

Regional Parish OHSEP Director's Subcommittee  
State of Louisiana

Jeff Landry  
GOVERNOR



Dawson Primes  
CHAIRMAN

**Regional Parish OHSEP Director's Subcommittee Monthly Meeting**

Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 10:00 am

Over Watch Meeting Room

7667 Independence Blvd.

Baton Rouge, LA 70806

**ATTENDEES**

B.G. Jason Mahfouz, Neal Fudge, Mark Ward, Melton Gaspard, Matthew McKey, Neal Brown, Dean Davis, Dawson Primes, Earl Eues, Brandon Miguez, Rodger McConnell, Joey Frank, Clay Rives, John Rahaim, Melvin Jackson, Darren Guidry, Todd Smith, Amy Michiels, Meg Dejean, Kim Beetz, Leah Tatum, Teresa Basco, Ashley Leblanc, Matt Hammons, Marcella Horne, and Jamie Coley

**Call to Order /Welcome**

Dawson Primes called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM. Dawson completed the roll call and a quorum was established. Dawson welcomed the group.

Regions	Directors	Meeting Designee	Present	Absent
Region One	John Rahaim		P	
Region Two	Clay Rives		P	
Region Three	Earl Eues		P	
Region Four	Brandon Miguez		P	
Region Five	Jared Maze	Amy Michiels	P	
Region Six	Joey Frank		P	
Region Seven	Ian Snellgrove	Dean Davis	P	
Region Eight	Rodger McConnell		P	
Region Nine	Dawson Primes		P	
GOHSEP Director	Brig. Gen. Jason Mahfouz		P	

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES from January 2026**

**Motion by:** Earl Eues

**Seconded by:** John Rahaim

There were no oppositions. January 2026 minutes were approved.

## **GOHSEP Updates/ Reports**

Brig. Gen. Jason Mahfouz

- **Disaster Declarations**
  - Major Disaster Declaration for Winter Weather event (26-005)- delay in federal approval for a major declaration. Mississippi and Tennessee were approved first because their applications focused on emergency repairs rather than “permanent work”.
- **FEMA updates**
  - FEMA may face a shutdown if the DHS funding bill is not approved by February 13.
  - EMPG FY25 terms and conditions will require revision to comply with the recent summary judgment.

## **Preparedness Division Updates**

Matthew McKey, Preparedness Division Director

- **Preparedness Grants**
  - EMPG FY25 period of performance was extended and now begins in October 2024 (previously October 2025) and runs through September 2027.
    - GOHSEP anticipates required state-level updates to align with the changes.
- **Plans, Training, and Exercises**
  - The Statewide Exercise is scheduled for April 14–16.
  - PA/IA training will be offered in North Louisiana at the end of this month and again in Lafayette in April.
  - The Winter Weather After-Action Review (AAR) is scheduled for February 25. Parishes should contact their Regional Coordinator if they did not receive the email invitation.
- **School Safety**
  - School Safety Grants
    - Approximately \$500K remains available for FY25; encourage schools to continue submitting invoices for reimbursement.
    - Drafting legislation to require school safety incidents to LA SAFE within seven days and address frequency of school safety assessments.
- **Cyber Security**
  - Grant application period for FY23, FY24, and FY25 is January 1- February 28.
    - Applicants should focus on Mitigation & Training per the approved SLCGP plan.

- Only one application received to date (FY 23); multiple accounts created suggest more in progress.
- Mardi Gras Cyber Support
  - Virtual activation support for New Orleans critical infrastructure/cyber monitoring planned.
  - Threat intelligence monitoring statewide during Mardi Gras, relevant alerts to be shared.

## **Response Division Updates**

Mark Ward, Response Division Director

- **Logistics**
  - Closing out winter weather requests in WebEOC.
  - Rebidding LSA contract with added equipment to improve winter weather readiness before hurricane season.
  
- **Operations**
  - Mardi Gras Operations:
    - Support to NOHSEP and LSP (including counter- UAS), and integration at real-time crime center.
    - SEAR 1 event operational posture begins Friday through Fat Tuesday.
    - Crisis Action Team staffing at GOHSEP and in New Orleans during parade operations.
  
- **Intelligence Coordination Center (ICC)**
  - The initiative focuses on filling intelligence gaps for emergency management and disaster response, and is not intended to replace the Fusion Center.
  - ICC: Emergency management and homeland security intelligence
  - Fusion Center: Criminal intelligence
  - A draft charter has been developed outlining the structure of the state intelligence committee and identifying its key partner agencies
  
- **Homeland Security & Interoperability**
  - GOHSEP meeting with Motorola to extend contract
  
- **Regional Support**
  - No updates

## Recovery Division Updates

Lynne Browning, Recovery Division Director

- **Individual Assistance**
  - Validating residential damage assessments
  - 320 assessments after removing insured, duplicates, and irrelevant data
    - 166 affected, 3 destroyed, 26 major, 43 minor, and 132 unable to verify
  - SBA physical disaster loans require 25 or more homes/businesses with 40% or more uninsured loss per parish.
  
- **Public Assistance**
  - EM-3638:
    - Submitted our request for Major Declaration on Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>.
    - Request included:
      - PA CAT A-G for Bienville, Desoto, East Carroll, Franklin, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, and West Carrol
      - Snow assistance
      - 100% Federal cost share for 30 days
      - HMGP for listed parishes for winter weather resiliency projects
    - Still in review at HQ
    - PA PDAs being done virtually
    - Houses of Worship (HOW) are eligible for PA funding.
  
- **Hazard Mitigation**
  - Extensions:
    - DR 4570 (extension to October 11, 2026)
    - DR 4559 (extension to October 9, 2026)
    - DR 4606 (extension to November 26, 2026)
  - Closeouts- GOHSEP/FEMA projecting to close out the following disasters in 2026:
    - DR 1786
    - DR 4080
    - FMA 2011
    - FMA 2017

## Financial Operations and Administration Updates

Neal Fudge, GOHSEP Deputy Director

- **Budget:**
  - Senate Finance working through the FY27 budget, which is trending favorable

- While not all requests were supported, funding requests for ICC and LWIN have been included in the Executive Budget request.

### **OHSEP Directors Updates**

- Updates given by the Regional Directors.

### **Next Meeting**

- Date: March 10, 2026 (TBD)
- Time: 10:00 a.m.
- Location: GOHSEP- Overwatch Room

### **Adjourn**

- Meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.
- GOHSEP Director & OHSEP Regional Directors entered into Executive Session