

In the Levee Loop !



News of the Flood Protection Authority

December 15, 2019

Message From the CAO

2019 Wrap-Up / 2020 Look-Ahead

As we close out 2019, I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight the outstanding accomplishments the FPA has achieved this year and what we will focus on in 2020.

Over the last 12 months, the FPA has continued to become a more regionally-focused organization, highlighted by the challenging task of merging all three areas of the Maintenance Department in October. We dealt with the record-breaking high river event on the Mississippi River and daily inspections for months on end. Our police operations continue to become more and more well-integrated with our local, state and Federal partners. And we successfully completed and moved into new facilities at Franklin and Kenner.

The highlight of 2019 was our performance during Hurricane Barry. For the first time, we successfully closed every single gate and complex structure in our system and did it within a 48 hour period under stressful conditions. This is something that every employee should take great pride in – and we did it without a single safety incident.

Each year, I set some overarching themes for the organization to focus on. In 2019, those included full regionalization of the Authority, better project cost and schedule management, and documenting our operational procedures. I am happy to report that we made great progress in all those areas.

On December 19th at our Annual All-Hands Safety Meeting, you will hear me focus on one of the major themes for 2020 – Improving our Safety Performance. While in 2019 our numbers improved, we can still do better. Our goal is zero incidents – which means every day every employee goes home to their loved ones with no injuries. It takes focus and thought from every single employee, regardless of the task they are working on or whether they are a supervisor or not, to achieve that. You will hear more about this on the 19th and throughout 2020. I challenge each of you to not only be safe, but look out for each other. If we can accomplish everything we did during Hurricane Barry without any safety incidents, we can do it throughout 2020 as well.

As always, I remain grateful for the work that each of you do to help keep the people and property of greater New Orleans safe.

Enjoy the holidays with your families and friends.

Derek

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

Quentin D. Dastugue, CCIM - Treasurer
Andrew J. Englande, Jr., Ph.D., P.E., DEE

Lambert J. Hassinger, Jr.

Jason P. Latiolais

K. Randall Noel

Herbert T. Weysam, III

* * *

*“What you do
makes a difference,
and you have to
decide what kind of
difference you want
to make.”*

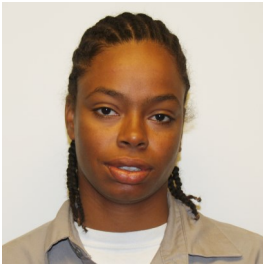
Jane Goodall

* * *

Happy New Year &
Here's to new beginnings!
The best is yet to come!



Congratulations on Promotion



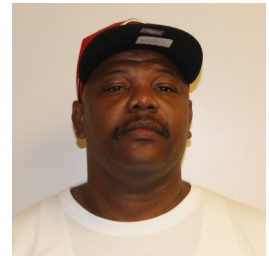
Monica Ross
Promoted to Levee Foreman B
10/7/2019



Remington Kreitzer
Promoted to Mechanic Supervisor A
12/2/2019



Bryant Brown
Promoted to Maintenance Repairer Master
12/2/2019



David Harris
Promoted to Maintenance Repairer Master
12/2/2019



Adrian Williams
Promoted to MEO2
12/2/2019



Jeff Johnson
Promoted to Levee Foreman A
12/2/2019



Jacinta Gisclair
Promoted to Engineer 5
12/02/19

Welcome New FPA Team Member



Gilbert Charlot
Maintenance Equipment Operator 2
East Jefferson
12/2/2019

“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.” Albert Einstein

Active Shooter Training

Sergeant Michael Schindler with the East Jefferson Levee District Police Department presented Active Shooter Training to FPA employees in October during the monthly safety meetings at each levee district.

