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## LDEQ Emergency Response personnel participate in State Police Hazardous Materials Training Program

Emergency Responders from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) received their annual HAZMAT Technician Refresher certifications from the Louisiana State Police Hazardous Materials Training Program at the Joint Emergency Services Training Center (JESTC) Feb. 15. JESTC is an advanced training complex maintained and operated by Louisiana State Police located in Zachary. The facility offers hands-on emergency response training to members of the military, law enforcement, fire departments, industry and local and state agencies.

Thirteen LDEQ employees traveled to JESTC to participate in the training. The training was provided by E3 Environmental and focused on the transfer of hazardous materials in transport containers.

“The training focused on grounding and bonding, and then the subsequent transfer of hazardous material from a damaged tanker trailer. LDEQ emergency personnel respond to multiple incidents each year that require the off-loading of flammable materials from

damaged or rolled-over tankers, therefore it is important for us all to understand how to complete the transfer of product as safely and efficiently as possible,” Emergency Response Supervisor Christian Flucke said.



LDEQ Emergency Responders, Louisiana State Police and members Baton Rouge Fire Department receive instruction on how to bond and ground trailers for product transfers during an emergency situation.

LDEQ employees received instruction on how to properly connect highway and railcar transport containers in preparation of transferring hazardous materials. This process known as grounding and bonding is a crucial step in the process if transferring materials. Grounding and bonding containers is performed by using a series of wires to “bond” the trailers together and then “ground” the trailers by using a grounding rod driven into the ground nearby. In an uncontrolled environment such as an emergency condition, this procedure must be constructed on-site in an attempt to eliminate any possible sources of ignition due to static electricity during the transfer process.

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Daniel Lambert, LDEQ senior environmental scientist said, “LDEQ Emergency Responders often train with LSP as well as a multitude of other local, state, and industrial response entities across the state. These training sessions not only instruct on proper response techniques, but also provide an avenue to foster better working relationships and maintain crucial contact information for those within the response community.”

## Sign up for EnviroFlash to Be Air Aware

It is important to be aware of the air quality. It is important for your health, especially if you are in sensitive groups – those who have respiratory issues, children and older adults. An easy way to keep informed about air quality is through the EnviroFlash notification system. EnviroFlash is a free e-mail and text alert system that delivers air quality information straight to an inbox or phone. To subscribe, citizens can fill in basic information such as their e-mail, ZIP code and the frequency with which they would like to receive notifications. The subscriber will then receive alerts either daily or when ozone or particle pollution is expected to be unhealthy.

Many subscribers choose to be notified when the Air Quality Index reaches the orange level, which triggers an Air Quality Advisory. Another benefit to subscribing to EnviroFlash is that DEQ will send out emails to subscribers when there is an event, such as a fire, that affects air quality. LDEQ encourages all citizens to sign up for EnviroFlash. Sign up for the EnviroFlash system at these statewide web addresses:

- <http://batonrougearea.enviroflash.info>
- <http://neworleansarea.enviroflash.info>
- <http://shreveportarea.enviroflash.info>
- <http://alexandriaarea.enviroflash.info>
- <http://lakecharlesarea.enviroflash.info>
- <http://monroearea.enviroflash.info>
- <http://thibodauxarea.enviroflash.info>
- <http://lafayettearea.enviroflash.info>

Ground level ozone forms when pollutants emitted by cars, industrial sources and other sources react chemically in the presence of sunlight. During hot, sunny months, ozone becomes a greater concern. Hot, dry weather often means a higher chance of air pollution. EnviroFlash advisories can help keep the public informed about air quality so they can make good decisions on outdoor activity. For more information on current air quality, go to the DEQ website: <https://airquality.deq.louisiana.gov> and the interactive EPA website [www.airnow.gov](http://www.airnow.gov).

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.



## Message from the Secretary

*Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.*



*Dr. Chuck Carr Brown*

I hope you all had a good Mardi Gras holiday, enjoyed the Super Bowl and participated in Black History Month with friends and co-workers. February always flies by. Maybe because so many things are packed into 28 days (sometimes 29).

