

# FEMA: Week in Review

Louisiana Recovery Office  
New Orleans, LA



March 26-April 1, 2011

## Announcements

### FEMA Working to Improve Situational Awareness for Emergency Responders

A group of FEMA geospatial specialists is working to develop and further update FEMA's geospatial viewer for Situational Awareness Viewer for Emergency Response<sup>2</sup> (SAVER<sup>2</sup>). It provides a visualized approach to situational awareness displaying data feeds from FEMA and other federal agencies, state and local jurisdictions and private sector partners.

SAVER<sup>2</sup> gives decision makers the real time data they need to make good, informed decisions, saving lives and helping communities respond to and recover from disasters more efficiently and effectively. As the agility and versatility of SAVER<sup>2</sup> is further developed and better understood, more data and information will be consumed and displayed.

SAVER<sup>2</sup>'s usefulness became increasingly evident with the recent winter storm activation, preparation for Red River flooding, and most recently by providing information related to the devastating Japanese tsunami disaster.

Some of the current data now available in SAVER<sup>2</sup> includes weather conditions, disaster recovery centers, Joint Field Offices, shelters, weather conditions, demographic and population data, hospitals, levees, etc. Because disaster survivors often rely on major retailers after a disaster hits, SAVER<sup>2</sup> also has data on the location and operational status of major retailers such as Target, Lowes, Big Lots, and Wal-Mart.

The National Level Exercise in May — an annual event where federal, state and local partners prepare for disasters — will be the first major roll out of SAVER<sup>2</sup>.

### LA BEOC Hosts Seminar on Private Sector's Role in Emergency Response



FEMA Region 6 Administrator Tony Russell this past week addressed a seminar hosted by the Louisiana Business Emergency Operations Center (BEOC) in Baton Rouge that focused on the private sector's role in planning for disasters. The BEOC was set up in 2010 to coordinate the activities and resources of businesses and volunteer organizations with Louisiana's Emergency Operations Center.

Administrator Russell told the seminar's participants that the private sector is a good example of how FEMA is applying a "Whole Community" approach to prepare for and respond to emergencies. This approach helps federal and state officials access more community resources and expand communications when responding to disasters.

FEMA is also reviewing BEOC models in Louisiana and Texas for best practices to help create other BEOCs in the other three states in Region 6 – Arkansas, New Mexico and Oklahoma.

## Calendar

**April 5:** St. Mary's Academy dedication, New Orleans.

**April 18- April 22:** National Hurricane Conference, Atlanta.

**May 1- May 4:** National Flood Conference, New Orleans.

**May 2:** Belle Chasse Middle School ribbon-cutting ceremony.

**May 24-May 26:** Individual Assistance Emergency Support Function 6 (ESF 6) Annual Conference, Kansas City, Mo.  
[Registration Deadline.](#)

### Bogalusa FD Receives SAFER Grant

The Bogalusa Fire Department has been awarded a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant for \$182,801 by the Department of Homeland Security's Preparedness Directorate. SAFER grants provide funding for hiring new firefighters, rehiring laid-off firefighters, and programs for recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters.

Since 2005, SAFER has awarded 1,137 grants totaling more than \$500 million to fire departments across the country to help increase staffing of frontline firefighters. This year, DHS has received 2,128 applications.

### Housing Update:

Katrina/Rita:  
397 occupied units

Gustav/Ike:  
54 occupied units

