



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



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Hurricanes In Louisiana – What to do?

Hurricanes and tropical weather are a fact of life for most Louisianans, but early preparation and understanding your risk are key to being ready.

Hurricane season is June 1 to Nov. 30 every year. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the outlook for the 2022 Atlantic hurricane season for the seventh straight year shows a 65% chance of having an above-normal hurricane season. This year, NOAA's Climate Prediction Center predicts above-average hurricane activity attributable to several climate factors. These include above average Atlantic temperatures and ongoing La Niña that are likely to persist through hurricane season.

Warmer than average sea surface temperatures in the Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea, weaker tropical Atlantic trade winds and an enhanced West African monsoon all contribute. Some of the strongest hurricanes are supported by the monsoon and Easterly African Waves, according to NOAA. Historically Louisiana has been the bullseye for many of these destructive storms.



Surviving Hurricane season takes planning and it is important not to put it off. There are steps you can take now to protect your family and your property. Get a game plan. Go to www.getagameplan.org for information.

Determine your risk

Use the tools available to you to help you plan Download the Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Guide at <http://gohsep.la.gov/prepare/emergency-preparedness-guide>. Get the FEMA app at www.ready.gov/fema-app for a personalized disaster resource. For more information go to www.ready.gov/hurricanes.

Will you stay or will you go?

When a hurricane is imminent, that may be the first decision you have to make. You should develop a written evacuation plan and be sure everyone concerned has a copy. Do you know what the evacuation routes are, where you would go, how you would communicate with others? If you have relatives or friends where you might stay, contact them before necessary. What will you do with your pets? You should

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know the shelters that would be available in case you need one. These are important steps to knowing what to do and when to do it and knowing them will protect you. Write it down.

Other safeguards:

- Have prescription medicines
- Have money or travelers check available
- Be aware of the special needs of family members and where to access them
- Have an emergency supply kit for home, evacuation and car in case you get stranded.

An Example Of A Basic Disaster Supplies Kit

To assemble your kit, store items in airtight plastic bags and put your entire disaster supplies kit in one or two easy-to-carry containers such as plastic bins or a duffel bag. A basic emergency supply kit could include the following recommended items:

- Water (one gallon per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation)
- Food (at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food)
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert
- Flashlight
- First aid kit
- Extra batteries
- Whistle (to signal for help)
- Dust mask (to help filter contaminated air)
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape (to shelter in place)
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties (for personal sanitation)
- Wrench or pliers (to turn off utilities)
- Manual can opener (for food)
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery

Consider adding the following items to your emergency supply kit based on your individual needs:

- Cloth face coverings (for everyone ages 2 and above), soap, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes to disinfect surfaces
- Prescription medications
- Non-prescription medications such as pain relievers, anti-diarrhea medication, antacids or laxatives
- Prescription eyeglasses and contact lens solution
- Infant formula, bottles, diapers, wipes and diaper rash cream
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Cash or traveler's checks
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records saved electronically or in a waterproof, portable container
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- Complete change of clothing appropriate for your climate and sturdy shoes
- Fire extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children



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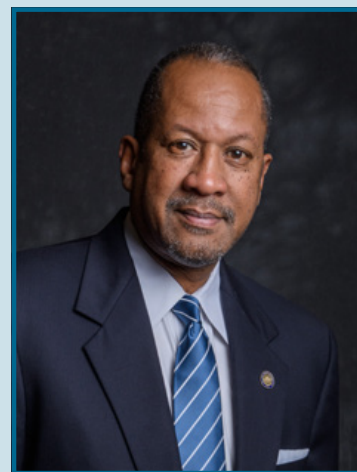
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Message from the Secretary

Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.

Turn on a network news broadcast, surf an internet news site or listen to a radio news broadcast as you drive to work and you will hear one story shared on every outlet: record heat. Triple digit heat indices stretch from Texas to New England and across the Midwest and Plains. Wildfires rage in California and other parts of the western U.S. Drought grips that region. Lakes have shrunk to their lowest levels in historic times. There is talk of pumping in seawater to replenish the vanishing Great Salt Lake.

