



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



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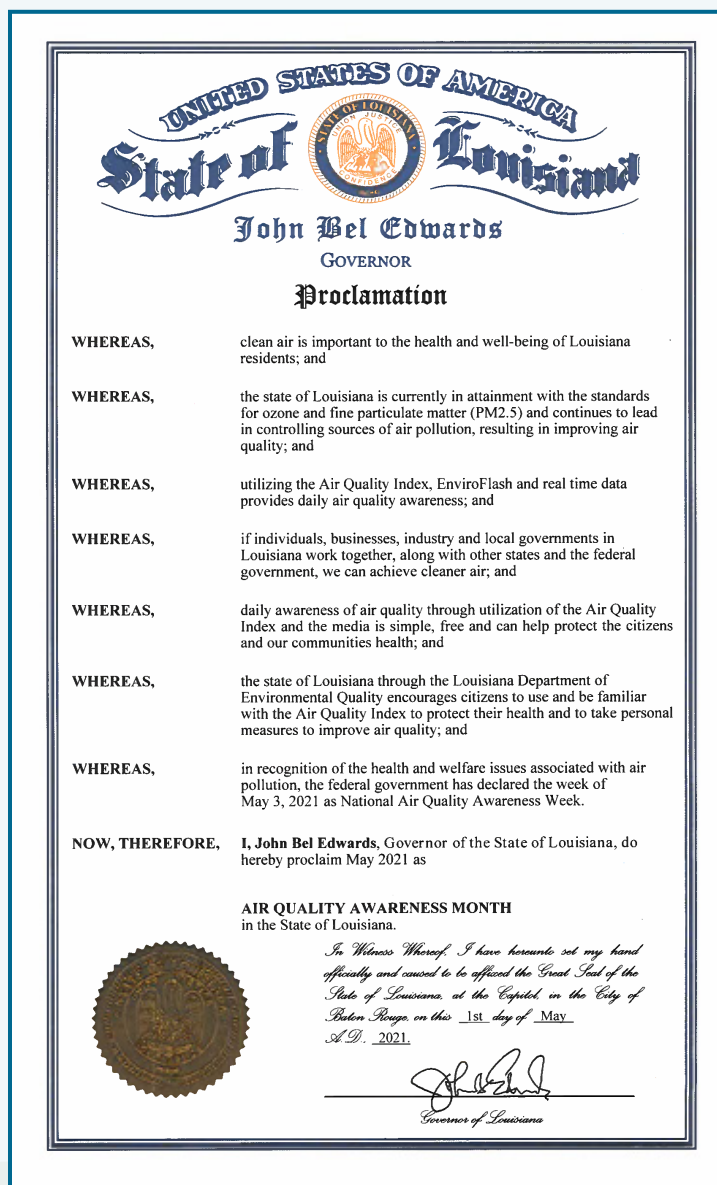


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Discover DEQ

May is Air Quality Awareness Month

Governor John Bel Edwards has proclaimed that May is Air Quality Awareness Month in Louisiana. Louisiana's air quality is the best it has been since the Clean Air Act was promulgated. The entire state is in attainment for ozone and fine particulate matter (PM 2.5), but there is still much to do. We must maintain our progress.



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The gorgeous days we enjoy so much in the spring are not necessarily good for ozone levels. Spring weather may cause LDEQ to call for Air Quality advisory days. Air Quality advisories are based on a forecast, and like the weather forecast, the prediction for high ozone does not always result in a high ozone day. The purpose of the forecast is to help sensitive populations make informed decisions about outdoor activity.

The ozone and the PM 2.5 forecast are determined by a set of variables: the presence of precursor pollutants, plus the amount of sunlight and wind. When Louisiana experiences high-pressure systems in the spring and fall, the result is clear skies and stagnant winds. Ozone forms in the highest concentrations, mainly on sunny days with light wind speeds. Add to this is the fact that the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards are very close to the area's background levels. Background levels reflect natural precursors, biogenic chemical compounds emitted from trees, plants, lightning and other natural occurrences. When the plants and trees are exhibiting new growth or becoming dormant during the spring and fall, they emit greater amounts of isoprene. The presence of biogenics coupled with man-made pollutants, in the presence of sunlight and stagnant winds, result in air quality advisories.

It is important to be aware of the air quality, and you can do this by signing up for EnviroFlash. This free, automated air quality notification system will send you an advisory, by email or text, when an Air Quality Advisory is forecast. You can also sign up to receive information daily by simply registering for EnviroFlash, at <http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enviroflash>. To access real-time air quality monitoring information, go to <http://airquality.deq.louisiana.gov>.

EPA has designated May 3-7 as Air Quality Awareness Week with the theme "Healthy Air - Important for Everyone!"

