



"RE-BUILDING THE CITY'S WATER SYSTEMS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY"

Sewerage & Water Board of NEW ORLEANS

MITCHELL J. LANDRIEU, President
WM. RAYMOND MANNING, President Pro-Tem

625 ST. JOSEPH STREET
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70165 • 504-529-2837 OR 52W-ATER
www.swbnola.org

TO: The News Media
From: Robert Jackson, 504-269-7978 or
Brenda Thornton, 504-269-7819
Date: June 1, 2012

Plans Continuously Upgraded

S&WB's Hurricane Preparedness Plans Began Early For Tropical Storm Season

The management and staff of the Sewerage & Water Board began its emergency planning and preparations early this year, as it has done in the past, as the tropical storm season quickly approaches.

Under the direction of Executive Director Marcia St. Martin, the Board's team of emergency responders--managers, directors and crucial employees are prepared to go into action as soon as necessary.

Mrs. St. Martin said, "Many goals are built into the plan, including an immediate reaction to any problems which may develop, the protection of our citizens and City, and the safety of our employees and their families."

The Board's new mobile command truck will further enhance communications and coordination efforts.

The S&WB leaders have met with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to ensure that coordination and communications between the two are in place and tested.

Preparation meetings and tabletop exercises have already taken place and plans are continuously reviewed for personnel, equipment and contingencies that are triggered when a hurricane/tropical storm enters the Gulf.

This includes:

- * Emergency contracts for pre-staged generators at key facilities
- * Emergency response boats and communication equipment staged at various Drainage Pumping Stations
- * Arrangements for an Emergency Operation Center at the Main Water Plant to coordinate the S&WB's response to emergency events
- * Providing employees with placards for response and re-entry
- * Giving employees a 1-800 call in number to report their location in the event they have evacuated.
- * Building emergency protective Tiger Dams to protect against flooding at the Main Water Plant Power House
- * Establishment of a Mobile Command Post to be staged in Baton Rouge as an alternate Emergency Operations Center

Mrs. St. Martin said “We are confident that our staff is well-prepared and able to work internally with our own experts and externally with the City's overall Office of Emergency Preparedness Command Center, Corps of Engineers, levee districts and adjacent parishes.

“The input from those employees who experienced Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike, will be invaluable resources in the event a major storm approaches.”

She concluded, “Everyone knows what to do and when to do it. Of course, our plan is flexible enough to quickly adjust to unforeseen challenges. The citizens of New Orleans can be confident that we are ready to go into action when needed.”

#