

In the Levee Loop !



News of the Flood Protection Authority

August 15, 2019

Message From the President

The Flood Protection Authority has millions of dollars' worth of assets including the new lakefront pumping stations, the Lake Borne Surge Barrier, multiple gates, valves, floodwalls and, of course, levees. Of all our assets, the most important of all these is YOU, our employees.

Without you, our system fails to function. While we take great care to ensure that all the infrastructure is working, it is just as critical that you are fully capable of doing your job. That is why your safety is paramount to our success. At all times, you should be certain that you are wearing all safety equipment required for the job you are performing and that the work area around you is free of hazardous conditions that could lead to accidents. This applies to both office and field conditions. Open file cabinets that are unattended and extension cords lying loosely across a floor are examples of office safety hazards that must be avoided. Improperly working machinery or machinery missing safety guards, improperly stored or handled chemicals, and multiple other hazards face those working in the field.

"Make Safety Job One" is not just a saying, it should be a way of life. If you see an unsafe condition, fix it or report it to your supervisor. You are our greatest asset. Stay safe. We need you.

Herb

THE FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY—EAST COMMISSIONERS

Herbert I. Miller, PE, DDE, F. ASCE -
President

Mark L. Morgan, P.E. - Vice President

Clay A. Cosse' - Secretary

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K. Randall Noel

Herbert T. Weysham, III

*"The reason a lot
of people do
not recognize
opportunity is
because it usually
goes around
wearing overalls
looking like hard
work."*

Thomas A. Edison

Regionalization of the FPA's Maintenance

The FPA is in the process of regionalizing the organization's Maintenance function as part of the on-going regionalization effort. The regionalization of Maintenance will allow the standardization of all Maintenance positions across the FPA's jurisdiction and will allow the FPA to offer more efficient training to all employees throughout the year. The changes will also making hiring more straightforward, provide more opportunities for promotion and make competitive pay more consistent across the department.

The first step taken by the FPA's Human Resources Department was to move all of the current Maintenance positions from the Orleans, East Jefferson and Lake Borgne Basin Levee Districts to the FPA's new organization chart, thus allowing Maintenance to operate under one agency.

CAO Derek Boese in his announcement on July 9th regarding the regionalization effort assured employees that there will be no changes to employee titles or position property rights during this transition. Employee Services will work closely with Civil Service to ensure that the integrity of the process is maintained.

Town Hall meetings were conducted for employees at each of the levee districts in mid-July in order to discuss the changes resulting from the regionalization effort.

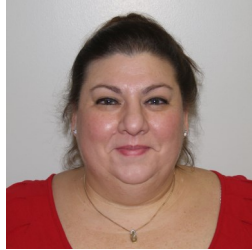
Welcome New FPA Team Members



Brandy Kennedy
Engineering Technician 3
7/15/2019



Troy Picard
Laborer at Orleans
7/1/2019



Karen Fernandez
Administrative Coordinator 4
07/29/19

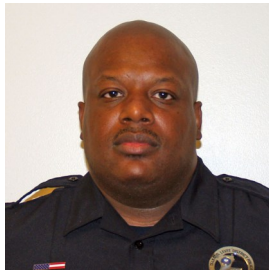
Congratulations on Promotion



Dorris Vidrine
Mobile Equipment Operator 1-Heavy
7/29/2019 (East Jefferson)



Austin Menard
Mobile Equipment Operator 1
7/29/2019 (Lake Borgne)



Jerald Holmes
Police Investigator
07/15/19



Thuy Do
Accountant 2
07/15/19



Calvin Williams
IT Tech Support 2
07/29/19

"Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference." Winston Churchill

FPA President Thanks Staff for Hurricane Response

At the July 17th Board meeting, President Herb Miller expressed how proud he was of the way that the entire staff of the FPA performed during Tropical Storm and later Hurricane Barry. He stated, “While I am happy that the water levels in the Mississippi River did not reach their earlier projected peaks, the FPA staff did their jobs admirably. Some may say that they were just doing their jobs; however, there is a difference between just doing your job and doing your job well. The FPA staff did their jobs well and with great attitudes.”



Mr. Miller explained at the meeting that the storm event resulted in several firsts. It was the first time in the history of the FPA that it had to close all of floodgates on the Mississippi River and HSDRRS (a total of 251 land based floodgates) and the seven complex structures. It was also the first time that the FPA operated the PCCP pump stations at the 17th Street, London Avenue and Orleans Avenue Canals and coordinated flows with the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans’ pump stations .

