

In the Levee Loop !



News of the Flood Protection Authority

June 15, 2020

Message From Commissioner Andrew J. Englande, Jr.



As my term to serve on the Board of Commissioners comes to an end, I am thankful for the opportunity to share my gratitude and reflect on my impressions and experiences.

I was greatly honored when appointed by Governor Edwards following nomination by a prestigious committee comprised of representatives from numerous professional organizations. Prior to this, I was aware of the importance of the Flood Protection Agency (FPA) and its need since my family and I had lost homes due to Hurricanes Betsy and Katrina. Over these past four years I have come to appreciate further and admire the role of the FPA, its personnel, and its commitment to carrying out its function of protecting the life and property of the citizens within its authority.

As has been stated by a previous Board President, an organization is either moving forward and growing stronger addressing its weaknesses or backsliding. I am proud to have been a part of the former. The FPA in a relatively short period has undergone an internal reorganization and culture change resulting in a unified, cohesive organization. Virtually every department has been transformed. The result, in my opinion, is that the Authority is now the most capable and strongest it has ever been.

Combining three levee districts into one was not easy but has resulted in a one-organization mindset with a synergism able to address complex problems in challenging times. This is especially true with the current COVID-19 pandemic. The situation requires extensive modified work practices to ensure the safety of its personnel while continuing to maintain the flood protection system safeguarding our citizens during this current storm season. My hat goes off to the essential workers of our Authority who continue to do their job to protect our families, friends, and communities under very adverse circumstances

Success of the FPA is due in large measure to the dedication, perseverance, creativity, and hard work of its employees. As a Board, we are charged with the governance and oversight of the Authority's activities. Any organization is only as good as its employees. Our Mission Statement includes the following: "Staff and Board of Commissioners must be transparent, honest, visible, responsive and accountable to its mission of building and managing a true regional system." It is my experience that this mission has been exceeded during my tenure as Commissioner.

It has been a privilege and honor to have served as Commissioner. I will always remember the professionalism, courage, and dedication I experienced.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this vital organization and beloved community.

Sincerely,

A.J.

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

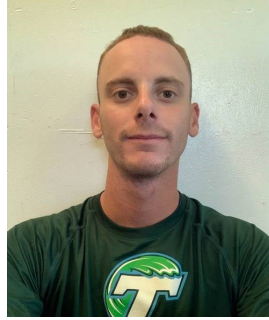
Herbert T. Weysham, III

*"Ability is what
you're capable of
doing. Motivation
determines what
you do. Attitude
determines how
well you do it."
Lou Holtz*

Welcome New FPA Team Members



Alex Mikkelsen
Police Officer 2-A
EJLD Police Department
05/04/2020



Michael St. Philip
Trades Apprentice
LBBLD
5/20/20



Robert Garcia
Operating Engineer 2
LBBLD
5/20/20

Congratulations on Promotion



Justin Williams promoted to Levee
Foreman A on 5/4/2020 (EJ)

Everbridge Response Reminder for O&M Employees

A Reminder from Employee Services for Maintenance and Operations Employees

Please remember to continue to respond to all notices and inquiries coming from Everbridge no matter if you are scheduled to be at work or not. If you receive the message below, please respond with only the number for your answer. For example, if your answer is that you and your household are feeling well, please respond with only the number one (1).

How are you and the members of your household feeling?

1. My household and I are well.
2. I am sick and experiencing cold or flu-like symptoms such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other respiratory problems. I will notify my supervisor that I will not report to work today.
3. I am sick but do not have cold or flu-like symptoms. I will notify my supervisor that I will not report to work today.
4. A member of my household has cold or flu-like symptoms. I will notify my supervisor and will wait to hear from HR about reporting to work.

This message is sent to select Maintenance and Operations employees at 5:45am every morning.