In northern Europe, it is the same. Last week, England recorded its highest temperature ever observed – 102 Fahrenheit. Rails on train tracks warped in southern England. Perhaps most amazing, temperatures in Greenland rose to the mid-60s. Scientists there estimate that water from the melting Greenland ice sheet amounts to 6 billion tons of water per day, adding to concerns over sea level rise.



Dr Chuck Carr Brown

It's not the plot of a disaster movie nor the fevered imaginings of a dystopian novel. It's reality.

The effects of climate change can't be reversed, but they can still be slowed and even stopped. Many environmentalists are throwing up their hands and embracing "climate doom." Doomists think that warming has already passed the point of no return. They are wrong. We have a full toolbox, and we can use it. We can engineer better buildings and houses, harvest energy from non-carbon sources like solar and wind, plant more trees, paint our streets a lighter color, reduce carbon emissions, develop carbon sequestration. We can do thousands of other things as well.

What we can't do is wait any longer to ramp up our response to climate change. The time is now.

The In-door, Out-door Syndrome

Reading this newsletter, you will see some changes in staffing. Change is a constant in any organization. It's normal. People are promoted. Some leave, some new people come in. I understand that, but it still pains me when I see institutional knowledge walk out the door. It's the experience of our senior staff that propels us. I appreciate each and every person in our workforce, but I know that new people have a learning curve ahead of them. That makes training one of the most important things we do. Don't neglect it.

Core Value

This month's core value is "we will manage our resources effectively and efficiently to deliver value to the public." That's about working hard and working smart to maximize our output. We have to use our resources wisely, and our main resource is our people. Our staff is highly educated and well-trained in the specific areas of concern we address: environmental regulation, reduction of pollution, responding to emergencies that impact the environment, addressing remediation of environmental impacts, permitting activities that may impact the environment.

Stay Safe

I don't have to say it again but I will. It's hot. That brings special hazards to those outside working in the heat. Be careful. Take breaks. Drink plenty of fluids. Get in the air conditioning once in a while. Take care of yourself and keep an eye on your coworkers. If they show signs of heat stress, know what to do.



The Air Quality Index – What you need to know

The Air Quality Index (AQI) is a tool for you to use to help you understand the air quality in your area and how it may affect your health. It is designed to help you make informed decisions concerning outdoor activities particularly for sensitive groups.

The AQI is divided into six categories with six colors, each corresponding to a different level of air quality and health concerns. Each color represents an easily definable air quality stage. In Louisiana, the AQI generally represents to pollutants Ozone and Fine Particulate Matter (PM 2.5).

On the AQI, green represents good air quality with little health risks. Yellow represents moderate air quality that poses little risk except for people who are unusually sensitive to air quality. The color orange represents air quality that is unhealthy for sensitive groups. At the orange level, sensitive groups may experience health effects. These groups include asthmatics, children and older adults and those with respiratory concerns.

If you are signed up for EnviroFlash, the free automatic AQI notification system at www.deq.louisiana.gov/enviroflash you will receive an Air Quality advisory so you can make decisions about your activities. AQI color red represents unhealthy and everyone may begin to experience health effects. Purple represents very unhealthy and is a health alert and maroon is considered hazardous and would represent health warnings of emergency conditions. In Louisiana, we have not had purple and maroon days.

LDEQ offers other ways to keep up with air quality. The public can get current air quality data, AQ forecast regional 8-hour and hourly ozone data, air quality site monitoring data and information and a place to sign up for notifications of ozone, PM 2.5 and SO₂ (Sulphur Dioxide) by accessing it on the LDEQ website at <https://airquality.deq.louisiana.gov>.

Knowing your air quality allows you to make informed decisions about your activities.

AIR QUALITY INDEX FOR OZONE AND PM2.5				
Category	Value	Ozone 2008 8-HR (PPM)	24-HR PM2.5 (µg/m3)	Suggested Precautions
Good	0-50	0.000-0.059	0-15	None
Moderate	51-100	0.060-0.075	16-35	Unusually Sensitive People Limit Prolonged Outdoor Exertion
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101-150	0.076-0.095	36-65	Sensitive People & Children Limit Prolonged Outdoor Exertion
Unhealthy	151-200	0.096-0.115	66-150	Everyone Limit Prolonged Outdoor Exertion
Very Unhealthy	201-300	0.116-0.374	151-200	Sensitive People Avoid All Outdoor Exertion; Everyone Else Limit Prolonged Outdoor Exertion
Hazardous	301-500	0.375 & up	201 & up	Everyone, especially children and sensitive people, avoid all outdoor exertion.



