



State of Louisiana Drinking Water Protection Program

October 2010

LDEQ

Issue 14



LaSalle Parish Committee Helps Organize Household Hazardous Materials Recycling Day

The LDEQ Drinking Water Protection Team began work in LaSalle Parish in July 2009. Staff members visited with representatives of the local water systems and other government officials to introduce the Drinking Water Protection Program. LaSalle Parish has a population of 13,364 and sixteen active public community water systems, all using ground water. A community meeting to introduce the program to the public and solicit volunteers to form a committee was held on August 13, 2009. Ten people attended the meeting and all ten of them volunteered to join the committee.

The LaSalle Parish Drinking Water Protection Committee joined Keep Cenla Beautiful, a local non-profit organization, to organize a household hazardous materials collection day for LaSalle Parish. Mrs. Ann Wilson from Keep Cenla Beautiful and a member of the drinking water protection committee spearheaded the project. The event was held on April 10, 2010 in the Town of Jena.

Forty-three vehicles dropped off waste from 48 households. The participants heard about the event mainly through the newspaper, radio, and TV. Eighty-seven percent of the participants were from Jena, nine percent from other areas in LaSalle Parish, and four percent outside the parish. Persons over 55 years of age comprised the largest group of participants (68 percent). The materials collected were as follows:

Continued page 2



Photos from top to bottom. 1. Jena Mayor Murphy McMillin participates in the HHW collection day. 2. Mrs. Ann Wilson ready to work. 3. Workers sort and combine paint for recycling.

Inside this issue:

-LaSalle Parish Committee	1-2
-EPA on Facebook	2-3
-Students Get "Up Close and Personal" with Natural Resources in Envirothon Competition	
- Emergency Planning	4
- Ordinances	5
- Drinking Water Protection Team	6



On the Radar

Targeted Parishes for Drinking Water Protection Programs 2011

- Concordia
- Iberia
- Iberville
- Tensas

Continued from page 1.

Material	Amount Collected
Pesticide Liquids	195 pounds
Oil Based Paint (Bulked)	1607 pounds
Flammable Solids (Adhesives)	108 pounds
Pesticide Solids	108 pounds
Corrosive Liquids, Acids	16 pounds
Corrosive Liquids, Bases	87 pounds
Aerosols	132 pounds
Alkaline Batteries	16 pounds
NiCad Batteries	6 pounds
Lithium Batteries	3 pounds
Propane	5 each
Mercury (thermometers)	3 pounds
Fluorescent Light Bulbs	6 pounds
Latex Paint	450 pounds
Oxidizing Solid	5 pounds
PCB Ballasts	8 pounds
Used Oil	395 gallons
CPUs	44 units, 1320 pounds
Monitors	35 units, 1050 pounds
Printers	33 units, 660 pounds
Mixed breakage	12 units, 240 pounds
Laptops	2 units, 16 pounds
Miscellaneous Gaylords	1 unit, 600 pounds

EPA on Facebook



EPA's Office of Water launched its "Water is Worth It" page on Facebook in December 2009. This page on the web-based social networking site was created to spur discussion and awareness of just how valuable fresh water and water services are – to our country and in our daily lives. The EPA encourages visitors to post and interact with the discussion and learn about our nation's water and water infrastructure by becoming a "fan" of the page at <http://www.facebook.com/EPAWaterIsWorthIt>.

Students Get "Up Close and Personal" with Natural Resources in Envirothon Competition

This year the drinking water protection team participated in the Louisiana

Envirothon, a multidisciplinary, environmental problem-solving competition for students in grades 6 through 12. Teams of five young people from the same school or associated with an organized group (i.e. FFA, 4-H, home-school groups, BSA pack) train and compete in five natural resource areas: soils and land use, aquatic resources, forestry, wildlife, and a current environmental issue. The current issue for 2010 was *protection of groundwater through urban, agricultural and environmental planning*. On competition day, the teams rotate through a series of stations managed by natural resource specialists in each of the five natural resource areas. There is also an oral presentation component of the competition, in which teams present a solution to an environmental problem related to the current issue. Team member Mary Gentry took charge of the current issue, researching and developing study guides, practice scenarios and tests in advance of the competition day. The competition was held on March 27, 2010 at the University of Louisiana Lafayette Cade Farm in St.