Each Air Quality day focuses on a different topic; listed below:

- **Monday – Wildfires & Smoke**
- **Tuesday – Asthma & Your Health**
- **Wednesday – Citizen Science & Sensors**
- **Thursday – Environmental Justice & Air Quality**
- **Friday – Air Quality Around the World**

EPA will release an Air Quality Awareness Week website on Monday, May 3: <https://www.airnow.gov/aqaw>

The topics and information about each day follows:

Monday – Wildfires and smoke

While smoke from wildfires is a more consistent pollutant in the colder and western states because of fireplace burning and other issues, Louisiana has been affected by wildfire smoke carried by the wind from other places. Smoke is a complex mixture of carbon dioxide, water vapor, carbon monoxide, particles, hydrocarbons, other organic chemicals, nitrogen oxides and trace minerals. Fine particles are the principal pollutant of concern from wildfire smoke for short-term exposures (hours to weeks). Smoke can affect health. Fine particles can be inhaled deeply into the lungs; exposure to the smallest particles can affect the lungs and heart. Particles are respiratory irritants that can cause coughing, phlegm, wheezing and difficulty breathing. Even short-term exposure may aggravate preexisting heart and lung disease. LDEQ has monitors that register fine particle (PM 2.5) pollution across the state. If you are interested in getting notifications about PM 2.5, you can subscribe to that service at <https://airquality.deq.louisiana.gov/Subscriptions/Manage>, or if you prefer to see current air quality at LDEQ's air quality monitors, go to <https://airquality.deq.louisiana.gov>.

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For more information on wildfires and smoke pollution, visit <http://www.airnow.gov>.

Children, pregnant women, elderly individuals and people sensitive to air pollution (such as those with preexisting heart and lung disease) should take precautions to limit exposure to wildfire smoke. Consult the Air Quality Index (AQI) at www.airnow.gov each day for the air quality forecast and for information about ways to reduce exposure.

You can subscribe to EnviroFlash, a free air quality notification system that LDEQ provides in partnership with EPA. To subscribe to daily notifications, or to personalize a notification, go to www.deq.louisiana.gov/enviroflash.

Tuesday – Asthma and your health

Asthma may cause difficulty breathing, chest pain, cough and wheezing. According to the Mayo Clinic, asthma is a condition in which your airways narrow, swell and produce extra mucus. This can make breathing difficult and trigger coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath. For some people, asthma is a minor nuisance. For others, it can be a major problem that interferes with daily activities and may lead to a life-threatening asthma attack. Asthma can't be cured, but its symptoms can be controlled.

"The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) has developed an environmental health-focused asthma program, called BREATHE, in collaboration with the Louisiana Center for Health Equity, LSU Health Sciences Center, Green and Healthy Homes Initiative and Our Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital. The program aims to assist low-income families who will benefit from clinical and environmental education, as well as in-home environmental interventions, for better asthma management.

BREATHE ("Bringing Respiratory Health Equity for Asthmatics Through Healthier Environments") is currently offering free and personalized asthma and Healthy Homes education, as well as virtual home visits to eligible participants, in partnership with Our Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital. The Virtual Home Visiting program is open statewide to participants of all ages. A select group of pediatric BREATHE clients may also be offered in-home environmental interventions through a Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine study.

Interested parties, or providers interested in referring their patients to BREATHE, can visit www.ldh.la.gov/breathe and sign up for the program by completing the form at www.ldh.la.gov/breathe-enroll. For more information, questions or comments, email breathe@la.gov or call 1-888-293-7080 and ask for "BREATHE."

Wednesday – Citizen Science and Sensors

Citizen science covers a suite of innovative tools to enable the public to apply their curiosity and contribute their talents to science and technology. Citizen scientists can provide information that would not otherwise be available due to time, geographic or resource constraints. Learn about EPA work in citizen science and environmental citizen science projects.

Citizen science uses the collective strength of communities and the public to identify research questions, collect and analyze data, interpret results, make new discoveries and develop technologies and applications – all to understand and solve environmental problems. For a discussion on citizen science and the use of sensors from EPA, go to <https://blog.epa.gov/tag/citizen-science-toolbox/>.

If you want to know about air quality, there are convenient ways to access that information. Check the Air Quality Index (AQI) for current air quality in your area. Join the EnviroFlash Notification System for free air quality notifications and air quality advisory day notifications. Go to www.deq.louisiana.gov/enviroflash to sign up. You can also see the location of fires, the path of smoke plumes and air quality information on the AirNow. AQI is used to report information about the most common

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air pollutants, including particulate matter (PM2.5 or PM10) and ozone. For more information, visit the AirNow website www.airnow.gov.

Thursday – Air Quality and Environmental Justice

Air quality and pollution are important environmental concerns, and the Environmental Justice program is set up to try to see that everyone gets the same level of help in reducing air pollution.

According to EPA, “Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin or income, with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.”

Environmental justice is an important part of the struggle to improve and maintain a clean and healthful environment, especially for those who have traditionally lived, worked and played closest to the sources of pollution.

Friday – Air quality around the world

AirNow International addresses air quality issues in many countries around the world. Air quality in other countries is important and can affect the air quality in the United States. An example is dust storms in the Sahara Desert. According to NOAA, trade winds bring the Saharan dust and other pollutants into the Southern United States, causing haze and affecting air quality.

Especially strong winds cause the dust to be transported several thousand miles, reaching as far as the Caribbean, Florida and other parts of the U.S. Gulf Coast. Information from the NOAA website indicates that dry air associated with the Saharan Air Layer often suppresses hurricane and tropical storm development. Large quantities of dust entering the Atlantic during the summer hurricane season create a stable layer of dry, sinking air, which prevents storms from spinning up or gaining strength. Each year, over one hundred million tons of Saharan dust gets blown across the Atlantic, according to NOAA. This is an example of how the world's pollution problems can affect the United States and its people.

Other examples are the wildfires in California and other western states, where smoke reaches Texas, Louisiana and possibly further east. It is important to remember that we are globally connected. AirNow-International (AirNow-I) is a stand-alone, international version of the EPA's real-time air quality data management and display system known as AirNow. AirNow-I includes a suite of software for data processing, quality control methods, system monitoring and graphical output that allows tailoring for each country/region/language need.