*“Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence wins championships.”
Michael Jordan*

FPA Operations Team - Storm Season Preparations

The members of the FPA Operations Department have been busy finalizing the maintenance and operation of flood barriers and pumps in preparation for the storm season. During these challenging times dealing with Covid 19 pandemic, the Complex, PCCP and LBBLD Pump crews have not let this contagious virus slow their progress in fulfilling their operation or maintenance duties. The crews have utilized all the recommended precautions by having their temperatures taken, wearing their face masks, sanitizing their hands regularly and sanitizing their truck interiors at the end of the day. In order to maximize social distancing and possible cross contamination with other crew members during work hours, the complex crew has split their start times and travel in separate trucks to the structures; the PCCP crew has separated into three groups and each group has been assigned to work at one station; and LBBLD pump operators continue to maintain at their assigned stations with little interaction.

The Complex crew concentrated their storm preparation on exercising back-up closure systems in case of electrical, mechanical, or hydraulic power failure, including closing Caernarvon gates with a capstan winch system and the gravity closing the Bayou Bienvenue Vertical Lift Gate using a manual release of the gate hold-open brake in conjunction with the hydraulic retarder system.

The PCCP crew focused on back-up communication measures in case of failure including transferring of fuel from the bulk tanks to the generator day tanks by bypassing the pneumatic panel and checking connectivity of the SCADA canal sensors by removing any floating debris or potential obstructions.



The LBBLD Pump Operators made improvements to the pump inlet basin of Pump Station 8 by excavating vegetation and contracting the installation a floating timber boom to keep water plants from clogging the bar screens. Recent efforts have also been made by the pump station Superintendent and hired mechanic to go through all of the stations to identify and correct problems with the diesel engines that power the pumps.

The entire Operations team is to be commended for their dedication as essential employees on their mission focus of flood protection for keeping equipment and controls in top operating condition while being mindful of their co-workers health and well-being during the COVID 19 pandemic.

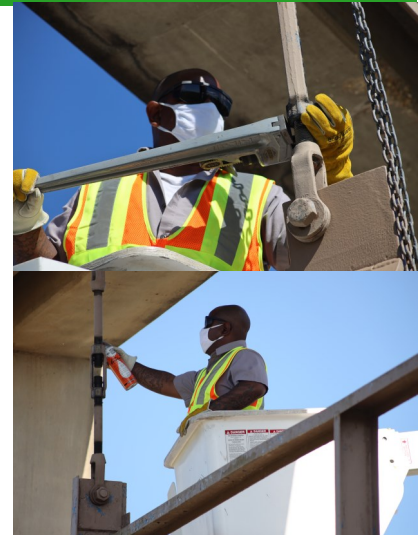
Maintenance Crews Close Floodgates Preparing for TS Cristobal

Maintenance crews began closing floodgates on Thursday, June 4th, to mitigate the potential impacts of TS Cristobal—the earliest third named storm in the North Atlantic Ocean on record.



The Maintenance crews continued thru Saturday night closing a total of 73 land based floodgates.

Our Maintenance Team remains at the ready to respond to all events, whether tropical storm, high water or situations that threaten the flood defense system and the region.



FPA Employee of the Month



Francisco Varela was selected as the FPA's Employee of the Month for the month of May. Francisco was hired on February 26, 2020, as a Trades Apprentice in Operations and Maintenance – Facilities. Although he has been with the FPA only a short time, Francisco has already made a tremendous impression on O&M leadership and his coworkers. Three nominations were received nominating Francisco for Employee of the Month!

Mark Theard, Facility Maintenance Manager, wrote in his nomination, "I would like to nominate Francisco Varela for employee of the month. This young man sets the standard for dedication and loyalty and for doing it right. He always has a smile on his face and a great attitude towards just about everything he does. Whether it's working with the electricians or plumber or air conditioning, he looks at it all as a learning opportunity to gain knowledge in all the trades. His dedication is flawless. If he does it, he does it right, and completes it with such attention to detail that should not be over looked. Lately he has had the privilege of doing detailed disinfecting all of the restrooms and common areas to help fight the corona virus, and he has done this task with the same dedication as he does everything else. Everyone looks forward to working with him. He's a major asset to the Construction and Maintenance Department."