Now March is on us, and more events are upcoming. The annual Louisiana Environmental Conference and Solid Waste Conference will be held March 15-17 at the Cajundome in Lafayette. Lots of speakers will be present (including me), as well as exhibitors, classes on environmental subjects (many taught by LDEQ personnel) and much more. It's worth a visit. I hope LDEQ employees will take advantage of the training and networking opportunities the conference offers.

This is the time of year when we typically get spring storms. According to GOHSEP, peak season for tornadoes in the South is March until May. Tornadoes can happen any month, but this is when they are most likely because of the changing season. It might come as a surprise to you that tornadoes are not more common in hurricane season.

The big storms often generate tornadoes, but we don't get a hurricane every year. By comparison, there are more than 50 tornadoes every year in Louisiana. In 2020, we had 57 tornadoes, and they did \$258,194,000 in property damage.

Human lives are often lost in tornadoes because they can happen suddenly. Our warning systems have gotten better in recent years and give more advance notice of approaching bad weather. Just don't ignore a tornado watch and especially be on your toes for a tornado warning. Have a safe place to go. Don't stay in a mobile home or moveable structure of any kind. Stay alert and stay safe. GOHSEP has some good tips and tornado information on their website at <https://gohsep.la.gov/ABOUT/LOUISIANA-HAZARDS-THREATS/TORNADOES>.

I was at the groundbreaking for the Magnolia Power Generating Station near Plaquemine Feb. 13. It was a beautiful day for an outside event, sunny and cool. The plant will produce more than 700 megawatts of power to serve half a million homes a year. The plant will help make the grid more resilient and dependable for areas served by five rural electric cooperatives. Magnolia Power Generating Station is a project of a consortium of companies and will bring up to 475 construction and 25 direct and 94 indirect permanent jobs to the Capital area as well. It is being built with an eye to the future and will be able to run on either natural gas or hydrogen fuel. The \$750 million facility is expected to come online in May 2025.

There is a lot of debate about which power source to embrace for the future. This plant is a step toward a cleaner energy future. It will initially run on natural gas, a cleaner energy source than coal. Eventually, as the energy market evolves, it can switch to zero emission hydrogen fuel when that source becomes available as a competitive fuel. The future is now.

Lets go out and do our jobs with a renewed dedication as we move deeper into 2023. I know there will be many challenges this year. That never changes. I am confident our agency can meet those challenges. We are ready. Be safe, be engaged, be proactive.



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## Louisiana Environmental Conference and Trade Fair being held in March

The Louisiana Solid Waste Association and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) are pleased to announce the upcoming Louisiana Environmental Conference and Trade Fair March 15-17 at the Cajun Dome Convention Center in Lafayette. The conference will feature a varied agenda and classes including environmental justice tools, certified operators training, emergency debris management, landfill closures and regulatory updates and much more. CEUs will be available for solid waste operators, engineers and geologists. Mandatory ethics training will be available for public employees. It is going to be educational and a good time to find out about many subjects -- and to network with others in the environmental field. If you haven't registered yet, go to [www.lswa.us](http://www.lswa.us).

On March 15, 2023, there is a slate of events to attend:

- Solid Waste Operator Testing will begin at 9 a.m. in the Blues Room of the Cajun Dome Convention Center.
- Opening Reception at the Hilton Garden Inn, 2350 Congress St., 6:30-10 p.m.
- Four Person Golf Scramble at Les Vieux Chenes Gold Course – Lunch is at 10:30 a.m. and tee time is noon. Don't be late.

At 8 a.m. Thursday, March 16, LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown opens the day with an LDEQ update followed by general sessions on state of the state, PFAS and environmental justice tools. After lunch, there are break-out sessions from 2-5 p.m. on varied subjects.

On March 17, the exhibits and breakout sessions continue. We hope to see you there.

## The 2023 Clean Fuels Summit scheduled in Baton Rouge in April

This year the Clean Fuels Summit is scheduled to be held at the Raising Canes River Center April 19-20. The Clean Fuels Summit is coordinated by Louisiana Clean Fuels (LCF), the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR), the Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuels Partnership and Clean Cities. The event brings together stakeholders from around the Gulf-South region to network and discuss the latest in innovative clean fleet technologies and products. The 2023 Clean Fuels Summit and Expo summit offers general sessions and breakout sessions for participants to learn more about issues like funding, what works best for fleets, marine emissions, transportation resiliency and more.