AirNow - International

- Helps decision-makers communicate the connection between air pollution, health and sustainability goals, and helps involve the public in efforts to improve air quality
- Promotes sustainable development by facilitating air quality management programs
- Supports better public health and environment around the world through air quality data sharing and scientist to scientist knowledge exchange and cooperation
- Meets World Health Organization goals to raise public awareness, warn of pollution episodes and advise sensitive populations



Message from the Secretary

Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.



Dr Chuck Carr Brown

Governor John Bel Edwards has declared May Air Quality Month in Louisiana. And EPA has declared May 3-7 “Air Quality Awareness Week” across the U.S. So while you’re out enjoying a meal and something cold to drink to celebrate Cinco de Mayo, take a moment to consider what a blessing clean air really is.

Good clean air is essential to health (just as clean water is). Part of LDEQ’s mission is to protect the environment, specifically air and water. We take that responsibility seriously, and while our efforts in those areas are ongoing, we think we’ve made some impressive strides in the past few years. Louisiana is in attainment for ozone and fine particulate matter (PM 2.5). We are, in fact, in attainment for all the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) criteria pollutants except for two small areas out of attainment for SO₂ – and we are working diligently to get those in attainment.

Our air quality effort gets help from industry and the public. I want to acknowledge their roles as well. We all have to work together to improve air quality. In this newsletter, you will find a story about the May as Air Quality Month declaration. That story also includes tips from EPA about what every citizen can do to help improve air quality. I hope you will all follow those tips and share them with other people. It takes more hands to lift the heavy load.

May is also a significant month in another, less desirable way. It’s the beginning of hurricane season. While the season officially kicks off June 1, Hurricane Preparedness Week is May 9-15. We had a record number of named storms last year, and some pretty strong ones found their way to Louisiana. That ought to be fresh in everyone’s minds. You know what can happen, so be prepared. You can find some really good tips on putting together a storm contingency plan at the state website www.getagameplan.org.

This site is a clearinghouse for hurricane information. It includes stories, information, lists and many links to help everyone know what to do, what things to have on hand, how to communicate before, during and after the storm and much more. Go to the site and check it out. It might make a difference when you are in an emergency situation.

Please be safe out there. In a parish adjacent to East Baton Rouge, there was a recent fatality when a person walking on a train track was hit by a train. In that same parish in the same week, a teenager died in an accident on the Interstate. She was riding unrestrained. Be aware, buckle up, watch out for things around you. Thank you for all the good work you do.



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2021 Hurricane Season Preparation

The 2020 Atlantic hurricane season was one for the record books with 30 named storms, 12 of them making landfall in the U.S. Eight of those occurred along the Gulf Coast, five of which -- three hurricanes and two tropical storms -- made landfall in Louisiana. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 2020 was the fifth consecutive year with an above-normal Atlantic hurricane season. So what does this tell us about the upcoming 2021 Hurricane season?

Early predictions from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center (CPC) foresee 18 named storms, including eight hurricanes. That's just for the Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from June 1 to Nov. 30. While the forecasters don't believe the 2021 season will be as brutal as in 2020, they are still predicting a very active season. We can expect updated forecasts over the next couple of months. In the meantime, it is imperative for Louisianans to "Get a Game Plan."

Hurricane Preparedness Week is May 9-15. LDEQ strongly encourages everyone to make plans for (1) before a storm, (2) during a storm and (3) post-landfall during this time. Concerned citizens can start now by determining their personal hurricane risk, finding out if they live in a hurricane evacuation zone and review/update insurance policies. Residents can also make a list of items to replenish hurricane emergency supplies and start thinking about how to prepare their homes for the coming hurricane season. Not only do citizens need to worry about standard storm-prep, but just as everyone did last year, they need to take into account COVID-19 safety parameters.

Because COVID-19 has changed the way we do many routine things, LDEQ encourages residents to "get a game plan" early on or, if necessary, review any current plans to accommodate COVID-19 safety restrictions based on the latest **health and safety guidelines from the CDC** and your local officials.

GET A GAME PLAN

During hurricane season, you may need to leave your home quickly and travel to a safe place outside the affected area. If authorities advise you to evacuate, be prepared to leave immediately with your evacuation kit and plan in place. It is important to sit down with family and/or close friends to decide how you plan to communicate with each other, where you will go and what your plans are in the event of an emergency. Write the plan down, make sure everyone has a copy and keep a copy of the plan in your evacuation kit.

The first thing you need to do is evaluate your hurricane evacuation zone risk. Will you stay, or will you go? In the event you need to evacuate, not only do you need to determine where you will go, but you should also examine how you will get there. If you live in a well-built home outside the evacuation zone, your safest course of action may be to remain home. Ready.gov suggests finding out if you live in a hurricane evacuation area by contacting your local government/emergency management office or by checking the evacuation site website.

Plan now if you will need help leaving or if you have transportation needs. Know who issues evacuation orders for your area, determine locations where you will ride out the storm and get your supplies now. Ask friends or relatives outside



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5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT STRENGTHENING YOUR HOME

- 1 Keep trees around your home trimmed well before a storm to prevent damage from broken branches.
- 2 Have the proper materials in advance to board up your windows to protect them from flying debris.
- 3 Bring loose outdoor items such as patio furniture inside. They can blow around and cause damage to homes.
- 4 Secure all doors on your property. Remember that the garage door is usually the most vulnerable.
- 5 Move your car inside a garage or to another secure location.

