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# what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Dear Colleagues:

Now that we have all taken a deep breath and gotten back to normal operations, for the most part, it's time to move on and think about the challenges that still lie ahead. (I say we're back to normal for the most part because the Lake Charles Regional Office took on about four feet of water due to Hurricane Ike, and with the help of staff from the Alexandria, Lafayette and Natchitoches offices, has moved into temporary quarters.)

All our offices have power and the facilities are back to "routine" operations. Almost everyone has had their power restored at home – it's so much easier to come to work every day when you can cook a meal and take a warm shower - with the lights on.

After surviving any emergency there's always a euphoric feeling of accomplishment. We met the challenge and did the hard work, and it's normal to want to enjoy that great feeling for a time. We need to savor that feeling for a while, but the best thing we can do right now is to get our thinking back on our regular jobs, which most of us are already doing.

There are so many challenges ahead of us, and I know we are prepared to meet them. If we learned anything from the September storms, it is this: we have surely discovered how well OJJ works together as a team when the going gets tough. If we could pull together as a team under difficult circumstances, think how well we can do when we don't have emergencies to deal with.

I hope that each of you is able to pick up from where you left off, re-energize and re-focus on the things we need to do to move forward. Of course, in order to do that professionally, we need some stability in our lives.

I look forward to working together with all of you, and as always, I appreciate all that you do, every day. Please let me hear from you. Have a wonderful, storm-free weekend.

Tune in next week for another What's Up, Doc? You rock!

Sincerely,

"Doc"

*Mary Livers*

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