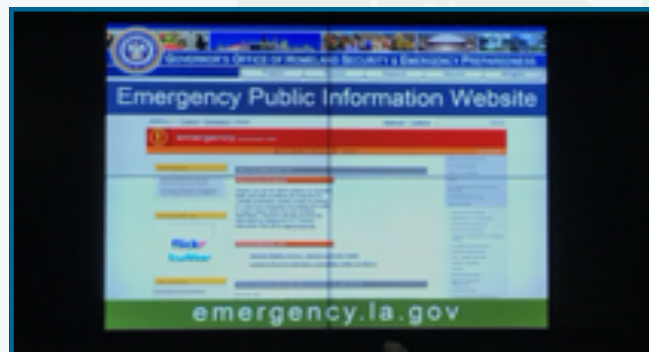
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's (LDEQ) communications staff attended the public information officer (PIO) quarterly committee meeting hosted by ExxonMobil and Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP). The group meets once a quarter and functions as an opportunity for public information professionals in the emergency management to come together to network, build relationships and discuss the latest tools and innovations in the field.

GOSHEP Communications Director Mike Steele presents on GOSHEP's preparedness role in the emergency management cycle.

The group includes local industry professionals, state and local agency representatives, first responders, healthcare providers and local non-profit organizations that help alleviate human suffering in

the face of emergencies. The goal is to learn from one another before an event happens and to develop crucial relationships that will play a key role in emergency response when an event does occur.

The meeting on Oct. 9, reviewed GOHSEP's role in Louisiana's preparation for, prevention of, response to, recovery from and mitigation against future emergencies and disasters. GOHSEP Communications Director Mike Steele reminded everyone that the official hurricane season for the Gulf Coast lasts until November 30th each year. Additionally, GOHSEP has seen an increase in winter weather events in the last few years. That said, it is important to have a plan year-round. LDEQ encourages everyone to visit www.getagameplan.org and develop a plan before disaster strikes.



www.emergency.la.gov serves a hub for information during an emergency or disaster affecting Louisiana.



GOHSEP offers the public many resources to help prepare for a disaster or emergency including the 'Get A Game Plan' podcast available at gohsep.la.gov/RESOURCES/podcast.



LDEQ on the Move

Saints and Pelicans STEM Fest at the Superdome

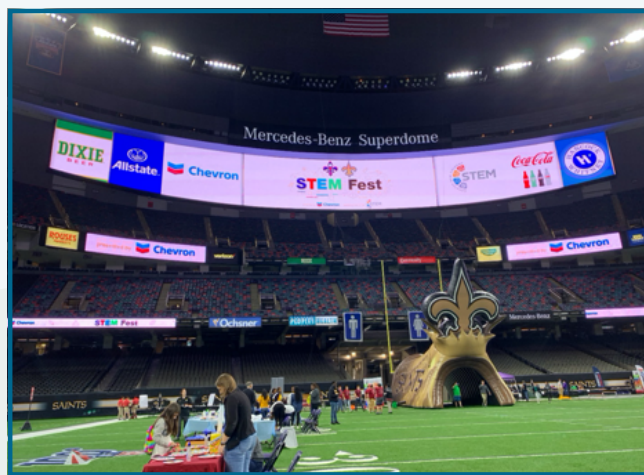
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality was proud to be present at the 3rd Annual STEM Fest (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) with the Saints and Pelicans.

The STEM Fest took place on Oct. 19, 2019, at the Smoothie King Center and the Mercedes Benz-Superdome. The event brings 7,000 to 10,000 attendees looking for fun and educational, hands-on activities that illustrate the role STEM plays in our everyday lives and communities.

LDEQ staff, Marissa Jimenez, Tomeka Prioleau, India Ambeau, Linda Piper and student worker Ruby Handy, presented on Enviroscope and Envirothon. Enviroscope is an interactive demonstration that introduces children to non-point source pollution, and Envirothon is an environmental problem-solving competition LDEQ helps host for students in grades 6-12.



Pictured: Ruby Handy (L) and Tomeka Prioleau (R)



The Mercedes-Benz-Superdome was lined with exhibitors ready to greet thousands of attendees.



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Who's Who At LDEQ?



**Kaitlynn Leggett – Environmental Project Specialist,
Public Participation and Permit Support Division, Office of Environmental Services**

Leggett is a native of Texarkana, Texas. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in health sciences from the University of Central Arkansas in Conway, Ark. She recently joined LDEQ's Public Participation and Permit Support Division as an environmental project specialist after working in the private sector as an environmental specialist since 2017.

Leggett enjoys spending time with her husband, Zachary, and three dogs, Penny, Scotty and Pepper. She also enjoys being outdoors, traveling, reading and anything crafty.

**Jeff J. Dauzat – Administrator, Emergency and Radiological Services Division,
Office of Environmental Compliance**

Dauzat received a Bachelor of Science degree in wildlife biology from Louisiana Tech University in 1988 and a master's degree in industrial hygiene from Tulane University in 1999.

Employed with LDEQ since 1989, Dauzat has served as a water surveillance inspector, water permit writer, water/air surveillance inspector, environmental supervisor, water staff environmental scientist in the Southeast Regional Office, and water senior environmental scientist for the Surveillance Division. He currently serves as the environmental division administrator of the Emergency and Radiological Services Division.



**Joseph Kieffer - Environmental Scientist III,
Louisiana Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program, Office of Environmental Services.**

Kieffer is a Louisiana native born and raised in Mandeville. He attended LSU from 2010 to 2014 and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in applied coastal environmental science. He has worked as a plant ecology lab assistant at LSU, industrial laboratory technician at Olin Chlor Alkali products in St. Gabriel, an English as a Second Language science teacher for a year in South Korea, and a chemist at Intertek.

Kieffer joined LDEQ's Louisiana Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program within the Permit Support Division with more than three years of laboratory experience. He enjoys running, reading, biking, birding and environmental sciences.



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Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's Third Quarter Summaries

Third Quarter 2019 Enforcement Actions:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enforcement-actions>

Third Quarter 2019 Settlement Agreements:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enforcement-division>

Third Quarter 2019 Air Permits:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/permits-issued-by-calendar-quarter>

Third Quarter 2019 Water Permits:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/lpdes>

Third Quarter 2019 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/waste-permits>