The key points to remember are:

Three Stages of Disaster Response

- Denial
- Deliberation
- Decisive Moment

AVOID / RUN

- Know your exits
- Leave ASAP
- Call 911

DENY / HIDE

- Lock the door
- Lights out
- Keep out of sight

DEFEND / FIGHT

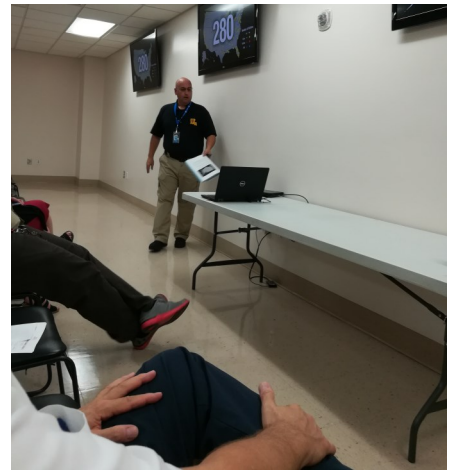
- As an absolute last resort

WHEN THE POLICE ARRIVE

- Hands up & palms out
- Follow commands
- Do not move unless told to do so

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Sergeant Mike either by email mschindler@floodauthoritv.org or phone: office: (504) 372-1836 or cell (504) 508-0721

Thank you Mike for a great presentation!



Congratulations NAPD Driving Class 007



Congratulations to the National Academy of Professional Driving Tactical Driving Class 007 Graduates:

Michael Hoctel - EJLDPD
Gerard Duplessis - EJLDPD
Edwin Brauner - OLDPD
Billy Parks - OLDPD
Julia Wells - OLDPD
Bruno Mason. - OLDPD

Instructors:

Lt. Albert Pellitteri
Lt. Charles Hill
P.O. Chuck Badon

Employee of the Month Recognized by FPA Board



Roger Colwell was recognized by the Board at its meeting on November 21st as the FPA's Employee of the Month.

Roger is a GIS Analyst Supervisor in the Engineering Department. Roger is always professional and personally accountable and he holds his staff to similar high standards, but always recognizes them for their individual and team contributions.

Roger understands all aspects of the FPA Mission and works well independently or as part of a team.

Roger contributes to the Engineering Department on Permitting, Levee Inspection, Mapping, Document Control, ICC and EOC. He also contributes to the IT, Operations and Maintenance Departments in similar ways. Roger's title is GIS Analyst Supervisor, but his service to the FPA and the public goes way beyond GIS Management of geographical and spatial data, mapping and graphic display. He knows our entire system as well as anyone in the department and the FPA's Emergency Operations Procedures. He has provided valuable input on the design and set up of our Emergency Operations Center.

Roger wears an IT hat as well and recently led the efforts for the FPA to completely automate our Levee Safety Permit Process making it the only completely on-line system in the entire State of Louisiana. To date this new process has recovered approximately \$58,000 on a total investment of \$119,000 in less than one year of implementation. In addition, the new automated on line system has reduced the number of permit reviewers and process personnel by two.

On top of all his other contributions Roger has championed our new Drone Program, was our first of now five licensed Drone Pilots and has co-authored our Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Policies and Procedures Manual. He is currently developing our procedures for performing periodic levee Inspections with Drones with the first assignment to be the 22 miles of the 40 Arpent Levee in the LBBLD. Not only will this save on outside consultant costs, but it also provides a significant improvement on baseline condition mapping that can be measured against future aerial surveys with much more detail and accuracy.

Roger is truly the "Swiss army knife" of the Engineering / GIS department. When tasks arise that do not necessarily fall within an individual department or employee's jurisdiction or responsibility, Roger has continually been the go to person to manage or complete these tasks.

Roger's contribution is essential to the FPA's successful accomplishment of its mission and he is a tremendous asset to the organization.

Operations Employee of the Month

Mike LeBlanc was nominated by his colleagues and selected as the Operations Employee of the Month. Mike is a Maintenance Foreman in Group 311 - Operations and Maintenance / Floodgates.

Mike handles the scheduling of employees from all groups to work high tide events for Bayou Bienvenue. He does an excellent job coordinating the schedules for both the manning of the structure itself and the ICC/EOC. Even with the recently experienced extended high tide event that ran for 35 days (9-29-19 thru 11-2-19), Mike was able to keep the personnel scheduled to cover both the structure and the ICC/EOC and at the same time successfully handled his daily job duties.