Fluorometer enhances LDEQ's water sampling effort

A recent addition to the Aquifer Protection and Evaluation Unit's toolbox is a new field instrument known as a fluorometer. The device enhances the team's water sampling activities by pinpointing certain constituents of concern in samples in a quicker fashion.

Made by Turner Designs, the handheld AquaFluor fluorometer is perfectly suited for use in the field. Running on AAA batteries, it is lightweight, waterproof, dustproof, durable and easy to carry. It can be calibrated easily and quickly so that users can see sampling results within seconds, drastically reducing lab testing turnaround time.

Acquired for the department's drinking water protection mission, the fluorometer's unique feature is its ability to detect optical brighteners in samples. Specifically, the device measures fluorescence as an indicator of concentrations of optical brighteners found in laundry detergent.

Optical brighteners are dyes that are added to almost all laundry soaps, cleaning agents and detergents in order to brighten fabrics and/or surfaces. The largest contributor of optical brighteners in wastewater comes from laundry effluent since it retains a significant amount of them dissolved. If a high optical brightener reading appears in the fluorometer, then it's an indicator that soap or detergent is present – which means that there is a human cause for the impairment.

"Laundry effluent is predominantly associated with sanitary wastewater. Toilet paper also contains fluorescent whitening agents, so as the paper breaks down, those agents are released into water," said Mary Gentry, geologist with LDEQ's Aquifer Protection and Evaluation Unit. "Since optical brighteners decompose relatively slowly, they serve as ideal indicators of illicit discharges in storm drains, leaking pipes from community wastewater treatment systems, and/or failing onsite wastewater systems. If optical brighteners are found in our water samples, along with fecal coliform, it helps us confirm that the source of the coliform is human sewage and not just from wildlife."

To calibrate the meter, a standard sample and a deionized water sample are used so that accurate readings can be acquired. Samples are then inserted into the meter, and an instant reading is displayed. A reading at 10.00 ppb (parts per billion) or above typically indicates that the optical brightener level in the sample is high.



Before collecting a sample, LDEQ Geologists Mary Gentry and Jesse Means visually inspect a storm drain to check for water clarity and sampling accessibility



Means and Gentry gather a water sample from a designated "hot spot" discharge site.

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The water sample is poured into a tiny plastic vessel that is inserted into the AquaFluor meter. Optical Brightener readings are shown within seconds.

“Fluorometry has a high degree of sensitivity, accuracy, and repeatability, though interpretation of results can be confounded by natural substances found in streams such as humic acids, which also fluoresce. Exposure to UV light and measuring the reduction in fluorescence over time can aid in distinguishing natural sources from detergents since detergents photo-decay rapidly,” Gentry explained.

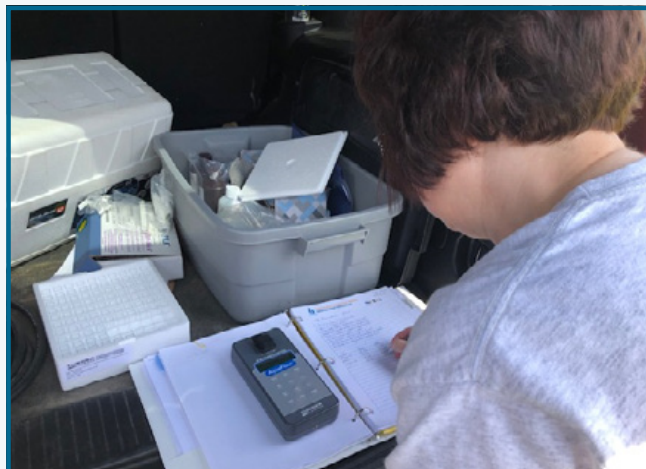
The addition of the fluorometer has enhanced the team’s ability to identify and address high fecal coliform levels in water samples, supporting the team’s work under the Drinking Water Protection Program (DWPP). Under the Program, Louisiana’s public water sources are identified and the team works closely with local communities to mitigate any impairments and address potential water related issues.

