
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Memorial Day gave us a short week and it's already Friday. Where did May go? It feels like the month of May just sped by and now June has slipped in. I know everybody has been busy with kids getting out of school, graduations, graduation parties and proms. I guess it's official, summer is here. Although the first official day of summer is June 20 (the summer solstice), let's face it, it's already hot enough to be called summer. Well, June brings another important date – the first day of hurricane season. Predictions are that we will not have as many named hurricanes this year, but all it takes is one.

Speaking of hurricanes, I know people throughout OJJ are already laying in supplies just in case a hurricane comes our way. Those in south Louisiana take very good precautions, and those in north Louisiana always prepare to support the south Louisiana team in case they are needed. And, frankly, we have seen some of the storms slam right into parts of north Louisiana, so I know you are all doing whatever is needed to care for yourselves and your families. You can always check our website and click the **Get A Game Plan** logo (www.getagameplan.org) on the lower left side on the home page, for lists of needed supplies, up-to-date evacuation information and other critical information.

A few of the things we need to have ready in case we need to evacuate or shelter in place include a 3-5 day supply of water (a gallon per person per day) and food that won't spoil; at least one change of clothing and shoes per person, and a blanket or sleeping bag for each person, a first aid kit plus your family's prescription medications. It wouldn't hurt to refill your prescriptions now if you are getting low. Don't forget extra batteries, an extra set of car keys and a supply of cash, in case the power is down for some time and stores can't take plastic. Remember special items for babies, and elderly or disabled family members, extra glasses, and water and food for your pets. Now is also a good time to put together a kit containing important family documents, originals AND copies, packed into waterproof container that you can carry easily.

Of course you know that the session is ending Monday, June 4. Those who have a lot of business at the legislature have said this has been a very tough session. As you know, I issued an informational bulletin yesterday, concerning the latest proposal and how it will impact OJJ. As you know, whatever decisions are made, we have an obligation to make those decisions work and to continue to carry out our mission. It seems like every year we undergo major changes in our operations. This year will be no different and we will have many challenges to address. I hope that you all will stay committed to the mission and do whatever it takes to ensure that services to our youth are not interrupted. We will be working with each and every one of you to ensure this happens. I appreciate your dedication and I know that you will try to be patient.

Broken leg update: I'm managing the wheelchair pretty well; I call the brace on my leg Hugo, and my walker, I call Johnny Walker. I had the first follow-up visit to the doctor this week, and got a good report. He said I'm progressing on schedule and has started me on physical therapy. I want to thank everybody that signed a card, sent a card or sent well wishes. I have all my cards displayed on my closet door facing my bed where I can see them. I probably have 30 cards up there.

So, I'll close with my thanks to each and every one you, everywhere, for your well wishes, your dedication no matter what, and for all you do every day and everywhere to meet the mission.

Sincerely,

“Doc” *Dr. Mary Livers*

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