Tim Pisciotta, Maintenance Supervisor, praised Francisco for "doing a great job keeping the Franklin facility clean and disinfected during this craze time. He doesn't care what we give him to do, he gets it done and doesn't have a problem doing it. He gives us help where it is needed when he is free from his cleaning duties."

Rick Witcher, HVAC/Refrigeration Master Mechanic, wrote that "Francisco, our new trades apprentice, has gone above and beyond for everything he has been asked to do pertaining to his trade group. He also has relentlessly and thoroughly cleaned and sanitized the Franklin facility and OLD Police facility. He hasn't once complained despite having this task that takes all day, every day to accomplish. He has taken this job seriously and is very thorough." Rick recommended that Francisco be commended for performing with excellence, his duties of germ warfare!

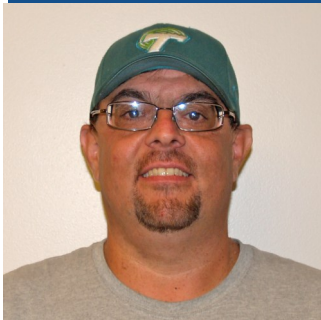
Francisco exhibits the FPA's core values each day in the performance of his duties and is a tremendous asset to the FPA. The FPA team congratulates Francisco for being selected the Employee of the Month and wishes him a bright, successful career with the FPA.

Due to restrictions related to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, Francisco will be recognized by the Board at a future Board Meeting and will be presented with a commendation for being selected the FPA Employee of the Month for May.



Francisco Valera performing the detailed disinfecting at the Franklin Facility to fight the coronavirus and keep fellow team members safe.

GEM - Going the Extra Mile



Timmy Pisciotta

I would like to recognize two people who are true assets to the FPA. They always go above and beyond what's asked of them. They both light up any room they enter with quick humor and a mask covered smile. They are true professionals and I would like to recognize them for the jobs they do —Timmy Pisciotta and Rick Witcher.

Also, welcome back Rick! We missed your singing in our stairway. You are a man of many talents, but singing isn't one of them. Keep your day job.

Captain Terry Durnin, EJLD Police



Rick Witcher

FPA Police Employee of the Month

Terrol-Lynn Gray is a Police Officer 2A at the Orleans Levee District Police Department. Officer Gray was nominated and selected as the FPA Police Employee of the Month for her professionalism as a law enforcement officer and the manner in which she exemplifies the FPA's core values. Officer Gray was also selected by the OLDPD as its Performance Officer of the Month for April.



On April 15th Officer Gray responded to a call from the 911 Communications Center regarding a suspicious silver SUV in the Lake Terrace Subdivision. The vehicle was occupied by several male subjects who were pulling on door handles. Officer Gray observed the vehicle stopped on Killdeer Street and observed an occupant opening the door to a parked vehicle.



Officer Terrol-Lynn Gray receives her Performance Officer of the Month Certificate for April

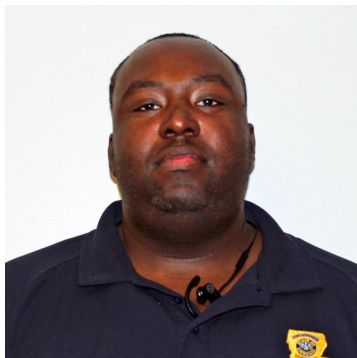
The suspect immediately retreated to the SUV and fled. After a brief pursuit, the vehicle crashed into a fire hydrant on Eastern Street near Filmore Avenue. Three subjects exited the vehicle and fled on foot. Additional O.L.D. Officers and New Orleans Police Department Officers, including a K9 Officer, were able to set a perimeter and apprehend all suspects. The driver had fifteen active warrants and the SUV was found to be stolen from Jefferson Parish.

Officer Gray was commended by OLDPD leadership for her exemplary performance, dedication to duty, and her resilience which led to the apprehension of the criminals. Officer Gray is a valuable asset to the FPA, the OLD Police Department, the law enforcement community and the public that we serve.