Mike is a key asset to the FPA and his contribution is crucial to the success of the FPA's mission to protect the citizens of the region from flooding.

Police Employee of the Month

The Board recognized Sgt. Lacy Gerhold as the Police Employee of the Month at its November 21st meeting. Sgt. Gerhold is an O.L.D. Police Reserve Officer .

On October 9th Sgt. Gerhold was summoned by a victim, who informed the sergeant that her vehicle was stolen and located on the 100 block of Royal Street. Sgt. Gerhold approached the vehicle ordering the driver to exit the vehicle. Moments after exiting the vehicle, the driver fled running on foot in an attempt to elude the sergeant.



Sgt. Gerhold pursued the suspect on foot for numerous blocks, giving a description and locations via radio to responding police units. This enabled Louisiana State Police and New Orleans Police Officers to apprehend the suspect. The investigation revealed the vehicle was stolen from Mississippi, and contained two firearms, 11.5 grams of crack cocaine, .8 grams of heroin and .1 gram of crystal methamphetamine. The suspect was charged with a felon in possession of a firearm.



Sgt. Gerhold was also commended for demonstrating courage and great attention to detail for her response in an incident that occurred on November 22nd while working a paid detail in the 2400 block of Martin Luther King Boulevard. While sitting in her marked police unit, Sgt. Gerhold witnessed an attempted armed robbery in progress by a knife wielding suspect. She observed the suspect approach the victim at a close distance, pull a knife from his pants pocket, and point it at the victim's chest. She activated her siren in an attempt to distract the suspect while she called for assistance from backup units. Sgt. Gerhold was able to apprehend the suspect and handcuff him without incident.

Sgt. Gerhold received Letters of Commendation from Capt. Michael Brenckle for her exemplary performance and dedication to duty in both of these incidents (pictured left).

Sgt. Gerhold is a great asset to the O.L.D. Police Department, the FPA and the citizens we protect.

Citizen Honored for Rendering Help to OLDPD Officer



Ella M. Hayes was honored by the Board at its meeting on November 21st and presented with the Orleans Levee District Police Department's Citizen Award on behalf of Police Chief Kerry Najolia and Captain Michael Brenckle for her courage in rendering aid to an Orleans Levee District Police Officer in distress.

On Wednesday, October 9, 2019, an Orleans Levee District Police Officer was working a paid detail at Ms. Hayes' employment. The officer was confronted by a hostile subject, who was accompanied by counterparts.

The subject aggressively attacked the officer and successfully disarmed the officer's Taser. Ms. Hayes acted heroically by warding off the counterparts and staying with the officer to ensure his safety.

Ms. Hayes was commended for her courage, exemplary performance and dedication as a citizen in rendering aid to a Law Enforcement Officer in distress.

O.L.D. Police Department News



O.L.D. Police Department Officers presented Retired Sergeant Gail Maurice with a Service Award for over 32 years of service.



District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro visited O.L.D. Police Department headquarters on Wednesday, November 13th.



O.L.D. Police Officer Nick Tusa plays Santa for underprivileged kids in Poplarville, Mississippi, with his wife.

Nick also takes on his Santa Clause identity every year playing the role for the children at Ochsner's and other groups of children.

Safety Message



Your Personal Protection Equipment is provided by the Flood Protection Authority for your protection at no cost to you. PPE does not make you immortal and is not designed to be your 1st line of protection. Never use your PPE in place of common sense.

Always wear your PPE whenever you are required to do so. If you do not know or have forgotten how to use your PPE, ask your supervisor for instructions before use.

Your PPE should be maintained in a clean, sanitary and wearable condition. Follow cleaning instructions to maintain your PPE in wearable condition.

Never modify your PPE in any way without written permission from your supervisor.

Do not use damaged or defective PPE. Notify your supervisor immediately if your PPE has been damaged or is defective.

If your PPE does not fit properly or is extremely uncomfortable, notify your supervisor immediately.