Mr. Miller thanked Chief Administrative Officer Derek Boese, who led the FPA team making sure that everything ran smoothly while frequently being on the air with radio and television news organizations; Chris Humphreys, who received his baptism by fire having recently joined the staff and finding himself in charge of the engineering aspects of the FPA’s emergency management; Stevan Spencer and Darren Austin, who assisted Chris having been through it before and serving as good teachers; Rusty Kennedy, who handled things at the EOC while Derek was in the field; and Gerry Gillen and Earl Kugelmann for getting the field crews and operational personnel organized and functioning.

Mr. Miller recognized and thanked Roman Dody and his team for keeping the IT systems going, Antwan Harris for doing a masterful job keeping the FPA’s messages to the public focused and allowing the FPA to speak with one voice, and Wilma Heaton who took care of the Non-Flood Protection aspects, getting the marinas and Lakefront Airport secured. Mr. Miller offered a huge thanks to Police Superintendent Kerry Najolia and all of the levee district police department staff both at the O.L.D. and EJLD. The police staff provided the FPA’s field crews with safety as they were closing the floodgates and flood control structures, as well as patrolling the areas, closing off streets when needed, and aiding our citizens.

Mr. Miller especially noted that he would be remiss if he did not thank the cooks who kept the FPA’s personnel well fed at the Emergency Operations Centers.



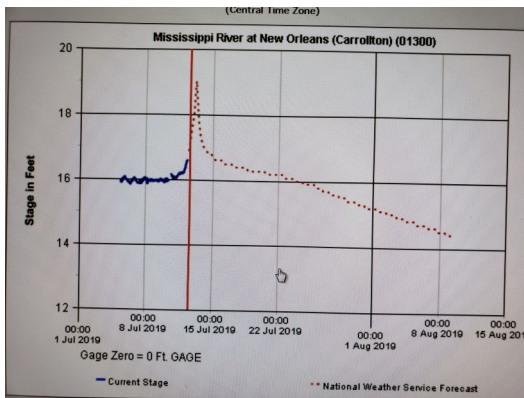
Mr. Miller advised that the FPA was called upon by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) to help our neighbors by delivering over 11,000 sandbags to Lafitte. In addition, on Monday the CPRA called again asking for the FPA’s assistance and the FPA responded by providing 186 of its 3,000 lb. sandbags to the St. Mary Levee District.

Mr. Miller explained that although he mentioned the FPA’s key personnel, it was really the FPA’s employees who did the hard work of closing the gates, operating the pumping stations, and making sure that the FPA was prepared as best as possible to protect our citizens and their property. **He gave a huge “thank you” to all of the FPA’s employees for a job well done!**

Engineering Response to Hurricane Barry



Above: FPA staff at Emergency Operations Center
Below: Hydrograph studied by FPA staff during EOP operations



Reflections on Hurricane Barry

While no one ever wants a weather event to threaten the region, those that threaten but ultimately miss, like Hurricane Barry, provide invaluable learning opportunities for the entire FPA team. This was particularly important to the Engineering Department with almost half of the staff participating in their very first Emergency Operation. Out of 11 essential personnel, five, including the Director, three engineers and one Inspector are new to the FPA. Relying on training, table top Hurricane Exercises, frequent reference to our Emergency Operations Manual and a lot of help from the experienced staff, the Engineering Department performed well and the rookies learned a lot.

As has been mentioned frequently, Barry created many firsts for the FPA-E including the first time ALL of the River Gates and All of the HSDRRS Gates were closed. Not a small task and the FPA-E performed well. The Engineering Department did its part as a whole with several individuals doing an outstanding job, particularly Chief Engineer **Stevan Spencer**. Stevan's knowledge of the system, storm surge and wind effects on our operations proved to be an invaluable resource in this unprecedented event.