The FPA team congratulates Officer Gray for being selected the Police Employee of the Month and wishes her a long, successful career at the FPA in professional law enforcement.

Due to restrictions related to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, Officer Gray will be recognized by the Board at a future Board Meeting and will be presented with a commendation for being selected the FPA Police Employee of the Month for May.

Levee District Police Performance Officers of the Month for May



Sgt. Aurthur Agee

Sergeant Aurthur Agee was selected by the East Jefferson Levee District Police Department and Officer Ryan Frazier was selected by the Orleans Levee District Police Department as their Performance Officers of the Month.

An officer is selected by the EJLDPD and OLDPD each month who demonstrates professionalism and accountability, adheres to the highest ethical standards, is proactive and remains focused on the FPA's mission and organizational integrity. The officers' names are placed on a plaque in their respective police department.



Officer Ryan Frazier received a commendation on May 5th for exemplary performance.

Hurricane Preparedness—Are You Ready?



The 2020 Hurricane Season is here. During these times it is more important than ever to prepare for the 2020 Hurricane Season now. You should determine your personal hurricane risk, prepare for the worst case scenario, have a plan of where to go, how to get there and be ready to go at a moments' notice.

You should plan to acquire the equipment required to work from home or another remote location or have a plan for the safety of your family if you are an essential FPA employee and required to work until released from duty in accordance with your employment.

The City of New Orleans has set up evacuation centers all over the State of Louisiana for evacuees without transportation. Text EVACNOLA to 888-777 if evacuation assistance is required.

Review Your Property and Flood Insurance policies

- ◆ Homeowners policies and renters content policies do not provide coverage for damages caused by rising water. Flood property and contents insurance policies are available to property owners and flood insurance contents insurance policies are available to renters.

Prepare a Check List to Build Your “To Go Kit”:

- ◆ Pack important papers in a water proof container such as: Property deeds, mortgage/loan documents, insurance policies, tax documents, passports, copy of driver’s license, birth certificates, medical/Medicare and insurance cards, SS card, credit cards, bank account information, children’s school records, children and pet immunization records, photograph (back-up copies of all of your important documents and photographs), cash (include small bills), 60-day supply of prescription medication, over the counter medication, face coverings, hand sanitizer, a First Aid Kit, pet food, travel kennel, at least three changes of clothing for each member of the family and anything else you and your family may need to be away from home for an extended period of time.

Home Ready:

- ◆ Have materials and the proper tools ready to cover your windows and doors.
- ◆ Clean and repair loose gutters, down-spouts and catch basins.

Evacuate Under the Following Conditions:

- ◆ Follow local authority directions and leave as soon as possible.
- ◆ Contact City Assisted Evacuation if assistance is needed.
- ◆ Leave if you feel you are in danger or live in a mobile home.

Before You Go:

- ◆ Secure coverages on windows and doors.
- ◆ Bring all loose outdoor items indoors.
- ◆ Clean out your refrigerator and freezer.
- ◆ Shut off utilities at an independent source, if possible, or unplug all appliances.

Go! Be Safe!

Your FPA Safety Team safety@floodauthority.org

*“Obstacles don’t have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don’t turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it.”
Michael Jordan*

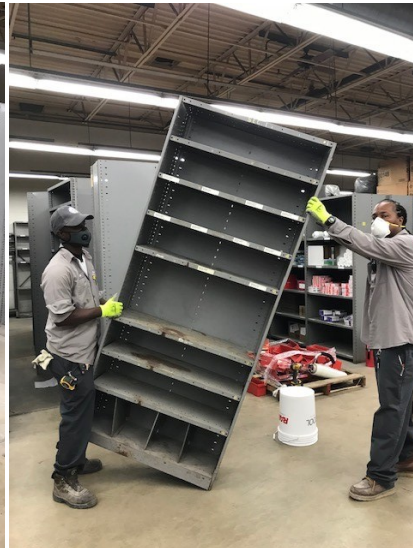
GEM - Floodgate Crew Members Going the Extra Mile