Determining whether sewage systems are a contributing source of the high fecal coliform levels in a water body is always a challenge. Comparing fecal coliform sampling results against optical brightener fluorometry numbers can help pinpoint areas of concern and possible origins. Information gathered from this effort will help to address any problems regarding malfunctioning onsite sewage systems.

For each sample event, both fecal coliform samples and optical brightener readings are taken in order to determine whether or not the fecal coliform findings are of human origin. High fecal coliform levels in conjunction with high optical brightener readings will typically indicate that human sewage is the source of the fecal coliform. A laboratory analysis for human molecular markers can further differentiate wastewater as the source.

Optical brighteners offer an advantage as indicators (or surrogates) for detecting sewage in a water sample. “Detection is nearly instantaneous in the field, the equipment used is relatively inexpensive, no formal training is needed, and large numbers of samples can be analyzed in a short period of time,” Gentry explained.

“Where fecal contamination is known or is suspected to occur, the detection of optical brighteners with the fluorometer can aid in pollution screening and source identification.”



The sample’s location, time taken and optical brightener readings are recorded in a logbook.



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Southwest Regional Office staff present water quality information in Calcasieu

LDEQ's Small Business Assistance Program (SBAP) personnel and employees from the LDEQ Southwest Regional Office Surveillance Division teamed up to present information to patrons of the Calcasieu Parish Central Library and their children.

Water was the theme of the event. Ella Barbe with LDEQ's Small Business Assistance Program (SBAP) engaged the children in a demonstration of the water cycle with a discussion of water conservation. Carolette Wright with SBAP presented a hands-on interactive demonstration of the Enviroscape Watershed Model. Leslie Taylor and Nicolas Bent from LDEQ's Surveillance Division, demonstrated how to test water quality. Various solutions were tested using water quality monitoring instruments.

Tracy Ashby with the Calcasieu Parish Central Library organized the event.



Left to right, LDEQ environmental scientists Carolette Wright, Nicolas Bent, Ella Barbe, Leslie Taylor, alongside Tracy Ashby(r) with the Calcasieu Parish Library.



Nicolas Bent and Leslie Taylor demonstrate the water quality testing model.



LDEQ's Ella Barbe discusses the water cycle and water conservation methods.



Barksdale Air Force Base continues its environmental sustainability programs

While many businesses, organizations and installations are doing their part to promote sustainable operations, the concepts of reduce/reuse/recycle/repurpose are in full swing at Barksdale Air Force Base in Bossier Parish.

As the largest employer in the Shreveport-Bossier region, the base hosts around 13,000 to 15,000 people, and with those numbers, trash and recyclables can accumulate quickly. The continuous flow of incoming and outgoing personnel and their families means the recycling and sustainability message must be constantly promoted. New arrivals must be informed about Barksdale's multi-pronged effort to support sustainable practices.

Barksdale recycles almost 400 tons a year, and the income from those sales goes right back into the recycling effort -- funding the transportation and salvage/recovery contractors and maintaining the program.

As of June 2022, there are 110 refuse containers and 64 recyclable containers distributed throughout the base. They are positioned along commonly frequented areas such as the barracks and base housing areas, the commissary and exchange, and along the flight line, hangars and squadron and wing command units. "The general idea is to place at least one recycling container every 200 yards or so on the base, with a safe distance of about 50 yards from every building," Garza said. Seeing the continual presence of recycling containers on the base makes it easier for visitors, families and service members to properly discard their recyclables and foster positive, environmentally friendly habits.



Recycling containers are paired with trash containers throughout the base to facilitate ease of disposal and to promote materials separation.



Alfredo Garza, Barksdale's recycling manager, tours the recycling center.

The high visibility of those containers falls in line with Executive Order 13423 (promulgated in 2007) which mandated that all federal facilities maintain waste prevention and recycling programs that were results-oriented and cost-effective. While the order effectively enhanced the programs that were already underway at U.S. military installations, Barksdale ramped up its programs to support the directive's overall goal.