Martinville, Louisiana. Team members Howard Fielding, Jesse Means and Tiffani Cravens worked competition day administering tests and judging oral presentations. The current issue team included other Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality recruits Carey Dicharry, Dutch Donlon, Bill Schramm, and Emelise Cormier, as well as Susan Robbins from Louisiana Rural Water Association, Brad Hanson, formerly of LDOTD, and Bailey Cravens, student worker and timekeeper. There were plenty of other dedicated workers there to make certain it was a fun environment that promoted learning and team work.



Drinking Water Protection is a Team Sport

By Tiffani Cravens

Government agencies have long been accused of not communicating and/or coordinating efforts. Well, accuse no more! LDEQ's Drinking Water Protection Team works closely with Louisiana Rural Water Association (LRWA), the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, LSU's Cooperative Extension Service, and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources.

We are looking forward to working again with Natural Resource Conservation Service and to working with any other agencies and organizations that share our concern for Drinking Water Protection. The team works closely with the LRWA Source Water Protection Specialists Bill Chaumont and Susan Robbins, who help us establish a good rapport with local officials and water system personnel. They take time to brief the parish/town officials and/or water operators on what they can expect from DEQ and how they can assist in our drinking water protection efforts.

Susan and Bill also assist with drafting contingency plans for the water systems, visiting owners and operators of potential sources of contamination to educate them on how to protect drinking water, and with promotion of a ground water protection ordinance. The drinking water protection "team" consists of much more than the DEQ staff – it includes other state agencies, organizations, local officials, water system personnel, and all of the volunteers who are working toward one common goal.....safe drinking water.

CONGRATULATIONS! THE DRINKING WATER TEAM SALUTES!

Municipalities and parish governments that have enacted a Drinking Water Protection Ordinance



Acadia Parish - Acadia Parish Police Jury, Town of Church Point, City of Crowley, Town of Iota, City of Rayne

Avoyelles Parish - Avoyelles Parish Police Jury, City of Marksville, Town of Mansura, Town of Moreauville, Town of Simmesport

Beauregard Parish - City of DeRidder, Town of Merryville

Bossier Parish - Town of Haughton, Town of Plain Dealing, Bossier Parish Police Jury

Calcasieu Parish - City of Westlake, City of DeQuincy, Town of Vinton

Caddo - Village of Rodessa, Town of Vivian, Village of Ida

East Feliciana Parish - Village of Norwood, Town of Wilson

Grant Parish - Town of Pollock

Jefferson Davis Parish - Jefferson Davis Parish Police Jury, Town of Welsh, Town of Lake Arthur, City of Jennings

Lafayette Parish - City of Youngsville, Town of Duson, City of Carencro

LaSalle Parish - Town of Jena, Town of Olla

Lincoln Parish - City of Grambling, Lincoln Parish Police Jury

Natchitoches Parish - Village of Goldonna

Ouachita Parish - City of West Monroe

Rapides Parish - Town of Lecompte, Village of Cheneyville, Village of McNary, Town of Glenmora, Town of Woodworth

St. Landry Parish - City of Eunice, Town of Melville, City of Opelousas, St. Landry Parish Council, Town of Washington

Vermilion Parish - City of Abbeville, Town of Delcambre, Town of Erath, Town of Gueydan, Town of Kaplan, Town of Maurice, Vermilion Parish Police Jury