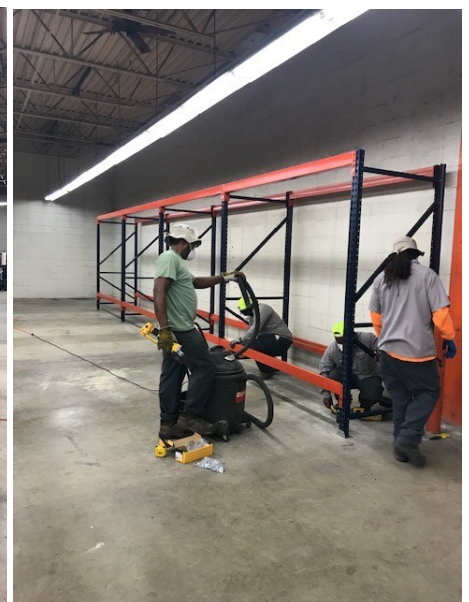
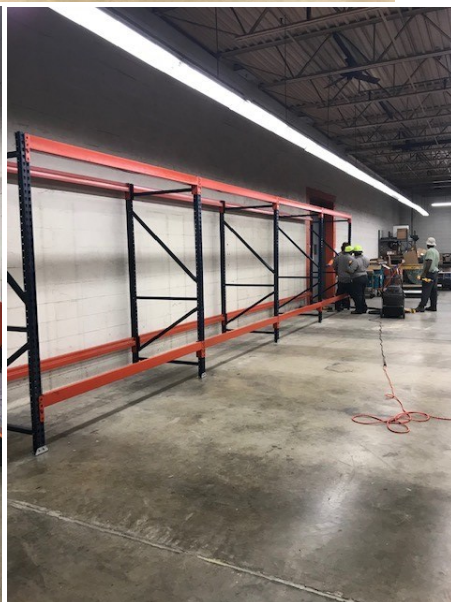
Before the transformation

The FPA Finance/Purchasing Department faced an enormous challenge cleaning up the Franklin Facility Warehouse. The clean up plan included installing new shelving — an overwhelming job for the Department. Floodgate crew members Duane Gayden, Philip Turner, Harrell Washington, Jeffery Beverly, Kholbey Reid, Jason Glenn, Kerry McKinney and Mike LeBlanc, came to the rescue and completely transformed the Warehouse.

Chris Lucas, Procurement Specialist, and the Finance and Purchasing Team are greatly appreciative and wish to thank the Floodwall crew members for Going the Extra Mile and for their hard work getting the job done.



After the transformation



Calendar of Events

June

June 18 (Thursday) - Board/Committee meetings

July

July 3 (Friday) - Independence Day Observed (July 4 Saturday—Independence Day)

July 16 (Thursday) - Board/Committee meetings

August

August 20 (Thursday) - Board/Committee Meetings

September

September 7 (Monday) - Labor Day

September 17 (Thursday) - Board/Committee meetings

Reminders

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

Louisiana State Civil Service advised that the 2020 version of the Preventing Sexual Harassment course is available on the LEO website.

2020 Performance Evaluation System (PES) Timeline

- * Employee Services (ES) host refresher classes for all supervisors - June 22 - June 25
- * 1st & 2nd level evaluators prepare evaluation and planning forms (signed and dated) and submit to ES - July 1 - July 24
- * ES Review Period - July 27 - July 31
- * 1st level evaluators conduct evaluation and planning sessions with employees and submit signed PES forms to ES - August 3 - August 28
- * ES to prepare PES report for Civil Service - August 31, 2020

Employee Assistance Program (EAP) - New Directions

In addition to helping with personal issues, the EAP has trainings available for all employees and supervisors, 24/7. Take advantage of all the EAP has to offer, from building skills on personal and professional growth, such as communication, professional development, and developing leadership and interpersonal skills. Take the first step and call or visit the website: Visit the website www.ndbh.com

- Select Individuals & Families and select Employee Assistance Program
- Enter your login code: Flood Protection
- 800-624-5544

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.

Editor: Glenda Boudreaux
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.