For more Hurricane Safety Information, visit weather.gov/hurricanesafety

your area if you would be able to stay with them in the event of an evacuation. Remain in close contact with them over the next few months, monitoring if they have symptoms of COVID-19 or have people in their home at higher risk for serious illness. If they have symptoms or a vulnerable population in their home, you should have a contingency plan in place.

Your contingency plan may include hotels, motels and campgrounds. Check with these businesses to see if there are any restrictions you will have to consider due to COVID-19. Plan a meeting place to reconnect in the event you are separated from your family.

Find out if your local emergency planning and preparedness officials have adapted the sheltering plans in your parish. If you need to go to a public shelter, the CDC recommends bringing at least two cloth face masks for each person and, if possible, hand sanitizer.

Now is also the time to review your insurance policies to ensure you have adequate coverage for your home and personal property. Remember, standard homeowners insurance doesn't cover flooding. Call your insurance company or agent and request an insurance check-up to make sure you have enough homeowners insurance to repair or even replace your home. Don't forget coverage for your car or boat.

BUILD A KIT

You're going to need supplies to not only get through the storm but supplies to protect you from COVID-19 as well. Kits may vary slightly from person to person, but everyone should have two kits ready to go: a stay-at-home kit and an evacuation kit.

Stay-at-home kit (two weeks of emergency supplies): Have enough non-perishable food, water and medicine to last each person in your house for a minimum of three days and/or up to two weeks. Electricity and water could potentially be out for at least that long. You'll need extra cash, a battery-powered radio, flashlights and extra batteries. You may need a portable crank or solar-powered USB charger for your cell phones. Household cleaning supplies and personal hygiene items are likely already in your kit, but consider adding disinfectant supplies as well.

Evacuation kit (three days of supplies in a "go bag"): Your second kit should be a portable, smaller version that you can take with you if you must leave your home quickly.

Some supplies may be hard to get, and availability will worsen in a disaster, so start gathering supplies now. However, please be conscious of potentially over-buying. It is important to remember that our neighbors will need similar supplies.

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5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT WHERE TO GET HURRICANE INFO

- 1 Television - Tune in to your trusted local news source.
- 2 Phone - Access mobile.weather.gov on your mobile phone and get Wireless Emergency Alerts.
- 3 Radio - Receive forecast information and news on your NOAA Weather Radio.
- 4 Social Media - Stay in touch with friends and family and receive updates from your trusted sources of information.
- 5 Computer - Access information from weather.gov, ready.gov and flash.org

For more Hurricane Safety Information, visit weather.gov/hurricanesafety



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STAY INFORMED

Your access to accurate and current information can mean the difference between being a survivor or a casualty. Have access to weather alerts and community notifications. Be sure that you can receive official notifications even during a power outage. Always follow the directions of your state and local authorities. Learn about your community's response plan for each disaster and determine if these plans have been updated to accommodate COVID-19 precautions.

Understand National Weather Service (NWS) forecast products, especially the meaning of NWS watches and warnings. Visit www.weather.gov/safety/hurricane-ww to learn about NWS's forecasts.

Visit getagameplan.org for more information on emergency preparedness and how to stay informed.

Visit www.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/covid-19/prepare-for-hurricane.html for more information on the CDC's recommendations for preparing for hurricanes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT UPDATING YOUR INSURANCE

- 1 Check your insurance policies well ahead of the storm to see what is covered.
- 2 Make sure you have flood insurance. Flooding is the leading cause of damage from tropical systems.
- 3 Visit floodsmart.gov to learn about your flood risk and flood insurance options for your area.
- 4 Prepare your home and vehicles according to your specific insurance policies to ensure damages are covered.
- 5 Know where your insurance documents and contact information are located. Take them with you if you evacuate.

For more Hurricane Safety Information, visit weather.gov/hurricanesafety

5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT HURRICANE HAZARD RISKS

- 1 Storm surge is water pushed onshore by the tropical system. It causes the most damage of any of the hurricane hazards.
- 2 Wind from a hurricane can top 200 mph and cause massive damage to buildings in its path.
- 3 Inland flooding caused by heavy rain damages homes and can wash out roadways well away from the coast.
- 4 Tornadoes are common as a hurricane moves ashore. They are not typically long-lived, but they can cause plenty of damage.
- 5 Rip currents and rough seas are common both before and after a hurricane, making swimming or surfing very dangerous.

For more Hurricane Safety Information, visit weather.gov/hurricanesafety



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“Only rain down the drain” – Protect the waters of our state

Spring is here, and Summer is just around the bend. With these seasons, yard work, grass mowing and outside activities increase. That can mean that yard debris, grass clippings and other unwanted things get into our storm drains and cause pollution, buildup and drainage issues. With Hurricane season and flood season close at hand, it is important to remember not to blow grass clippings into the street. When you do, they end up in a storm drain and finally into the waters of our state. Also, be aware that disposing of yard waste, other items and fluids (oil, crawfish boil water and cooking debris and household hazardous materials) can cause flooding and pollution.

Storm drains are made for stormwater runoff. This is water from rain that “runs off” impervious surfaces and across the land instead of seeping into the ground. This runoff usually flows into storm drains, culverts and ditches and ends up in streams, creeks and rivers. It is not treated in any way before it goes into the waters of the state. Stormwater runoff is considered nonpoint source pollution.