Never choose not to wear your PPE when required. The life you save may be your own!

Your FPA Safety Team
safety@floodauthority.org



EJLD Police Officers Receive Life Saving Awards



PO3 Scott Meunier receives Life Saving Award presented by Sgt. Mike Schindler.



PO3 Scott Meunier and PO2 Myles Ledet receive Life Saving Award for assisting EMS resuscitating a citizen.



PO 3 Authur Agee receives Life Saving Award presented by Sgt. Dornan Harvin for performing CPR to resuscitate a citizen.



Left - PO2 Matt White, Lt. Tyrone Butler, PO2 Ed Merida and PO2 Myles Ledet. The entire watch received certificates of commendation for assisting the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office by handling calls for service. The officers handled 23 calls in one shift while JPSO officers were on a barricaded and armed subject call.

All officers also received an EJLD challenge coin for their dedicated service.

Police Officer Arthur Agee Responds to Life Saving Service Call

On November 19th, a call came out as a male who fell on the floor not breathing and turning blue. Officer Agee was the first unit on scene. The subject, who was located in the bathroom of the residence, appeared pale and blue and had no pulse. Officer Agee began CPR until the subject began to show signs of life and a faint pulse. The subject was monitored until the arrival of EMS. While waiting on EMS, it was assumed that the subject had overdosed on an unknown narcotic. EMS arrived on the scene and administered Narcan through an IV. The subject came to and was transported to East Jefferson Hospital. The Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office conducted a MIC on the incident.

Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office Thanks Officers for Assistance

"Please express my gratitude to each of your Officers for the assistance they provided to us by handling calls for service in the 1st District on Saturday night (11/16/2019). All 1st District units were tied up on a lengthy call involving an armed barricaded subject and we began to get a steady flow of incoming calls for service in the 1st District. The LD Units assisted us by responding to and handling the calls that they were dispatched to in a timely fashion and kept our back-log to a minimum.

"This type of assistance helps to reinforce a positive working relationship between agencies which allows all of us to better serve the citizens of Jefferson Parish."

Sgt. Adrian Brouillette
JPSO Communications Watch Commander, Shift B

Calendar of Events

December

December 19 (Thursday) - Annual All-Hands FPA Safety Meeting

December 24 (Tuesday) - Christmas Eve - Legal Holiday Proclaimed by Governor John Bel Edwards

December 25 (Wednesday) - Christmas (State holiday)

December 31 (Tuesday) - New Year's Eve - Legal Holiday Proclaimed by Governor John Bel Edwards

January

January 1 (Wednesday) - New Year's Day (State Holiday)

January 16 (Thursday) - Board/Committee Meetings

January 20 (Monday) Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (State Holiday)

February

February 20 (Thursday) - Board/Committee Meetings

February 25 (Tuesday) - Mardi Gras (State Holiday)

Reminders

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

Employee Safety Boards



Employee safety is everyone's responsibility and a major focus of the Flood Protection Authority. In an effort to promote a safe work environment, the FPA Safety Team installed "White Boards" at each of the district locations. These boards serve a dual purpose of displaying safety information for all employees and providing a way to report safety issues or concerns.

All staff members are strongly encouraged to utilize these safety boards to make our workplace safe and prevent accidents. Each facility is different and faces its own unique safety issues or challenges. The safety boards will be monitored weekly by a Safety Team member to ensure concerns are addressed appropriately and timely.

Remember, an accident or injury is an unplanned event. Let's all pitch in and do our part to raise awareness. In addition, all staff members can email their safety concerns and issues to safety@floodauthority.org or speak directly with your supervisor.

Let's take time to take care of each other — don't assume someone else will report a problem that can cause an accident and harm to others.

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 Closure and Pumps (PCCP) 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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Associate Editor: Wilma Heaton

Submittals can be emailed to gboudreaux@floodauthority.org
or sent to Glenda Boudreaux, SLFPA-E, Airport Terminal, Suite 225,
6001 Stars and Stripes Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126.