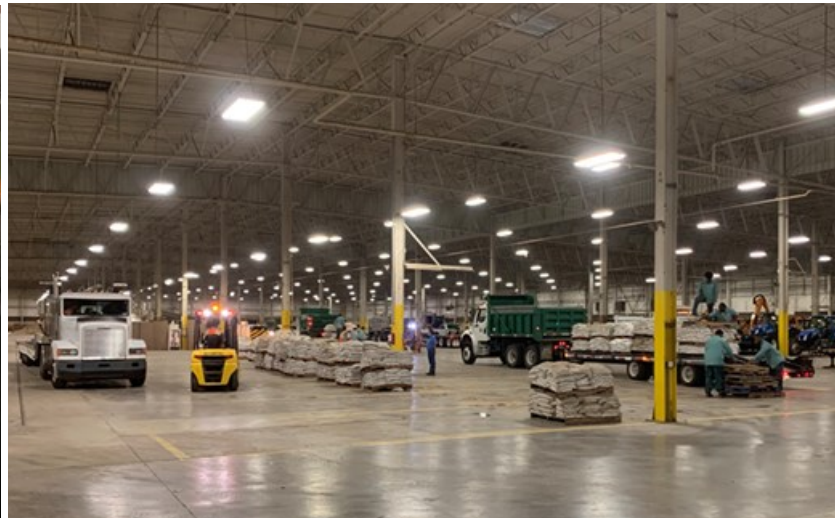
In addition to our primary job of closing and then re-opening the entire system, we also provided approximately 20,000 sand bags to two flood fight sites, one in our jurisdictional area on the Mississippi River Levee in St Bernard Parish and one in Lafitte Louisiana. **Ryan Foster** did an outstanding job of leading both of these operations for FPA-E. He was assisted by **Ryan Hathaway** in

St Bernard. Governor Edwards made an appearance at this site. **Rusty Kennedy** led the load out of approximately 11,000 sand bags headed for Lafitte and, since she was no longer needed to assist Stevan Spencer on gate closures, **Jacinta Gisclair**, a Lafitte native, provided invaluable support in the field during this all night delivery.

Chris Humphreys, Director of Engineering



Sandbags being delivered to Lafitte, LA



Franklin Facility Operations

Maintenance Response to Hurricane Barry



Maintenance Team Accomplishes Historic Gate Closure Operations

At this time I would like to thank all of the Field Yard Maintenance employees from the three areas of the region for coming together to successfully complete a truly historic objective. The objective was to have all open MRL floodgates in both Orleans and St. Bernard Parishes and all open Hurricane floodgates in St. Bernard, Orleans and East Jefferson Parishes closed in preparation for TS/Hurricane Barry. After highway and roadway gates were closed, Type 3 barricades being held down by sandbags had to be placed in front of, and in some cases in front of and behind, the

closed floodgates. In conjunction with all of the gate closures, all MRL and Hurricane valves associated with the gates had to closed.

We, as a team, successfully completed this objective in a little over a 2-1/2 day time frame. This could only be accomplished by the hard work and dedication to the mission of all employees of the region coming together to make this happen. This wasn't an easy objective to start with, but the crews that were put together to accomplish various tasks had to also deal with heavy rains at times and tornado warnings. Despite all of the obstacles that had to be overcome, the objective was successfully completed. Once again this could only be accomplished by the hard work, dedication and professionalism of all employees of the FPA-E team.

I truly appreciate and thank all employees of the FPA-E for not only what was accomplished during TS/Hurricane Barry but what you do each and every day in preparation for any emergencies that may come.

Earl Kugelmann
Director of Maintenance



Operations Response to Hurricane Barry



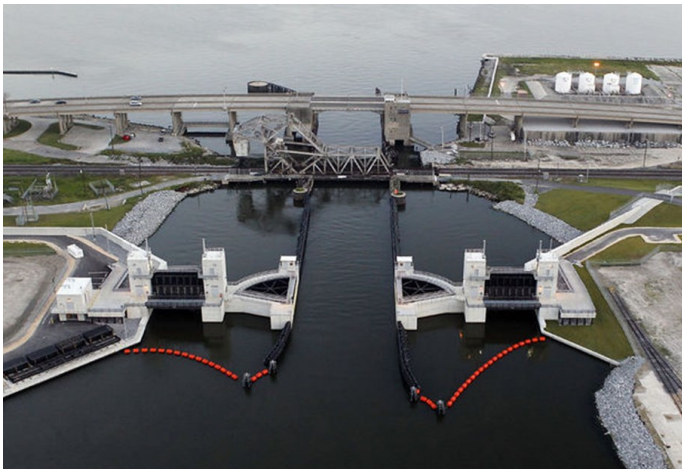
Operations Department Successfully Completes Flood Closures

Hurricane Barry's uncertainty of both direction and magnitude of storm surge resulted in the FPA Operations Department fully closing all Complex Structures and PCCP gates. Although this hurricane was not a heavy rain producer for the region, it did allow our personnel to successfully complete closures and utilize pumps as required. The success of every emergency closure operation is a result of the daily hard work our personnel provides to maintain equipment and operation training.