Under federal recycling mandates, cardboard and paper are the required recyclables for U.S. military bases, which is easily the most prevalent recyclable at Barksdale, with the base commissary being the biggest contributor of cardboard boxes. The current rate is about \$100 per ton of cardboard, which is a very common material aboard the base, as shipping/moving boxes and food boxes constitute a big presence. "We recycled 162 tons of cardboard last year, just from the base recycling center," Garza noted. "We still recycle as much as we

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can. At our recycling facility, we still collect cardboard, paper products, aluminum, glass, scrap metal and tin cans.” A secure, outdoor area near the base commissary, the base recycling center allows for donors to drive in and drop off goods for recycling or reuse on a 24/7 basis. It includes signage and surveillance cameras to ensure that everything operates in accordance with the guidelines. A shed that accepts materials for Goodwill is near the exit, so that furniture, housewares, books and clothing can easily be donated rather than simply discarded.



Broken concrete from the base's runways is collected, crushed and ground into a sandy composition that will be repurposed to repair runway imperfections. The material will also be used to complete an entrance road to a new gate currently under construction at the base.

“The bulk of our income is from tin, iron, brass, copper, aluminum, aluminum sheet and scrap. We get about \$500 to \$600 per roll-off container for steel, and copper sells for 60 to 90 cents a pound, depending on the grade,” Garza said. The base also recycles oil and refrigerants, which has become another effective venture. “Our used oil is going up and in demand because Barksdale’s oil is clean and mostly free of impurities.”

Another program underway at Barksdale is unique when it comes to the concepts of reuse and repurposing.

Maintaining safe, properly performing runways is perhaps the most essential area in terms of the Air Force mission. As runways on the base are continually impacted from planes taxiing and landing, repair work is both vital, mission-critical and never-ending. To meet strict federal guidelines for safety and runway operations, Barksdale has operated a successful concrete grinding and replenishment

Since military runways under continual scrutiny in terms of safety and reliability, sections that contain significant imperfections must be identified for repair. Under the program, compromised sections are removed and transported to an area on the base where they are ground up into a sandy composition. Meanwhile, completed composite material is repurposed to seal and/or fill in the unserviceable sections. The program essentially takes recycled concrete, repurposes it and uses it as a base layer prior to the final concrete pour.

New sections have an expected 50-year lifespan, so the quality of the replaced areas must meet high standards for durability. This cycle keeps the concrete in-house while saving time and money on outsourcing repairs to third parties where delays could create serious problems. It’s a full circle project that takes the old, reconditions it and returns it back into a stronger form where it can be useful. At least 2,640 tons of concrete was recycled during FY 21, and future plans call for the refurbished material to go toward a new gate entrance – expected to be completed around 2025.

Waste reduction on the base also carries over to uniforms. The Airman’s Attic is a swap center on the base where Air Force members and families can exchange serviceable uniforms, as well as furniture and household items free of charge. The Attic recently made movement of goods easier, launching an online system that allows



At the brass deformer machine, Garza inspects the crimped brass casings that will be melted down and repurposed.



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Signage at the recycling center entrance and on the containers identify which materials are accepted, making it easier for donors to do the right thing.

participants to view and pick up items online through networking, instead of requiring physical drop-offs at the Attic. A popular resource among service members looking for cost-savings options, the Airman's Attic successfully moves about 40 tons of goods per month.

One recent boon to the program was the purchase of a \$70,000 brass deforming machine, which crimps or deforms spent brass cartridges, rendering them safe. Once crimped, the brass casings are ready to be melted down, where they will ultimately be reformed into new casings and processed for sale. The acquisition of the deformer means that Barksdale can now recoup 100% of brass sales, which is currently around \$1.50 per pound. for deformed brass.

Much like the brass that sees new a new lease on life, nearly everything coming through the base can be recycled or repurposed. This extends to furniture that is frequently swapped out as service members come and go. Old chairs typically involve a combination of metal (which Barksdale can get paid for) and wood waste (which

can be used for art or carpentry projects). Furnishings, steel from demolished structures, wiring, brass and light poles can be dropped off at the base recycling processing area whereby they're evaluated, sorted, broken down and ultimately kept out of landfills. There is a use for practically everything, and looking at the pro-environmental alternatives is a never-ending process at Barksdale.

"Everyone can make a difference, even if it's in the smallest of ways," Garza noted. "It all adds up and sustainability works best when everyone participates."

Love the Boot Week. Let's Keep it going!