Runoff, unlike pollution from industrial and sewage treatment plants, comes from many diffuse sources. Nonpoint source pollution is caused by rainfall moving over and through the ground. As it moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, finally depositing them into storm drains, lakes, rivers, bayous, wetlands, coastal waters and even our underground sources of drinking water.

These pollutants can include fertilizers, herbicides and insecticides from agricultural lands and residential areas; oil, grease and toxic chemicals from urban runoff and commercial developments; sediment from improperly managed construction sites, crop and forest lands and eroding streambanks; runoff from irrigation practices; runoff from abandoned sand and gravel mines; bacteria and nutrients from livestock, pet wastes and faulty septic systems. It is evident that by adding grass clippings and yard waste, crawfish boil water and shells and other things that don’t belong in our waterways, we are part of the problem.

Grass clippings and other yard waste can cause localized flooding by clogging the inlets and pipes. This can cause high levels of nutrients in the streams and rivers, which causes algae blooms.

So this season, if your mower shoots grass clippings out of the side, have it blow toward the center of your yard. Bag your grass clippings and yard waste, and dispose of it properly. A mulching mower should not blow clippings out

From the East Baton Rouge Parish website, here are some very simple steps you can take to help protect our environment and make our stormwater system easier to manage and less costly to maintain.

Use lawn chemicals safely. Follow instructions and never apply before rain or watering the lawn unless directed.

Pick up after pets. Bring extra bags to pick up and dispose of waste properly.

Recycle used oil. Never place used motor oil in the trash or pour down storm drains. Instead, bring it to an oil recycling facility.

Wash cars on the lawn or at a car wash – not on a driveway or in the street.

Dispose of debris with a broom instead of a water hose. Hosing can send unwanted debris into your storm drain.

Keep litter and yard debris clear from storm drains. Litter is easily carried into storm drains and waterways by wind and rain.

Secure items intended for trash and recycling pickup. Wind could easily blow these items into a storm drain.

Properly store household items. Repackage leaking containers and secure other household items to prevent them from falling over and leaving your property.

Sweep pesticides and fertilizer off hard surfaces and onto your lawn to reduce the likelihood of these substances being washed away in a storm.

Bag your yard wastes – This prevents it from going down the drain.

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the side. Keep your clippings out of the street. For information on participating in LDEQ's storm drain marking program, go to <https://deq.louisiana.gov/page/nonpoint-source>.

The parishes have the job of keeping our storm drains free of clogs and allowing stormwater to flow freely.

"Our concern is for impacts to water quality, silting of our drainage pipes with debris, standing water on streets create damage to road surfaces and increased flooding," said Reginal Brumfield, interim director of maintenance for East Baton Rouge Parish. "Also, there are public safety concerns with driving through standing water."

East Baton Rouge Parish has no funding mechanism for long-term maintenance and renewal of the stormwater system, so it is important for citizens to do their best to keep yard waste, oil and anything but rain runoff from going into them.

Get a copy of the East Baton Rouge Parish stormwater brochure and share it with your neighbors and friends!

Provided by Department of Environmental Services: <https://www.brla.gov/2016/Storm-Drain-Dos-and-Donts>

Remember – "Only rain down the drain."

EDMS rollout is approaching quickly

The EDMS Redesign Project is in the process of finalizing the overall design and functionalities of the new application. Included in this phase of work are a number of enhancements to current operations and additional capabilities.

Interested in testing the new system ahead of time? Send an email to edmsquestions@la.gov, and we will provide instructions on when and how to participate.

Document Corrections

The ability to correct documents and index errors in EDMS is essential to ensure EDMS documents reflect correct and accurate information. Document correction requests can be made using the **Document Error Link** located on the right side of the document being viewed.

The most common requests are updates to indexing values, such as AI number, description or date. Less frequently, Records Management receives requests for redactions, removals of duplicate documents or other changes, such as merging or splitting documents incorrectly submitted. The new EDMS screen layout allows you to quickly select the appropriate error type using a radio button. The form will automatically update to display the appropriate fields related to the error type.

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The new form greatly simplifies the process of submitting keyword updates. Instead of individually adding and removing keywords, you will now be able to edit any that need to be changed directly within the request screen, including adding or removing AI numbers and media types or making changes to the description. Once completed, you will be able to submit your request, and Records Management will validate and process the changes according to standard operating procedures.

If you wish to be notified once your request is complete, check the box to send a confirmation email at the bottom of the form.

Searching via Fuzzy Match

Both the Advanced Search and AI Lookup will include an option for Fuzzy Match when searching for document descriptions or AI numbers.

Description

☐ Any Word ☐ All Words ☐ Exact Phrase ☐ Fuzzy Match

When Fuzzy Match is checked in Advanced Search, EDMS will find an equivalent word or phrase that may be closely related but not a perfect match for a term. For example, if you misspell a word, it searches close matches to retrieve relevant results.

In the screenshot below on the left, the misspelled word “Pmits” in the Description field shows 0 results; but with Fuzzy Match turned on in the right screenshot, it correctly identifies the word as “Permits” and includes that term in the search results.

