

FEMA: Week in Review



Louisiana Recovery Office
New Orleans, LA

FEMA

April 6, 2012

Announcements

National Hurricane Conference Held in Orlando, Fla.

In remarks at last week's National Hurricane Conference in Orlando, Fla. FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate encouraged the emergency management team to work inclusively with all partners to meet the needs of the whole community when responding to and recovering from disasters. As he discussed the work that federal, state, local and tribal governments, and voluntary organizations do on a regular basis in preparation each year, Administrator Fugate also focused his remarks on the importance of engaging the private sector early and often.

Fugate also took the opportunity to remind this year's participants to never lose sight of the fact that the impacts of hurricanes are wide-ranging. "Last year proved that the effects of hurricanes can impact areas beyond just the coast," said Fugate. "As we look to 2012, we need to work together as a team, with all our partners, the private sector and the public to ensure that communities are prepared no matter where tropical storms impact."

Fugate participated in a panel discussion with National Hurricane Center Director Bill Read, Florida Division of Emergency Management Director Bryan Koon and Walgreens Security Operations Center's Jim Williams.

Slidell Celebrates Senior Center Grand Opening

On Wednesday March 28, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for the long awaited grand opening of the Slidell Senior Center at 610 Cousin St. in Olde Towne Slidell. Strong winds and floodwaters generated by Hurricane Katrina damaged the Senior Center, a 10,959-square-foot, single-story building, beyond repair.

Floodwaters reached more than 30-inches above the finished floor and remained for several days before receding. FEMA determined that the Slidell Senior Center was eligible for replacement and obligated \$2.7 million for the new building. With upgrades associated with Americans with Disabilities Act compliance and International Building Codes, the replacement facility totals 11,738 square feet, an increase of 779 square feet from the original facility. The replacement facility was reconstructed at its original location, a Council on Aging St. Tammany (COAST) building.

At the recent grand opening, COAST Executive Director, Mary Toti said, "I'm ecstatic right now, after Katrina we had no place to go and now look at this." Mayor Freddy Drennan had previously promised to 'dance a jig' when the Senior Center finally opened, and he and Mary Toti did just that right after they cut the ribbon. Former Pastor Christopher Cockrell of Macedonia Baptist Church, where displaced Slidell Senior Center members were welcomed after Katrina, said a prayer of thanks and hope for the newly built Senior Center. Then as the music from Charlie Cahill Band began, so did the second-line.



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A NATION PREPARED Milestones in FEMA History

- ◇ 1803: Congressional Act of 1803 provided assistance to New Hampshire following extensive fire
- ◇ 1974: Disaster Relief Act established the process of presidential disaster declarations
- ◇ 1979: President Carter's Executive Order #12127 created the Federal Emergency Management Agency
- ◇ 2006: October 4, 2006 President George W. Bush signed the Post-Katrina Emergency Reform Act

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Calendar

April 10: Webinar 2 - 3 p.m. Five Things You May Not Know about SBA Disaster Assistance; advance registration: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/369141176>

April 12: New Orleans East Regional Library Grand Opening; Read Blvd, New Orleans, La.; 2 p.m.

April 18-20: Louisiana Floodplain Management Association 29th Annual Technical and Business Conference; Baton Rouge, La.

May 20-25: Association of State Floodplain Managers 2012 National Conference; San Antonio, Texas

Housing Update

Gustav/Ike: 2 units



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