Lake Borgne Pump Station, PCCP and Complex Structure Operators provided valuable input in the After Action Reports and should be proud of the successful completion of their missions during Hurricane Barry. Although this was not a major storm, it provided the opportunity for our team to coordinate, schedule and troubleshoot issues. The same process will be undertaken even if a major hurricane was approaching.

Thanks again to the crews for their success and remember that daily maintenance provides the confidence that the system will perform as designed.

Gerry Gillen
Operations Director



Pictures: 17th Street Canal PCCP (top left), Carnarvon Sector Gate (top right), Bayou Bienvenue Lift Gate (middle right), LBBLD Pump Station (bottom right), and Seabrook Complex (bottom left)

Levee District Police Response to Hurricane Barry



EJLDPD

During Hurricane Barry myself and fellow East Jefferson Levee District officers escorted multiple Army National Guard trucks loaded with sandbags to St. Bernard Parish. Once there we did a road blockage so the National Guard could off load the sand bags on the levee system. After this project was completed we continued patrolling the flood gates around the clock checking all gates until the weather event was over. The EOC meeting was attended every day until closed. All was good, no issues whatsoever.

Lt. Kirt Arnold, EJLD Police

OLDPD

On July 10, 2019, Orleans Levee District Police Officers reported for duty in the onset of Hurricane Barry and the Mississippi River Flood Fight of 2019. Over the course of several days, officers worked extensive hours, performed escorts and traffic control for the O.L.D. Maintenance Crews to secure flood gates and surge barriers. During this time period, the Mississippi River was at 17-foot record levels, and with the imminent threat of Hurricane Barry, the river was projected to reach 20-foot levels. Officers performed escorts and traffic control for the Louisiana National Guard in order for a stretch of levee system in Saint Bernard Parish to be fortified and prevent the possibility of a natural disaster from occurring. Having worked long hours, these officers performed their duties with the highest professional standards and dedication to duty.



Capt. Michael Brenckle, Commander, OLD Police



Levee District Police Reserve Officers

EJLD and O.L.D. Reserve Police Personnel were completely unified and performed in a team effort during the events of Tropical Storm Barry. During past storm events, full-time personnel had to be pulled off street patrol to man static and post positions such as Flood Protection escorts, and at Bayou Bienvenue and Pumping Stations.

EJLD and O.L.D. Police Reserve Divisions were coordinated and scheduled to handle all the assignments, while also providing a police presence at different Pumping Stations throughout Orleans Parish. Our Police Reserve Divisions took charge of these assignments, allowing full-time police personnel to be allocated to other areas of need, such as the Lake Borgne Levee District. I am extremely proud of the men and women of our Police Reserve Forces who handled these assignments with such professionalism and integrity!

Capt. Donald Juneau

Employee of the Month Recognized by FPA Board



Each month the Board recognizes FPA employees who have shown their commitment to the Authority and who have gone the extra mile to ensure that the FPA successfully fulfills its flood protection mission.

The Board recognized Jacinta Gisclair at its meeting on July 18th as the Employee of the Month for July.

Jacinta is an Engineer 4 – Levee Safety Engineer and has been with the FPA since January, 2019. In her short time since joining the FPA, Jacinta has solely taken on several key projects and contributed to many others.

Jacinta has tapped into her past experience to assist and solve ongoing FPA challenges. One example is drawing upon her past experience and time with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals to explore the use of a fluoride detection test, since fluorine is a more dependable marker of municipal water than the standard chlorine test, to determine if a seepage area identified during high river inspections is from a municipal source or actual river water. Another example was utilizing her past experience on the private side to navigate a Freedom of Information Act request to obtain design records from the Corps of Engineers for the NASA Levee Repair Project.

Jacinta has taken on the task of organizing and scheduling inspections, and has been developing an inspection guideline that will assist the current inspection personnel as well as serve as a training tool for future inspectors. She is always looking for areas where staff can improve its efficiency, as well as increase safety, while performing their inspection duties.