Advanced Search

Agency Interest (AI) AI Lookup **0 Documents Found**

Document ID

Document Date

Activity Number

Description

☒ Any Word ☐ All Words ☐ Exact Phrase ☐ Fuzzy Match

Function

Media

Document Type

Document Subtype

Entry Date

Pages

Advanced Search

Agency Interest (AI) AI Lookup **16774 Documents Found**

Document ID

Document Date

Activity Number

Description

☒ Any Word ☐ All Words ☐ Exact Phrase ☒ Fuzzy Match

Function

Media

Document Type

Document Subtype

Entry Date

Pages

In the **AI Lookup Tool**, Fuzzy Match will function according to the type of entry selected.

Enter Name

☒ Name ☐ Mailing / Physical Address ☐ AI Number ☐ Alternate ID ☒ Fuzzy Match

Type

When Fuzzy Match is used for Name, it finds names that are similar without necessarily being an exact match.

Enter Mailing / Physical Address

☒ Mailing / Physical Address ☐ AI Number ☐ Alternate ID ☒ Fuzzy Match

Type

When Fuzzy Match is used for Address, it finds results beginning with the street number digits entered.

Enter AI Number

☐ Name ☐ Mailing / Physical Address ☒ AI Number ☐ Alternate ID ☒ Fuzzy Match

Type

When Fuzzy Match is used for AI Number / Alternate ID, it finds all results beginning with the numbers entered.

Use the Fuzzy Match option when you are not sure of the correct spelling, you don't know exactly what you are looking for or to cast a wider net while searching.

The next rollout update will provide details on the rollout schedule.



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LDEQ participates in annual American Heart Association fundraiser

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) is proud to announce its participation in the annual American Heart Association (AHA) fundraiser for 2021.

The COVID-19 pandemic has undoubtedly put a damper on fundraising events, and it is no different at LDEQ. Despite the hurdles the pandemic safety restrictions created, the agency raised more than \$900 for the American Heart Association via various events during the fundraising campaign held throughout March and April. While the donation total may not have been what it was in the past, LDEQ's efforts were not in vain. LDEQ was the only state agency to participate in the annual fundraiser this year due to the pandemic.

The agency offered multiple ways to contribute.

A staple in LDEQ's AHA fundraising efforts is the "50/50 Jar for Hearts" drawing. Participants buy a paper heart for \$1, and their name is entered to win 50% of the total amount collected. \$1 per heart = one entry to win. Two drawings took place virtually on April 7. The winner for Headquarters' participants was Estuardo Silva. The winner for the regional offices' participants was Kurt Wilson in the Southeast Regional Office. The drawings were recorded on video and shared with LDEQ employees throughout the state.

Another LDEQ favorite is the LDEQ "Snack Shack," where, several times a week during the fundraising period, employees may purchase a snack for \$1.

New to the lineup this year was the "Name that Baby" competition. This new activity included five participants from each office (i.e., Office of the Secretary, Office of Environmental Services, etc.) who submitted a baby picture of themselves. LDEQ employees were given the opportunity to guess the identity of each baby picture submitted, at \$1 per guess. Mia Townsel won a \$50 Walmart gift card for correctly guessing 12 babies' identities.

The fundraising campaign came to a close on April 9 at LDEQ headquarters following a virtual "Jar for Hearts" drawing and "Name that Baby" winner on April 7. Thank you to everyone that participated.



LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown hosts the virtual Jar for Hearts drawing and Name that Baby winner announcement.



LDEQ Undersecretary Karyn Andrews presents a check for LDEQ's donation to American Heart Association representative Rebecca Fontenot.



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Parking garage safety video produced by LDEQ

Parking garages can be unsafe places where many unforeseen accidents can occur as employees and guests navigate through the various parking structures downtown.

With the assistance and input from Reef Parking and LDEQ's Public Participation group, the Communications Section recently produced a video for the agency's Intranet that addresses parking garage safety. With a focus on parking and driving concerns that are often overlooked, the video highlights basic safety protocol whenever entering the garage as a driver or pedestrian.

ENTERING THE GARAGE

Turning on your headlights is a very common task that many drivers simply fail to perform. This not only allows greater visibility, it alerts other drivers and pedestrians to your presence.

Be aware that as you enter the garage, you're suddenly encountering a flurry of potential hazards and safety concerns that require your full attention. Be especially vigilant and look for the traditional red octagon stop signs and the stop warnings painted on the deck.

Don't perform a "rolling stop." Stop completely. If another vehicle arrives at the stop simultaneously - remember right goes first: The vehicle on the left gives the right-of-way to the vehicle on the right.

Be mindful of pedestrians. Should a pedestrian attempt to cross in front of you, give them a courtesy headlight flash to communicate that you're deferring to them. As a pedestrian, walk with your own safety in mind and stay out of the driver's blind spots. Walk along the right side of the flow of traffic - don't walk down the center traffic lane.

Be fully aware of your surroundings and others who may be in the garage. Cars will be turning to go up the ramp, turning quickly around a blind corner - don't count on the fact that other drivers are paying attention. Many may not have seen the video or choose to ignore these principles. They may not even see you.

Take note of any 'blind spots' for drivers in the garage, especially when you are walking along the far side of the garage in the summer, and can only be seen in silhouette against the bright sun as cars turn the corner. Again, be aware of cars backing out and driving by - they may not see you.

