
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Dear Colleagues:

Today is the third anniversary of the landfall of Hurricane Katrina, and here we are, again preparing for the possibility of another storm. South Louisiana has so many positive characteristics - if there is a drawback to living in coastal Louisiana, the occasional storm would be the one. But – adversity makes us stronger. And OJJ is an agency filled with people of strength and dedication.

As we prepare for the possible onslaught of Hurricane Gustav, with Hurricane Hannah right behind, I've been impressed with the genuine caring and concern that staff have shown for each other and their fellow citizens. People in every region are ready, willing and able to do whatever is needed to meet the challenge. I have never doubted for a minute that OJJ staff will carry out our mission. It's evident that whatever comes our way, OJJ is going to get the job done.

I'm also impressed with our ability to learn, because we have truly learned from the experiences we have already been through. We've learned to be as prepared as humanly possible, for anything that might come up. We've learned to expect the unexpected. I have the utmost faith in OJJ staff, as citizens of the state of Louisiana, as well as OJJ employees, that no matter what gets thrown our way, our staff has the ability to stick together, handle the situation, and come out on top.

Please be assured that the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) is doing an outstanding job, working with other agencies at the local and federal level, to prepare the citizens of our state, and our infrastructure, for the possibility of the storm's landfall in Louisiana. I am confident that Louisiana will be as well-prepared as possible, under the Governor's Office's leadership, as all state agencies take the necessary precautions to care for citizens.

Of course, the best case scenario is that these tropical beasts will die a natural death out in the Gulf and leave us alone. We can wish!

But since that seems like wishful thinking, we've got a game plan, we're making the most of the early warning system and are battening down the hatches. As always, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your families as well as the OJJ kids. Thanks for all you do.

Sincerely,
"Doc"

Dr. Mary Livers

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