Jacinta's pleasant and positive disposition in the office is infectious, in a good way, and is evident in the amount of friends she has developed in multiple departments. Jacinta personifies the values of the FPA in her daily activities. The FPA is truly lucky to have someone of her caliber and her colleagues hope to have her here at the FPA for many years to come.

Franklin Administration Building Renovation



Renovation of the Franklin Administration Building is anticipated to be completed by the second week of September. As of August 7th, the painting and ceiling grid are being finished, flooring is being installed and bathrooms are awaiting fixtures and cabinets. The Dirtt modular wall system will arrive on August 25th and the furniture quickly thereafter.

Police Employee of the Month Recognized by Board



Police Officer Ryan Frazier was recognized by the Board at its July 18th meeting as the Police Employee of the Month for July because of his professionalism as a law enforcement officer and his commitment to the FPA's mission and dedication to public service.

Officer Frazier is a Police Officer 2-A and has been with the Orleans Levee District Police Department (OLDPD) for three years. Officer Frazier likes to perform proactive work and enjoys taking on challenges and working with his co-workers.

Officer Frazier was commended by the OLDPD leadership for his outstanding performance and exemplary work. Recently, the eastern section of New Orleans was plagued with numerous automobile thefts and burglaries. On June 5, 2019, while on patrol Officer Frazier responded to a stolen automobile being tracked by the New Orleans Police Department near Bullard Road. Working in tandem with the Louisiana State Police, Officer Frazier successfully located the stolen vehicle. His unrelenting dedication in this investigation resulted in the arrest of the three suspects occupying the vehicle. This is a shining example of the type of service the public deserves.

Officer Frazier exemplifies the FPA's values in the performance of his duties each day and is a tremendous asset to the FPA, the OLDPD and the public.

Operations Employee of the Month

Even though Marvin Brown has been with the FPA a short while, the positive impact that he has made in the Levee Maintenance department has been quite noticeable. Marvin was hired as a Foreman C in the Levee Maintenance Department Group 313 at Orleans. While learning what is involved with the day-to-day operations of the Levee Maintenance group, it is not uncommon for Marvin to ask for additional learning opportunities. He consistently portrays a positive, "can do", attitude. It is not uncommon to see Marvin utilizing the opportunities to coach and mentor various employees of the department.



Most recently with TS/Hurricane Barry, he along with a multitude of other employees filled various roles in order to accomplish the FPA's mission. One of the assignments was to load trucks with trailers with pallets of #40lb. sandbags and deliver them to Lafitte. During this operation, Marvin could be seen coordinating placement of pallets of sandbags and loose pallets, helping strap down pallets on the trailers and at the same time communicating with employees letting them know that they were doing a good job and how to accomplish tasks more efficiently.

Where Marvin went above and beyond was towards the end of the Lafitte sandbag operation. When the last of the trucks for the third convoy were loaded and about to leave Franklin base to go to Lafitte, Marvin volunteered to drive one of the trucks in the convoy to relieve one of the other drivers who was too tired to safely drive that distance and back. After completing the loading of pallets of sandbags on trailers part of the assignment, Marvin had the opportunity to get some rest, but volunteered himself to drive since he was qualified and capable to carry out that aspect of the assignment in order to complete the whole assignment.

Marvin exemplifies the values of the FPA and the FPA team wishes Marvin a long, successful career at the Flood Protection Authority.

Safety Message—Hurricanes

Prepare an Evacuation Plan — *Where to Go - How to Get There - Where to Stay*

Prepare a Ready to Go Bag:

Pack important papers in a ready to go water proof bag: property deeds, mortgage/loan documents, property, flood and vehicle insurance policies, passports, copies of driver's license, a birth certificate for each family member, medical and dental insurance cards, SS cards, bank accounts statements, children's school records, current tax return, employer's emergency reporting policy, pets health and immunization records (very important), medication and other important papers you may need if away from home for any length of time, and cash, paper and pens.

A minimum of a month supply of prescription medication.

OTC medication Tylenol, antibiotic cream, itch cream, etc.

First Aid Kit.

Extra set of car keys.

Valuable jewelry and cherished small items.

Cell phone, tablet and computer and chargers.

Blankets and at least three to five days of clothing for each member of the family.

Personal hygiene items, such as deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, hand sanitizer, large wet wipes, paper towels, trash bags, etc.

Water and non-perishable easy to eat food items for family and pets when traveling by car.

