



**"RE-BUILDING THE CITY'S WATER SYSTEMS FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY"**

# **Sewerage & Water Board OF NEW ORLEANS**

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## **S&WB Comprehensive Plan Ensures System Prepared For Hurricane Season**

**New Orleans** --- Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans is prepared for the 2016 hurricane season. S&WB's hurricane preparedness plan is a year-round continuous effort. *"We don't wait for the official June 1<sup>st</sup> start of hurricane season to begin planning,"* said Executive Director Cedric S. Grant, *"Our emergency management team and critical personnel have been training all year and are well prepared to go into action immediately if the need arises."*

Sewerage & Water Board works with the Emergency Management Office to incorporate best-practice protocols. Additionally, key personnel train with FEMA, the City of New Orleans, and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

Today, Sewerage & Water Board joined with the Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority of Louisiana, the City of New Orleans and agencies across the metropolitan area for the annual hurricane preparedness press conference. The press conference, held at the Port of New Orleans, is the culmination of a coordinated, region-wide hurricane preparation effort that shifts into full gear each spring.

Sewerage & Water Board General Superintendent Joseph Becker said, *"Sewerage & Water Board's hurricane preparedness plan is multi-faceted, reliable and complete."*

### **Specific preparation efforts include:**

- Procuring emergency contracts for pre-staged generators at key facilities.

- Securing emergency response boats and communication equipment staged at various Drainage Pumping Stations.
- Arranging an Emergency Operation Center (EOC) at the Main Water Plant to coordinate S&WB's response to emergency events.
- Providing employees with placards for re-entry.
- Assigning an 800 call-in number for employees to report their location during an evacuation.
- Training in construction of emergency Tiger Dams to protect against flooding at the Main Water Plant Power Station.
- Providing staff-placement at a Carville state site as back-office support to EOC operations during a category 3 or higher hurricane that calls for a citywide evacuation.

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