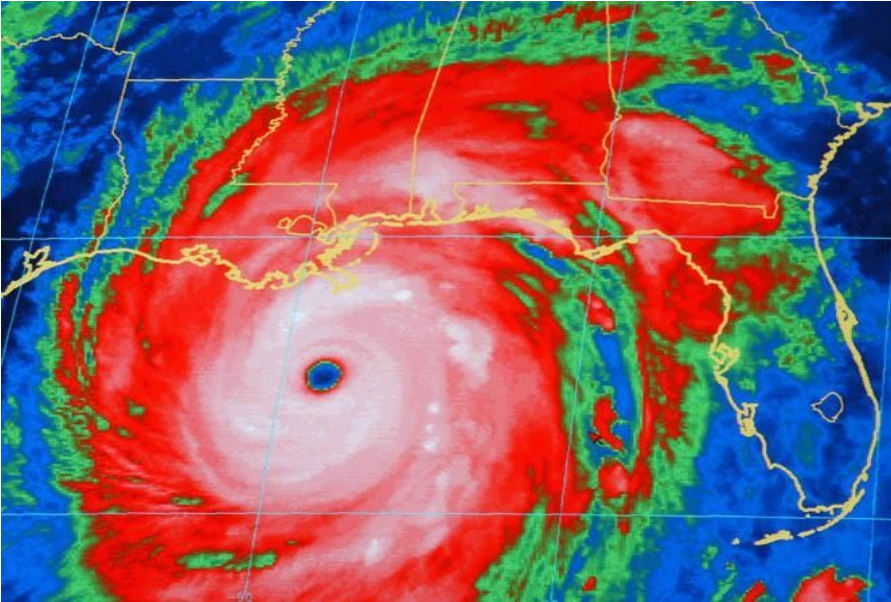
Vernon Parish - Village of Anacoco, Town of Hornbeck, Vernon Parish Police Jury, City of Leesville, Town of Rosepine, Village of Simpson

Washington Parish - Town of Angie

Webster Parish - Webster Parish Police Jury

West Baton Rouge Parish - Town of Addis

Legacy of 2005 Hurricane Season Should be a Catalyst for Improved Emergency Preparedness



Hurricane Katrina Radar Image, NOAA.

By Mary Gentry

This year marks the 5th anniversary of what was arguably the most destructive, costly, and tragic hurricane season in our state's history. On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall on the Louisiana-Mississippi State line. Less than one month later, on September 24th, hurricane Rita made landfall on the southwest Louisiana coast. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita were two of the most intense hurricanes ever recorded in the nation's history. The storms had a massive physical impact on the land, affecting 90,000 square miles – an area the size of Great Britain. Over 80 percent of the city of New Orleans flooded. The regional power infrastructure was devastated and communications were crippled. Twenty-three percent of the state's public drinking water systems were

impacted. More than 1.5 million people were directly affected and more than 800,000 citizens were forced to live outside of their homes – the largest displacement of people since the great Dust Bowl migrations of the 1930s. Over 1,300 people lost their lives.

The most valuable lesson we have learned from these destructive storms is that **no matter how prepared we think we are we must continue to improve**. Review your emergency response plan and be sure it is up to date, including essential contacts. Establish contacts to request emergency water supply, if necessary. This may include trucking in of purchased water from another potable water supply. Make arrangements with the local power utility to be prepared to restore power to the water system as a priority customer and consider purchasing a backup generator if your system does not have one. Pre-arrange to purchase materials and

supplies and to borrow/lease heavy equipment needed to make repairs to the water system. This could include piping, valves, chemical feed-line tubing, and hydrants. Also, stage your own equipment and vehicles outside of the anticipated impact area so they will be protected and available for use once the storm has passed. Many systems lost their equipment and vehicles in flood waters. Additional suggestions for emergency preparations can be found on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency website at <http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/watersecurity/emergencyinfo/pre-hurricane.cfm>.

Consider becoming a member of the Louisiana Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network or LaWARN. Following the impacts of Hurricane Katrina and then Hurricane Rita, it became apparent that even with the extraordinary efforts of utilities, water associations, and state regulatory agencies, the demand for resources and knowing where those resources were available overwhelmed the ability to effectively coordinate the initial response. Realizing that utilities needed a different approach, leaders in the water community and state agencies joined together to create LaWARN, designed to support and promote statewide emergency preparedness, disaster response, and mutual assistance matters for public and private water and wastewater utilities. For more information please visit the LaWARN website at www.lawarn.org.