Some key points to remember:

Turn on your headlights before entering the garage

Remove earbuds, don't text and put the phone down

Turn down your car stereo as you enter the garage

Don't rush! Be aware of other cars - even parked cars

Give way to pedestrians

Take heed of the posted speed limit throughout the garage

Be careful when turning; look out for blind corners and sudden obstructions

Never perform a rolling stop. Stop completely and abide by right-of-way rules



There are many safety measures to take note of upon entering the garage. Turn on your headlights, abide by rights-of-way and look out for pedestrians and other vehicles.

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Traffic flow in the garage is one way only – and left turns only. Don't cheat the rule for a quick exit – there may be a vehicle or pedestrian there that you can't see.

Please abide by designated signage for handicapped spots and compact cars. Report any untagged vehicle parking illegally in a handicapped spot.

PARKING

When parking, abide by the "compact car" parking space signage – park trucks and larger vehicles elsewhere.

Long bed trucks should never be parked at the end of a row. This creates an obstruction for vehicles making that turn.

Park squarely between the yellow lines -- not touching or over a yellow line.

Never park in a handicapped space unless you have the appropriate plate or placard.

As a courtesy, manually turn off your headlights after you park so as to not cause visual interference for other drivers and pedestrians.

When exiting, don't rely completely on your vehicle's backup camera. Always check your mirrors and look over both shoulders before backing out of a parking space.

Watch out for maintenance workers making repairs or changing lights.

EXITING

Do not go against the safety poles when exiting, as those are in place for traffic safety. Follow the traffic flow signage while in the garage at all times.

Gate arms have been damaged by vehicles driving in or backing up, so please be mindful.

Please be civil to employees of the garage. Many nuisances such as sewage work, roadside blockades and closed lanes are out of their control. They're here to help, so please offer a kind word when you see them.

Be sure to park within the lines, and long bed trucks should not be parked on the end of a row.

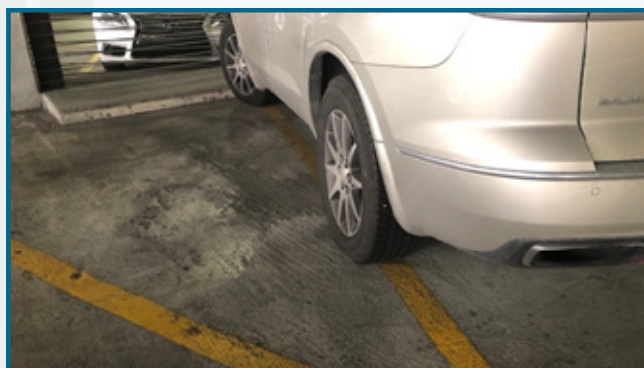
Report any violations to (225) 389-1428. Calls go directly to the toll booth operators, as well as the operations office.



Many overlook the signage and forget to turn their headlights on upon entering the garage.



Please abide by designated signage for handicapped spots and compact cars. Report any untagged vehicle parking illegally in a handicapped spot.



Be sure to park within the lines, and long bed trucks should not be parked on the end of a row.



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LDEQ geologist participates in sustainability webinar hosted by Centenary College

Jesse Means, a geologist in LDEQ's Aquifer Protection Unit, participated in an April 9 webinar discussion about water resources and sustainability. The event was hosted by his alma mater, Centenary College in Shreveport.

During the webinar, Means provided an overview of LDEQ's water quality program and how the department ensures that water bodies across the state are meeting their designated uses. He explained how water quality standards are established and how the department monitors and samples water bodies to support those standards. Permitting, effluent limitations, best management practices and educational programs for protecting drinking water were other areas discussed.



LDEQ Geologist Jesse Means, shown here documenting information on a water well, participated in a webinar as a Centenary College alumnus.

"Striving for a Sustainable Future," recorded on Zoom, is part of a new program called "Centenary Currents," an ongoing series of conversations designed to create a dialogue between Centenary and the Shreveport-Bossier community. The series plans to feature conversations with professors, alumni and community leaders across various disciplines, where questions are asked and solutions discussed.

The program is a half-hour discussion between a Centenary staffer, an alumnus in the relevant field of discussion and a local community partner. Each participant provides their own take on the issue at hand.

Dr. David Bieler served as the moderator for "Striving for a Sustainable Future," participating on behalf of the Centenary faculty, with alumnus Donna Curtis of Shreveport Green representing the community partner and Means representing Centenary as an alumnus.

Means also touched on the state, local and independent partnerships involved in water quality protection, with each partner tasked with specific roles that fall under the oversight of the EPA.

"It was rewarding to have my alma mater reach out to me for my professional knowledge and fun to catch up with one of my college professors. I feel this topic covered some really important issues facing Louisiana," Means said.

Eight episodes are planned, and each will be pre-recorded for monthly release. A current event will be discussed in each episode, and the roundtable format event will be led by a host. Topics include The Future of Education, Movements for Equity, Striving for a Sustainable Future, The Future of Arts & Entertainment, Solutions to a Science Crisis, The Ever-Changing Business Environment, Finding Hope in the Midst of Turmoil and The Importance of Giving Back.

The episode on sustainability is expected to be released in time for Earth Day on April 22.

To view their upcoming webinars, check out Centenary's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBYD2aU8ZFY0gGtaQz7wZag>.



The Southeast Regional Office lends a philanthropic hand

While this past year has certainly been trying, a group of employees in LDEQ's Southeast Regional Office (SERO), decided to do something positive in the spirit of St. Joseph's Day.