Keynote speakers will be Gov. John Bel Edwards and Dr. Shawn Wilson, secretary of the Louisiana Department of Transportation (DOTD). A full agenda of sessions and event can be accessed at [www.louisianacleanfuels.org/meetinginfo.php](http://www.louisianacleanfuels.org/meetinginfo.php).

The day before the summit begins, LCF is sponsoring the Louisiana Clean Fuels Gold classic at Pelican Point Golf and Country Club, a charity golf scramble in support of Louisiana Clean Fuels. To join the fun you can get more information and register at [www.CleanFuelsClassic.com](http://www.CleanFuelsClassic.com).



# DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



February 2023 Issue Number: 133

## Keep Louisiana Beautiful says Let Louisiana Shine and registers for Love the Boot Week

### Help Clean Up Louisiana! Register for Love the Boot Week Today!

Love the Boot Week is April 17-23! Join us for seven days of community cleanup and beautification events held across the state! If you have not registered or organized an event for Love the Boot week, now is the time to do so. The first 250 organizations to register an event get a cleanup kit and the first 100 individuals/families to register an event get a Louisiana State Parks day pass.

Register for Love the Boot Week:  
<https://keeploouisianabeautiful.org/let-louisiana-shine>

Schools are invited to register and participate in Love the Boot week – the state largest litter cleanup and beautification event. Why?

- Hands on learning
- Earth Day Programming
- Engagement Opportunity
- Supplies and recognition

KLB has lesson plans and activity sheets for grades K-5 on litter. Pollution. Recycling and environmental stewardship.

You can download them free at <https://keeploouisianabeautiful.org/programs-events/environmental-education>.

The poster features the 'Keep Louisiana Beautiful' logo at the top left and the 'State of Louisiana' seal at the top right. The central text reads 'LOVE THE BOOT week' with 'LOVE' in white, 'THE BOOT' in white, and 'week' in orange script. Below this is the 'KEEP LOUISIANA BEAUTIFUL' logo. A blue banner contains the dates 'APRIL 17-23, 2023'. At the bottom, it says 'SIGN UP TO CLEAN UP AT LOVETHEBOOT.ORG'. Logos for 'THE Coca-Cola COMPANY' and 'Louisiana COX' are at the bottom.



## Who's Who At LDEQ?



**Chance Townsend, Public Information Officer, Office of the Secretary, Communications Section**

Townsend joined LDEQ as a Public Information Officer in the Communications section. He graduated from Louisiana State University in May 2022 with a bachelor's degree in public relations.

Before joining LDEQ, he served as the communications intern for East Baton Rouge Mayor Sharon Weston Broome. In his free time he enjoys hanging out with friends, playing video games and working out.

**Miranda Brengartner, Environmental Scientist, Office of Environmental Compliance, Emergency Response**

Brengartner graduated from the University of New Orleans with a Bachelor of Science. While at the university, she worked as an undergraduate researcher in the Dynamics of Sedimentation Lab. Before coming to LDEQ, she served on a Conservation and Disaster Relief crew with the Louisiana Conservation Corps.

In her free time she likes to hike, knit and hang out with her animals.



**Hannah Laville, Environmental Scientist, Office of Environmental Assessment, Air Planning and Assessment Division**

Laville graduated from LSU in December 2022 with a Bachelor of Science in natural resource ecology and management. While attending LSU, she worked at the LSU AgCenter managing aquatic invasive species by using insects as biological control.

In her spare time she enjoys going to local music shows, reading, bike riding and spending time with her family and the world's best dog (her pitbull/boxer mix).



**Retirees: John Jennings, Dwana King, Steven Schwartz and Clinton Twilly**



# **DISCOVER** DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



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## Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's Fourth Quarter Summaries

### Fourth Quarter 2022 Enforcement Actions:

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

### Fourth Quarter 2022 Settlement Agreements:

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

### Fourth Quarter 2022 Air Permits:

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

### Fourth Quarter 2022 Water Permits:

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

### Fourth Quarter 2022 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

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