In April 2022, Louisiana stepped up and cleaned up. Keep Louisiana Beautiful, the Lt. Governor, the Governor's Litter Task Force, KLB Affiliates, organizations, families and everyday folks, worked hard, became involved and made Love the Boot Week successful. The stats confirm that:

During Love the Boot Week:

- 293 tons of litter were removed
- 280 registered cleanup and beautification events in 54 parishes were held
- 8,476 volunteer and participants joined the effort
- Plastic bottles, bags, Styrofoam, paper fast food packaging, cans, cigarette butts and more were removed and bagged
- Louisiana looks better for all of the efforts, but the momentum must continue. What can you do to keep it going?
- Organize a cleanup or volunteer
- Take the fourth Saturday cleanup pledge at www.lovetheboot.org and clean up an area of in your community every month
- When you see litter – PICK IT UP –
- Join KLB at www.keeplouisianabeautiful.org.

Taking care of Louisiana is everyone responsibility. Let's keep the momentum going and remember LOVE THE BOOT WEEK will be April 17 -23, 2023. We can do this.



LDEQ Legal staff changes



Courtney Burdette

Two members of LDEQ's legal staff have new jobs and have new titles. LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown named Courtney Burdette his Executive Counsel June 27. "Courtney is an extremely competent attorney and is well versed in environmental law," Brown said.

Burdette first began working in the LDEQ legal division in 2014. She has served as general counsel for the agency since 2020, the first black woman to hold that job. She is a native of Baton Rouge who earned her juris doctorate degree from LSU Law School after earning a bachelor's degree in English at Howard University in Washington, D.C. Burdette clerked for Judge Ralph Tyson and Judge Brian Jackson of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana. She previously worked for the State of Louisiana as an Assistant Attorney General with the Louisiana Department of Justice Litigation Division.

Burdette is married and has two children, Carter and Payton.

Burdette will now work more directly with the secretary. She has turned over administration of the approximately 25-person legal section to longtime assistant Dwana King.

"Dwana is more than up for the challenge," Burdette said.

King joined the department in 2003 and has served as a staff attorney, enforcement attorney supervisor and general law attorney supervisor. Prior to joining LDEQ, King was a tax attorney for the Louisiana Department of Revenue for 10 years. Before entering state service, King served in the federal government as a field attorney in Region 15 of the National Labor Relations Board covering a 4-state region.

King received her Juris Doctor from Southern University Law Center in 1990 and has a B.A. in Broadcast Journalism from the University of New Orleans.

"During my time at DEQ, I have formed a lot of great working relationships with wonderful people, and I look forward to continuing to build these relationships in my new position as General Counsel," King said.

King is married with two adult children, Christian and Cara.



Dwana King



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Who's Who At LDEQ?



**Guy LaFleur – Environmental Scientist Manager,
Water Planning and Assessment Division/Water Surveys, Office of Environmental Assessment**

A native of Ville Platte, LaFleur graduated from LSU with a master's degree in fisheries and began his career at LDEQ in 1994 with the Water Enforcement Section. In 1999, he transferred to the newly formed Water Surveys Section.

LaFleur enjoys the outdoors, hunting and fishing, exercising, cooking, LSU football and baseball, and hanging out with family and friends.

Tiffany Shelton – Accountant, Financial Services Division, Office of Management and Finance

Shelton is a native of Fenton, a village in Jefferson Davis Parish. She graduated from McNeese State University with a bachelor of science degree in accounting in 2003, followed by an MBA from the University of Phoenix in 2008. Shelton is now working in LDEQ's Financial Services Division as an accountant.

She enjoys spending time with her husband and two daughters. She also loves swimming, bowling, and skating.



**Brodie Meche – Environmental Scientist IV, Surveillance Division,
Office of Environmental Compliance**

Meche was born in Opelousas. He earned a bachelor's degree in biology from University of Louisiana, Lafayette. He moved to Central in 2016 and joined LDEQ in August 2021 after working for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for 10 years as a marine biologist.

Meche is also a part-time fitness instructor and enjoys the gym, camping, cooking, foraging, and plants.



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Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's Second Quarter Summaries

Second Quarter 2022 Enforcement Actions:

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

Second Quarter 2022 Settlement Agreements:

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

Second Quarter 2022 Air Permits:

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

Second Quarter 2022 Water Permits:

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

Second Quarter 2022 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

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