Sicily experienced a terrible drought in the Middle Ages that was only remedied by a prayer for rain to St. Joseph. Rain soon came, and the island's spring crops were spared, preventing famine. This event was the genesis of St. Joseph's Day, celebrated on March 19, where feeding the needy created a call to action. That call has since spread to many communities worldwide.

Particularly popular in New Orleans, as a major port of entry for many Sicilian immigrants in the 19th century, the Feast of St. Joseph has grown into a prominent event where altars are built to pay homage. After the altar is dismantled, the donated food is typically delivered to charities.

In a nod to that tradition, SERO put together a bake sale to raise money for the American Heart Association.

"It has been hard being a New Orleanian this year in the Southeast Regional Office, as many of us found ourselves bound by the restrictions of COVID but still wanted to make some sort of effective change or contribution and continue our city's celebration of generosity and giving," said Elizabeth Levy, a geologist with SERO. "So, within our microcosm of an office, we were inspired by the spirit of a St. Joseph's Day altar to create a bake sale to benefit the American Heart Association."



Volunteers with LDEQ's Southeast Regional Office held a bake sale in support of the American Heart Association.

"This wonderful group of folks is quick to support. Last week, a few ladies stayed up late and baked items to sell as part of the fundraising campaign," said Kai Green, administrative coordinator at SERO. Green even came up with a motto for the group: "SERO Cares."

Putting together a table filled with baked goodies, several employees in the office chipped in to offer up various culinary delights. Adrienne Gossman and Whitney Brasher with the Remediation Division brought chocolate brownies, chocolate oatmeal bars and a popular almond cream cheese pound cake.

Rebecca Otte, the office's Brownsfield expert in Remediation, baked lemon poppy seed cookies, chocolate chai brownies, chocolate peppermint cheesecake brownies and chocolate chip cookies.

Kai Green provided rum cakes, while Elizabeth Levy baked Italian wedding cookies and fresh made Zeppole di San Giuseppe (an Italian pastry).

"Overall, we wound up raising \$212 for the American Heart Association," Levy reported. In addition, the office participated in a blood drive held April 12, which assisted the Red Cross in its call for much needed blood donations.

"Our office may be small, but we pride ourselves on the tenets of generosity, celebration and generously celebrating. To all who participated and those who purchased goods, thank you and arrivederci all' anno prossimo."



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Who's Who At LDEQ?



Kalyn M. Fletcher, M.S. – Environmental Scientist II, Office of Environmental Compliance/Emergency & Radiological Services Division/Radiation Division, Northwest Regional Office

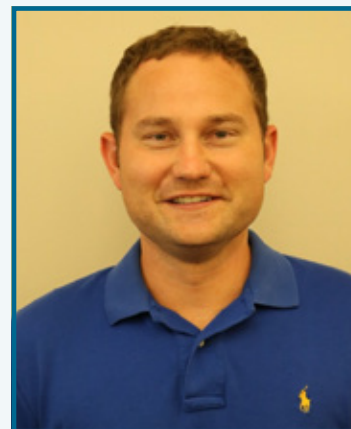
A Texas native fresh from New Jersey, Fletcher joined LDEQ as an environmental scientist for the radiation division. Fletcher earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Texas A&M University with a major in biology and a minor in chemistry. Fletcher then earned her Master's degree in biotechnology from the University of Texas Health Science Center. Her work was published a handful of times both as a student working within the Center for Pulmonary Infectious Disease Control as well as post-graduation as a collaborator while living in New Jersey.

Fletcher enjoys freshwater fishing, kayaking, snorkeling and misses deep-sea fishing from living on the coast, but also really enjoys being a couch potato where she swears she has almost beaten Netflix. Pre-COVID, Fletcher enjoyed cooking and spending time with friends playing board games/movie nights and is ready to be social again.

Bradley Gauthier – Environmental Scientist IV, Office of Environmental Assessment, Air Field Services

Gauthier is a native of Hessmer who moved to Baton Rouge in 2001 to attend LSU. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in 2005. In 2011, he began working at the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources before coming aboard with LDEQ's Surveillance Division in 2016. He was recently promoted to Environmental Scientist IV as an operator in the Mobile Air Monitoring Lab in the Air Field Services section.

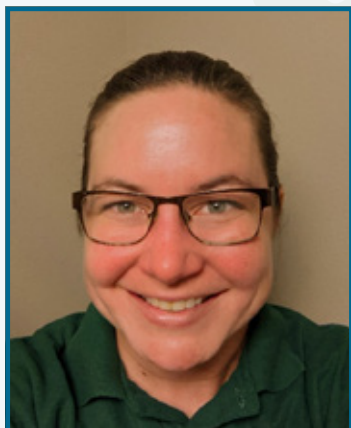
Gauthier enjoys outdoor activities, running, kayaking, swimming, LSU football, traveling, cooking, hiking and camping.



Amanda LeBlanc- Environmental Scientist IV, Office of Environmental Assessment, Air Field Services, Acadiana Regional Office

LeBlanc earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in 2009. She came aboard with LDEQ in 2017 as an environmental scientist. LeBlanc has recently been promoted to Environmental Scientist IV in the Data Division of Air Field Services.

LeBlanc enjoys tennis, camping, kayaking, traveling and scuba diving in her free time.





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Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's First Quarter Summaries

First Quarter 2021 Enforcement Actions:

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

First Quarter 2021 Settlement Agreements:

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

First Quarter 2021 Air Permits:

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

First Quarter 2021 Water Permits:

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

First Quarter 2021 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

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