Local Ordinances Provide the Ultimate Protection of Drinking Water Sources

By Tiffani Cravens

It seems there is a law or regulation for everything under the sun, perhaps for even a few issues that do not really need one. Amazingly enough there are no laws restricting most significant potential sources of contamination (SPSOCs) from locating 25 feet or even 10 feet away from a public water supply well. It just makes good sense to want to keep those SPSOCs away from our drinking water supplies. A groundwater protection ordinance restricts new SPSOCs, businesses that handle, store or use chemicals, from locating near a public water supply well, thereby creating a safety zone. A grandfather clause is included in the ordinance to exclude existing facilities.

The LDEQ Drinking Water Protection Team is diligently working their way across the state, educating any and every citizen in their path about the importance of drinking water protection. The team is empowering communities parish by parish with the tools and knowledge needed to help protect their source of drinking water. A model ordinance is one of the key elements presented to local governments as a valuable protection measure for their drinking water source and can be adapted to fit the needs of the community.

Public education is a necessary and highly effective tool, although it often takes time to see the results of change in behavior. The ordinance, however, is an immediately measur-

able layer of protection for public water supply wells, empowering local governments with a tool to minimize potential threats to their water quality. A groundwater protection ordinance is recommended in Smart Growth documents and by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and it is also endorsed by the Louisiana Municipal Association.

The groundwater protection ordinance has been adopted in 55 municipalities and 9 parish governments around the state (see page 3), and the team is looking forward to working with the remainder of the state to increase protection for our public water supply wells. For the progressive communities and parishes, you do not need wait for the team - check out the model ordinance on our website at www.deq.la.gov/aeps (then to Drinking Water Protection Program, then to Ordinance), and when you pass it send us a copy...we would like to add you to the rapidly growing list of communities who value safe drinking water!

Did You Know?

The average Sub-Saharan African uses the same amount of water each day as someone in the U.S. uses when brushing his or her teeth for two minutes with the tap running.

Source: BBC News



NEW WELLHEAD PROTECTION PROGRAMS/SURFACE WATER CERTIFICATES APPROVED

September 2009 – August 2010

South Vernon Parish Waterworks District, Empire Point Community Water System, Vernon Parish Water and Sewer Commission, Caddo Water Works District 1, Ida Water System, Waterworks District #7, Shreveport Water System, Town of Tullos, Summerville-Rosefield, Town of Urania, Town of Jena, Town of Olla, LaSalle Water District #1, East Jena Water System, Inc., Whitehall Water System, Inc., Nebo Water System, Manifest Rhinehart Water System, Rogers Community Water System, Belah Fellowship Water System, Mt. Zion Water System, Mineral Springs Water System, HICO Water System, Culbertson Water System, Wesley Chapel Road Water System, Simsboro Water System, Village of Rosedale, Town of White Castle.

When you drink the water, remember the spring.

-Chinese Proverb



PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BATON ROUGE,

Aquifer Evaluation and Protection Unit
P.O. Box 4314
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



GOT NEWS? IDEAS?

If you have any news or ideas that you would like to share with other communities in next year's issue of the newsletter, please submit them to deqdwpteam@la.gov or to the following mailing address:

Louisiana Department of
Environmental Quality

Aquifer Evaluation and Protection Unit

Post Office Box 4314

Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4314

DRINKING WATER PROTECTION TEAM



The Drinking Water Protection Team is a part of the Aquifer Evaluation and Protection Unit. This Division falls under the Office of the Secretary at the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. Drinking Water Protection Team members educate the public on the importance of protecting drinking water sources. The team plays a vital role in working with Louisiana communities to establish local drinking water protection programs. The team is available to give presentations on water protection issues to your school or organization. Please call 225-219-3510 for more information.