



# TOHSEP NEWS



## Terrebonne Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness

For elderly or disabled residents who have medical special needs, or need transportation during an evacuation, please contact the Terrebonne Council on Aging at (985) 868-8411.

November 30<sup>th</sup> brings to close another hurricane season and fortunately, Terrebonne Parish was spared a direct hit from a named tropical system. We would like to thank all of the Parish departments and first responder agencies for their assistance and guidance during this past hurricane season. The construction of the multi-agency safe room is due for completion in January and will be ready for use in the 2019 hurricane season. The multi-agency safe room will provide storage for various emergency supplies and will be available for meeting space when not in use as a hurricane shelter for first responders. Our office would like to wish everyone a **Merry Christmas** and **Happy New Year!**

*Earl J. Eues, Jr., Director*

This month we are highlighting our **volunteer team, the Terrebonne Community Emergency Response Team, commonly known as CERT**. CERT plays a vital role in Terrebonne Parish by assisting with pre- and post-emergency operations. Each CERT member is provided training through our office on various aspects of emergency management. Since 2010, over 200 Terrebonne Parish residents have been trained to assist our office in a variety ways. CERT members also participate in year-round training on how to respond to different emergencies or to assist in the operations of the emergency operations center. Please contact Ben Walker in our office if you are interested in becoming a volunteer CERT member.

**Have you ever wondered what the numbers on placards mean on the sides of 18-wheeler or railcars?** The numbers on the placards indicates the types of hazardous material the vehicle or railcar may be hauling. This month, the Terrebonne CERT will participate in **HAZFLOW software training**. HAZFLOW software is a tool provided to our office by the LA State Police to assist in tracking what types of hazardous materials are passing through our Parish. This information will provide data such as time, location, type of vehicle and where hazardous materials are passing within Terrebonne Parish, and will be utilized to assist in planning and training our Parish Rapid Assessment Team to respond effectively to transportation related incidents involving hazardous materials. After training, CERT members will be located at various roadway intersections with computer tablets obtaining information from placarded vehicles passing throughout the Parish.



The Terrebonne Parish Rapid Assessment Team (PRAT) Continues to work with the Terrebonne Parish Pollution Control Department on response actions in the event of an accidental chlorine or sulfur dioxide release. The PRAT has reviewed the Pollution Control Department's "Risk Management Plan" (RMP) and is performing inspections of their North and South treatment facilities. The pre-planning and update of response plans will assist the PRAT in responding to an accidental release from the treatment plants. The PRAT is working in coordination with the Bayou Cane Fire Dept. and the Grand Caillou Fire Dept. in this planning process to create a common operating procedure for response. The PRAT will continue working with the Pollution Control Department through training and exercises to ensure the safety of its workers and the surrounding community.

The Terrebonne Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (TOHSEP) completed Incident Command Structure (ICS) 300 and 400 training classes the week of November 5<sup>th</sup>. This training provided advanced incident command tactics and leadership skills to first responders who would be incident commanders during an event. Seven different instructors from various agencies consisting of law enforcement, fire service, homeland security, National Weather Service, and Amtrack Rail Service assisted with the training. The diverse experience of

these instructors allowed for a variety of training experiences. TOHSEP and the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness graduated 24 students in ICS 300 and 27 students in ICS 400. TOHSEP is working closely with the fire chiefs in Terrebonne Parish to host this training for first responders who cannot attend training during weekdays. Anyone interested in attending weekend or night classes should contact Thomas Long by calling our office.



### Monthly Preparedness Tip: Online Shopping Safety Tips for the Season

Look for the **https://** - the s stands for secure. Also look for a lock or similar icon. **Use anti-virus software** and tools on all computers to detect and remove viruses and keyloggers that can steal customers' identities when using their bank or credit cards online. **Use anti-phishing software** - most reputable anti-virus programs contain anti-phishing software and alerts that help detect phishing scams. **Secure your wireless network** with a password. **Choose a password** by combining different numbers, letters and symbols. Remember, the longer the password the better. be sure to log off of a web site after completing an online transaction. **Take action immediately** if you suspect identity theft. Contact your credit card company, your bank, all three credit reporting agencies and the police.

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*Merry Christmas*