Portable WIFI (if possible).

Keep your gas tank at least 3/4th full.

Pets: portable travel kennel, disposable pads and non-perishable pet food. Check accommodations for pets to stay with you or board in the area of your evacuation destination.

Home Ready:

Cover your home windows with plywood, metal storm covers or storm shutters.

Bring in all outdoor furniture, planters, garbage cans and loose outdoor items.

Secure doors on storage building.

Clear rain gutters and storm drain.

Evacuation Under the Following Conditions

If local authorities tell you to evacuate, follow their directions.

If you live in a mobile home.

If you live in a high rise building.

If you live on a coast, a flood plain or near a river or waterway.

If you live below sea level.

If you feel in danger.

Before you go

Clean out your refrigerator and freezer.

Turn off electricity, gas and water, if possible.

Raise furniture and items or bring to 2nd floor, if possible.

Secure all windows and doors.

GO!!!

Your FPA Safety Team

Happy 5th Anniversary



Tyus Long and his wife Tasmine Fernandez will be celebrating their 5 year wedding Anniversary on August 16th.

Congratulations and Happy Anniversary to Mr. and Mrs. Tyus M. Long.

Happy 60th Birthday

Police Chief Kerry Najolia was surprised at a party given for his 60th birthday at the EJPD Kenner Facility.



“Just a small jester to say Happy Birthday Chief, thanks for all you do.”

Submitted by Carol Purcello

Thanks EJ Maintenance Team !



“I just want to say Thank You to our Maintenance Guys for a wonderful job of pulling weeds from the new landscaping at the Kenner Facility. Y’all Rock!!” Carol Purcello

EJ Maintenance and Field yard crewmen recently renewed the landscaping at the EJ Kenner Facility.



EJLD Police Capt. Donald Juneau, on behalf of the Administrative and Police personnel at the facility, added, “thanks for a job well done!!”



“Make it a habit to tell people thank you. To express your appreciation, sincerely and without the expectation of anything in return. Truly appreciate those around you, and you’ll soon find many others around you. Truly appreciate life, and you’ll find that you have more of it.” Ralph Marston

Express Appreciation—Submit a Nomination for EOM

Are you missing an opportunity to recognize a fellow team member? When was the last time you recognized or expressed appreciation to a fellow team member for going the extra mile in the workplace, exemplifying the FPA's values, attaining a goal or achieving an accomplishment.

One of the FPA's seven tenets is valuing and appreciating team members. One way to show that you value and appreciate a fellow team member is by submitting a nomination for Employee of the Month (EOM). Each month an individual is selected from nominations submitted by team members as the Employee of the Month in one of three categories (Operations, Administration and Police) with one of the three being selected as the FPA Employee of the Month.

Remember, a little appreciation can go a long way—not only for the individual who is being valued and appreciated, but also for the individual expressing appreciation. Sharing gratitude is proven to make those on the giving end also feel happier.

Core Values of the FPA:

1) Open and Transparent Communication, 2) Teamwork, 3) Professionalism, 4) Accountability, 5) Clear Expectations, 6) Mission Focus and 7) Valued and Appreciated Employees.

Calendar of Events

September

September 2 (Monday) - Labor Day (State holiday)

September 19 (Thursday) - Board/Committee meetings

October

October 17 (Thursday) - Board/Committee meetings

November

November 11 (Monday) - Veterans Day (State holiday)

November 21 (Thursday) - Board/Committee meetings

November 28 (Thursday) - Thanksgiving (State holiday)

Reminders

Submit your Employee of the Month Nomination Forms by the last day of each month

All employees must complete one hour of Ethics training and one hour of Preventing Sexual Harassment Training for calendar year 2019. Supervisors must complete one additional hour of Preventing Sexual Harassment Training for calendar year 2019.

The Flood Protection Authority urges everyone to become informed about their flood defense system and encourages organizations and business and community groups to schedule a tour of the IHNC-Lake Borgne Surge Barrier and Permanent Canal and Closure Pump Stations.

To schedule a tour of the IHNC Surge Barrier and/or PCCP, visit our website at floodauthority.org and click on "Schedule Facility Tours" at the bottom of our home page. Fill out the Tour Information Sheet and click on "submit" at the bottom of the sheet.

Suggestions, comments, news items (weddings, births, significant anniversaries and other events you wish to share with your coworkers), original articles and other submittals are welcomed.

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